

**Minutes**  
**Youth Council Meeting**  
**Date: Thursday 2 February 2012**  
**Venue: Council Chambers**  
**Time: 4.30pm**

**ITEM: 1      PRESENT AND APOLOGIES**

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**Present:** Mayor Neville Castle (Lithgow City Council), Mallory Sedger, Kasey Fitzgerald, Brenella Abdel-Rehim, Melissa Besley, Sharni Banks, Joel Cama, Darcy Allan, Bianca McCann, Zac Dray, Ethan Perry,

**Apologies:** Councillor Wayne Marshall, Sonia Cox (LINC), Heath Zorz (LINC), Benjamin Cox, Daniel Whiteman, Lucy Nichols and Rozanne Hopkins.

**Officers:** Viktoria Gulabovski (Community Development Officer) and Deb McGrath (Corporate Strategy and Communications Officer).

**Declaration of Interests:** NIL

**ITEM: 2      WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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**SUMMARY**

Mayor Neville Castle opened the meeting at 4.35pm and welcomed all in attendance.

**COMMENTARY**

Mayor Neville Castle introduced Deb McGrath and provided a brief summary of her role in Council.

**ITEM: 3      YOUTH FORUM AND STRATEGIC PLAN**

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**SUMMARY**

Deb McGrath, Council's Corporate Strategy and Communications Officer, spoke about the Draft Strategic Plan and hosting a Youth Forum in the future to inform Council's final Strategic Plan 2021.

**COMMENTARY**

Deb provided an overview of the Draft Strategic Plan and how it relates to initiatives developed for young people in Lithgow. She handed out a copy of the Draft Strategic Plan and invited Youth Council members to contribute their thoughts and ideas via a Youth Forum. It is anticipated that the Youth Forum will take place in the near future and Youth Council members will be advised of the date in due course.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** The report on initiatives for young people in relation to Council's Strategic Plan be noted.

## **ITEM : 4      YOUTH WEEK**

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### **SUMMARY**

National Youth Week celebrations will be held between 13-22 April 2012. The theme for this year is *Imagine. Create. Inspire.* Youth Council members brainstormed possible events and activities that can be undertaken as part of the Youth Week 2012 celebrations.

### **COMMENTARY**

Youth Council agreed that *Rock-up* and movie making projects were great events for Youth Week 2012 celebrations as they had the potential to be linked to broader events, such as Blues and Roots in Katoomba. In addition, they recommended consulting the skaters to create a mural at the skate park. Viktoria and Youth Council members will meet with Lithgow Community Projects to discuss the possibility of working together to bring *Rock-up*, and movie making projects to Lithgow during Youth Week. In addition, Council staff and Mayor Neville Castle will meet with skaters at a later date to discuss the creation of a mural in the skate park.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** The report on planning for Youth Week 2012 be noted.

## **ITEM : 5      CINEMA IN LITHGOW**

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### **SUMMARY**

There was discussion about the possibility of establishing a cinema in Lithgow and various places were brainstormed, including Theatre Royal, Portland Cinema, Main Street Cinema, and Union Theatre.

### **COMMENTARY**

Viktoria advised that Lithgow would need to have the critical mass to attract a large scale cinema operator into town. She will investigate current spaces set up as cinemas, such as Portland and Main Street, to ascertain whether there is scope to broaden the programs for younger audiences during the school holidays. Viktoria will meet with cinema operators and other groups to investigate the possibility of offering current blockbuster films to younger audiences in Lithgow.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** The report on the need for a cinema in Lithgow be noted.

## **ITEM : 6      ROCK-UP AND MOVIE MAKING**

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See item 4

**ITEM : 7      MATTHEW SHARPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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**SUMMARY**

Youth Council discussed extending the Matthew Sharp Scholarship Fund to include year 10 and year 12 students.

**COMMENTARY**

The scholarships are for students who although experiencing disadvantage, maintain a positive attitude towards learning. The scholarship fund is \$500 and the application is open to students around the region attending Portland Central School, Lithgow High School and La Salle. Students are to be nominated by their year advisor or can complete a nomination form themselves. The scholarships are to aid in buying learning supplies and enhancing educational experiences.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Council endorse the above as policy and allocate annual funds for the scholarship.

**MOVED:** Mallory Sedger

**SECONDED:** Kasey Fitzgerald

**ITEM : 8      MALE REPRESENTATION ON YOUTH COUNCIL**

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**SUMMARY**

At the previous Youth Council meeting held on the 16 November 2011, the Mayor noted that greater male representation was needed on Youth Council. He encouraged members to forward names of potential male nominees to Viktoria Gulabovski.

**COMMENTARY**

Ethan Perry and Zachary Dray have recently joined Youth Council. This brings the total number of males on Youth Council to six (6). The Mayor and Youth Council members determined that this was a fair representation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the report on male representation on Youth Council be noted.

**ITEM : 9      GRAFFITI WALL, SHADE CLOTH AND TOILET SIGNAGE AT THE SKATE PARK**

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**SUMMARY**

Youth Council discussed the pros and cons of having a legal graffiti wall and the importance of installing a shade cloth and toilet signage at the skate park.

**COMMENTARY**

Based on the findings in the *Beat Graffiti Program* report issued by the Department of the Attorney's General, Youth Council decided not to go ahead with the development of a graffiti wall, but instead, to commission local artists to create a mural at the skate park in consultation with the skaters.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Council staff investigate the installation of a shade cloth and toilet signage at the skate park, and consult with skaters regarding the creation of a mural to coincide with Youth Week, if possible, as per item 4.

**MOVED:** Brenella Abdel-Rehim

**SECONDED:** Zac Dray

## **ITEM : 10 BASKETBALL HOOPS**

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### **SUMMARY**

Youth Council discussed and identified possible parks for hoop installation.

### **COMMENTARY**

After considering the bitumen area near the skate park and the netball courts in the Tony Luchetti playground, Youth Council decided the netball courts were best placed for the installation of basketball hoops/courts as this space is no longer being used for netball practice.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Council staff investigate the feasibility of retrofitting the netball courts with basketball hoops and courts.

**MOVED:** Darcy Allan

**SECONDED:** Joel Cama

## **ITEM : 11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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### **SUMMARY**

Schedule of Youth Council meetings for 2012.

### **COMMENTARY**

Youth Council decided it was best to meet on a monthly basis on a Monday from 4.00-5.00pm. The next meeting however will be in 3 weeks time on the 27 February 2012. The annual schedule of meetings will be emailed to Youth Council members and confirmed at the next meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the report on Youth Council meetings for 2012 be noted.

**Meeting Closed 5.35 pm**

**Next Meeting**  
**Monday 27 February 2012 at 4.00pm in Council**  
**Chambers**