

Gladstone Region Youth Council

Meeting Minutes

Held at the Council Chambers - 101 Goondoon St, Gladstone

On Monday 16 March 2020, commencing 5.20pm

Present: Bridie Whelan, Kailyn Smith, Abbigail Willis, Meli-Lisa Eayrs, Tinoda Pfidze, Skye Kierys, Max Thompson, Gabriella Davie, Jarrod Lowry, Stephanie Merrick, Rebecca Creedy (GRC Community Development Officer), Jordyn Wilson (GRC Community Development Specialist)

Councillor: Mayor Burnett

Apologies: Emily Dunnett

Guest in attendance: Nil

Discussion and Recommendations

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA and PREVIOUS MINUTES

➤ Nil

AGENDA

➤ *Letter from Youth Council 2019*

- On behalf of Youth Council 2019, Abbigail Willis read a letter that was addressed to the 2020 Youth Council. The letter outlined the achievements of the 2019 Youth Council, what they felt were their key objectives, a reflection on areas they could improve on and a top ten tips for a successful Youth Council. As continued members, Both Abbigail and Kailyn shared their experiences from last year with the group.

➤ *Election of Chair and Vice Chair*

- Nominees were called upon for Chair and Vice Chair of the 2020 Youth Council.
- Nominations received for Chair and Vice Chair were Tinoda Pfidze and Max Thompson. Nominations received for Vice Chair only were Skye Kierys and Abbigail Willis.
- Each nominee delivered a short speech to the group on why they want to be elected as Chair.
- Anonymous voting by Youth Council Members commenced at 5.35pm, with Jordyn Wilson collecting the voting slips.
- Mayor Burnett, Jordyn Wilson and Rebecca Creedy left the room to count the votes.
- Mayor Burnett announced to the group the newly appointed Chair, Max Thompson, and Vice Chair, Abbigail Willis.

Discussion and Recommendations

- Max Thompson then lead the meeting as Chair, delivering an acceptance speech and expressing the positive changes he wishes to make to the Youth Council and their opportunity to be a voice for youth.

➤ **Briefing note: Community Development Strategy**

- Jordyn Wilson spoke on the Gladstone Regional Council Community Development Strategy. The five-year Strategy and Action Plan will guide Council's focus for community development across the Gladstone Region. Jordyn encouraged each Youth Council Member to use the QR codes provided to them to complete surveys and to share them with family and friends to do the same. Everyone is invited to have their say on how Council can work with the community and the more we are all able to share the surveys, the better the representation across our region will be.
- Meli-Lisa asked when the information will be collated. Jordyn explained the timeline of the engagement is from now until 31 March, however this may be extended given recent hold ups including rain events and Covid-19 forcing the closure of engagement activities. The data received will inform the draft strategy and final product which is aimed to be completed mid-year.
- Meli-Lisa asked if the strategy would be re-written in five-years' time. Jordyn answered that the needs of the community will be reassessed in five-years' time and the document may require updating.
- Rebecca spoke about the upcoming Youth Council engagement workshop scheduled for Tuesday 24th March 4-5.30pm at the Community Engagement Centre. This may become an online meeting as Council is reviewing all meetings and if they need to be done in person, to align with recommendations with Qld Health regarding Covid-19. The health and safety of our staff and community is always the number one priority. Youth Council's attendance online would be essential in the workshop being worthwhile and productive, and their opinions and ideas will be greatly valued by Engagement Plus who are hosting the session.

➤ **Great Regatta Raft Race**

- Max discussed the Great Regatta Raft Race, which was intended as a team building activity, to design a raft for the upcoming event at the Gladstone Harbour Festival.
- Max moved a motion that this proposal be cancelled, given interest from the group has been low and the likelihood of the event going ahead in the Harbour Festival was unlikely given the current Covid-19 Health Crisis that is emerging. 8 members voted for the cancellation of entering a raft in the Great Regatta Raft Race. Motion was moved.
- Meli-Lisa asked that if we are cancelling this team building exercise, could we explore ideas for another team building opportunity. Max asked that each person research ideas to present at the next Youth Council meeting.

EMERGING TRENDS / TOPICS OF INTEREST

- Youth Council discussed the current Coronavirus health situation. They asked if Council has any update they can provide on the situation. Rebecca explained that Council are currently reviewing the action they are taking in response to the matter, restrictions will be implemented around face-to-face meetings and other non-essential gatherings to ensure the safety of others. This will have significant impact on how we run future Youth Council Meetings as well as Youth Week 2020 and other Council and community events. Council is receiving daily updates from the CEO on the matter as it emerges.
- Youth Council discussed the need to set up a Facebook group chat so they can communicate with each other as needed. This will also allow all meeting apologies to be sent in via the Chair, as well as the calendar and poll functions that Facebook Messenger offers. Meli-Lisa commenced creating the group chat and it will be evaluated at the next meeting to ensure it is working successfully.
- Max raised the topic of specific delegations amongst the Youth Council, for example individual people who are in charge of social media, events etc. This is for consideration and discussion at the next Youth Council Meeting.
- Abbigail requested that we commence our meetings with an acknowledgement of country. The Youth Council agreed this was a good protocol to follow.
- The next Youth Council Meeting date was set for 5.15pm, Monday 6th April at the Council Chambers, 101 Goondoon Street. Should the need for an online meeting occur, Meli-Lisa recommended the Google Meet application which can be downloaded on your phone to do virtual meetings.

PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS FOLLOWED UP

- Nil

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Nil

MEETING CLOSED 6:11pm

Next Meeting Monday 6th April 2020, 5.15pm at Council Chambers