

MINUTES of ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday 30 June 2015 in Committee Room One, Wakefield Street 5.30pm to 7.30pm

1. Present

Members: Tim Pate, Julia Aguilar, Paula Booth, Michael Bealing, Christine O'Sullivan (via telephone), Tristram Ingham, Christine Richardson

Councillors: Cr David Lee

Officers: Greg Orchard (Chief Operating Officer), Simon Wright (Policy & Reporting); Daphne Pilaar (Parks Sport & Recreation); Emily Alleyway and Trudy Whitlow (Urban Design)

Guests: Sonia Pivac and Daniel (Deafradio)

Apologies: Lee Rutene, Matthew Walsh (Parks Sport & Recreation)

2. Welcome from the Chair

Michael welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Session with Parks, Sports and Recreation

Daphne Pilaar talked about the role of the Recreation team, which is about access to quality social, physical, competitive and personal recreation.

She asked members about their favourite recreational activities. Responses included using walking trails, going to the coast/beach, city events, swimming, rock climbing and wheelchair basketball. Accessibility issues were noted between the bus stop and the Keith Sprey swimming pool, and the steps at the Haitaitai beach.

Some of the things that would improve recreation for members and their communities included:

- better access to beaches to go swimming (e.g. better steps or a ramp, a beach wheelchair)
- changing road barriers at playgrounds and open spaces so that wheelchairs can enter but vehicles such as motorcycles cannot
- more mobility carparks near big events (e.g. the night markets, fireworks)
- drop off access at the Westpac Stadium (the AAG will meet with a Stadium representative at the next meeting)

Members commented on the "Free and Cheap Things to Do" publication,¹ which PSR is about to review, as follows. It was noted that many people with impairments are on low incomes.

¹ <http://www.sportwellington.org.nz/assets/Getting-Active/Resources-and-Downloads/Free-and-Cheap-WGTN-web.pdf>

- dance classes
- sheltered walking/running
- NZS4121 accessible tracks
- group activities
- it is important to know about amenity accessibility as much as the accessibility of an activity (e.g. Is there mobility parking nearby? Is there seating? What can someone in a wheelchair do? What hearing options are available? Do staff have deaf training? Internationally, websites have subpages with this sort of information)
- The publication should be published in a web-based format suitable for mobile phones that is suitable for screen readers (accessible pdf or html), uses accessible fonts and high contrasts with links to language translations, maps, New Zealand Sign Language videos, etc.

Members invited Daphne or another PSR representative to come to another AAG meeting to discuss issues with the hydrotherapy pool.

5. Mason's Lane Project

Emily Alleyway and Trudy Whitlow from Urban Design presented ideas for improving Masons Lane, which is heavily used but is a dark, uninviting space. The follows points were made in a question-and-answer session:

- The main accessibility improvements are to paving, handrails and lighting levels. The pavers will be sandblasted with a larger grit size than normal
- Masons Lane does not have a public lift between Lambton Quay and The Terrace but there are public lifts nearby, which should be signposted
- There are too many sandwich board type signs on the Lambton Quay footpath. The WCC will work with businesses to reduce the number
- The stairs need to be anti-slip with high contrast for visibility. The lips are a trip hazard and these should be filled out
- Handrails should not stop and then start in another place as this can be very confusing for those with sight impairments. The handrails should comply with NZS4121, as should all aspects of the upgrade
- Questions were raised about the removal of the canopy, which currently provides shelter from rain but does make the space dark. Removal is the most cost-effective and practical option. The Council does not own the existing canopy
- No enough interesting historical aspects have been identified to make a presentation feature.

The next Urban Design project will be to revitalise Eva-Leeds Streets laneway.

6. Review the Accessibility Forum 2015

Members assessed the Forum a success because:

- it helped the AAG and WCC connect with the broader community
- it provided some focus on accessibility issues for the WCC.

For the next Forum,

- some work needs to be done on the recruitment strategy. The current distribution list needs to be revised.
- extra mobility parking should be arranged in advance so that this information can be included with the invitation. The lack of suitable parking in the central city is a barrier for Forum attendance.

Member would like to progress Thomas Bryant's Forum suggestion that the WCC adopt the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as part of the revision of the Accessible Wellington Action Plan. Michael will email Greg Orchard about this idea.

Simon will post the Forum presentations to the Drop Box and the WCC's website.

7. Policy Forward Programme

Members are to review the Forward Programme individually before discussing focus areas at the next meeting to help determine the AAG's work programme. Members would like to invite Moana Mackey to the next meeting to discuss the Social Strategy.

8. Accessibility update

The Accessible Wellington Action Plan will be revised in 2015/16.

9. Matters arising/Adoption of minutes

Michael moved that the draft minutes be accepted as true and correct with minor corrections. Julia seconded the motion and it was passed.

It was noted that a representative from the Westpac Stadium will be invited to the next meeting to discuss access.

Christine O will write on behalf of the AAG to thank Jenny Rains and the Halberg Trust for the purchase of the beach wheelchair.

Simon will ask Jenny Rains for the report on the implementation of the Accessible Wellington Action Plan.

10. Project reports

No reports were made.

11. Other business

Membership update

This was Paula's last meeting. She is standing down as a member of the AAG because she will be moving to a new house outside of Wellington City. Members thanked Paula for her contribution and leadership.

Christine S tendered her apology for the next AAG meeting.

Liaison officer

Simon is leaving the WCC to study at Victoria University. A contractor will cover the Liaison Officer role until and new staff member is recruited. Members thanked Simon for his service.

Street audits

Cr Foster is trying to co-ordinate a street audit with members of the community, including members from the AAG. More information will be provided as arrangements are finalised. Members would like to invite Cr Foster to an AAG meeting.

Facebook

A number of members expressed interest in creating an AAG Facebook page. Tim, Julia, Christine and Michael formed a sub-group to develop an AAG communications strategy. This is needed to informing thinking about whether and how to run a social media site.

Actions

Action points from 30 June	Person	Status
Invite Daphne Pilaar or another PSR representative to an AAG meeting to discuss the Kilbirnie hydrotherapy pool	Liaison officer	
Email Greg Orchard to suggest that the WCC adopt the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as part of the revision of the Accessible Wellington Action Plan	Michael	
Post the Forum presentations to the Drop Box and the WCC's website	Simon	Done
Review the WCC's Forward Programme before the next meeting to inform further discussion about the AAG's work programme - https://www.dropbox.com/s/q9apmh84ktfvi44/Forward%20Work%20Programme%20post%20GFP%20feedback%20June%202015.docx?dl=0	All members	
Invite Moana Mackey to an AAG meeting to discuss the Social Strategy.	Liaison officer	
Thank Jenny Rains and the Halberg Trust for the purchase of the beach wheelchair on behalf of the AAG	Christine O	
Ask Jenny Rains for the report on the implementation of the Accessible Wellington Action Plan.	Simon	Done
Invite Cr Foster to an AAG meeting to discuss the Transport and Urban Desgn issues.	Liaison officer	
Develop an AAG communications strategy before thinking about whether and how to run a social media site.	Tim, Julia, Christine, Michael	

Action points from 26 May	Person	Status
Contact the Chair of the TAG to discuss how the TAG is incorporating NZS4121 into its work and to discuss how the TAG minutes could be made more useful for the AAG	Michael	

Invite Lee's contact at the Westpac Stadium to the July AAG meeting to discuss mobility parking	Lee	
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Action points from 28 April	Person	Status
Send the AAG's comments on the Social Housing Service Policy Review to the Council officers working on this review	Michael	