

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday June 24 2014 in Te Mahanga Committee Room One, Wakefield Street 5.30pm to 7.30pm

- 1. Present**
- 2. Welcome from the Chair**
 - apologies Greg Orchard, Julia Mosen, Shannon Krogmann.
- 3. Conflict of interest**
- 4. Urban Design – Bond, Victoria and Mercer st.**
Stephen Simpson, Lucie Derosiers, Simon van Wijnen, Urban Design (35 mins)
- 5. Update from NZ Bus**
Richard Graham, Regional Operations Manager, NZ Bus (15 mins)
- 6. Development of the Children’s Garden in the Botanic Garden**
David Sole, Manager, Botanic Garden (15 mins)
- 7. Term of Reference review update**
Christine O’Sullivan, Jason Strawbridge (10 Mins)
- 8. Accessibility Advisor report and Accessible Wellington Action Plan interim report**
Elizabeth St John-Ives (10 mins)
- 9. Matters arising/Adoption of minutes (5 mins)**
- 10. Project reports (5 mins)**
- 11. Other business (5 mins)**
 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities, December 3.
- 12. Next Meeting**
Tuesday 29 July 2014 in Te Mahanga Committee Room One

PTO

Action Points

Action points from 24 June	Person responsible	Status
David Sole, Manager, Botanic Garden to return with architect in July or August.	Lisa to organise the agenda.	
Subcommittee to look at minor amendments for the TOR. Lisa to set up meeting with Justin Lester and to include Tim in the invite	Lisa	
Lee to report back to the next meeting regarding CCS activity. Next meeting AAG will make the decision whether to approach the Mayor.	Lee	
Elizabeth to send details of forum regarding closures of drop-ins for mental health consumers and the key outcomes to the AAG.	Elizabeth	
Lisa to set up meeting with Steve Harte	Lisa	See 25 March

Action points from 29 April	Person responsible	Status
Julia/Jason want to set up a meeting with parks and Gardens to discuss the lack of fenced dog parks.	Julia/Jason	No action

Action points from 25 March	Person responsible	Status
Lisa to send email with information about Braille signage etc that was sent to Stephen Harte to Michael and Julia and set up a meeting with him.	Lisa	To set up meeting

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

Tuesday June 24 2014 in Te Mahanga Committee Room One, Wakefield Street 5.30pm to 7.30pm

1. Present

Members: Jason Strawbridge, Paula Booth, Lee Rutene, Michael Bealing, Christine O'Sullivan, Tim Pate.
Apologies: Julia Mosen, Shannon Krogmann, Jackie Buckley (Greg Orchard).
Councillors: Cr David Lee
Council officers: Lisa Matthews, Elizabeth St John-Ives, Stephen Simpson, Lucie Derosiers, Simon van Wijnen, David Sole.
Guests: Richard Graham, Regional Operations Manager, NZ Bus

2. Welcome from the Chair

3. Conflict of Interest

None

4. Urban Design – Bond, Victoria and Mercer St.

a) Bond Street

Presentation:

- Bond st will become a shared space with less vehicular activity and more emphasis on pedestrian priority.
- Seats and changes of road textures to indicate to cars that it is a shared space.
- It can't be car-free as car access for business/apartments has to be retained.
- The focus will be on the sunny side of the street where the businesses are located and they will be encouraged to use this space.
- The public seating will have backs with support and arms.
- This project is not currently funded and will be part of the Long Term Plan process.

Discussion:

- Question regarding whether there will be a set speed limit?
- Not sure whether there will be a speed limit or just encourage caution for vehicles.

b) Victoria Street

Presentation:

- This project has funding and will start this year and Urban Design wants to know what the AAG thinks of this space and any issues.
- The project is focussed on the Dixon to Victoria Street area.
- Ties into the new residential developments that are happening in that spaces etc.
- There is an opportunity to create a new city scape.
- Dixon to Ghuznee funded now but Urban Design want to extend scope further.

Issues and Discussion:

- Van parks for unloading people with impairments.
- Currently the mobility parks are undersized so there is an opportunity to size up.
- There would be a lot of road noise.
 - There may be opportunities to slow the speed.
 - Trees could break the sound.

- Camber of footpaths around Volunteer Corner are difficult.
- Safety around Left Bank. Will be looking at crime prevention.

How to relate to group:

- Update AAG – as frequently as possible and at milestones throughout the project.
- The engagement plan needs to be completed as there may be other opportunities for the group to be involved.

c) Mercer Street

Presentation:

- Part of Civic Precinct.
- Looking for improvement of pedestrian travel.
- Improving the garden but could be populated with chairs and tables etc.
- Optimising the traffic crossings by making wider.
- New pedestrian crossing to traffic island from Wakefield st and opening up the gallery around the information Centre.

5. Update from NZ Bus

Presentation:

- Richard first visited the AAG six months ago and is coming back for a revisit to both get more feedback, update the AAG on what has happened at NZ Bus since last time and to get feedback on changes done since last time.
- Training – Any new operator that starts - NZ Bus is the only company that trains from the beginning.
 - The training consists on a 8-16 week programme.
 - Includes a customer services component with a section on passengers with special needs.
 - Training on different types of impairments is included in the manual. The chapter has been recently updated and Richard brought a copy for the AAG to view.
- They are currently working with Greater Wellington Regional Council on a policy for prams and buggies.
- Retrained every operator in region on wheelchair use and how to use every type of ramp on the different types of buses. This was a substantial training.
- Worked with Max Richards who is a wheelchair user to make sure it aligns for wheelchair users.
- NZ Bus bought 60 new buses for Wellington with state of the art wheelchair access.
- They are designing a new training package and trying to effect a culture change. Previously the message was “stick to the timetable”. This message is now changed – there is a different approach now.
- NZ Bus is working with operators so that they don't leave the bus stop until passengers are seated or stabilised.
- People stand up early to get off (often the elderly) as they don't want to hold everything up so there will need to be a public campaign too.
- Work around handling poor performance – cultural change. Improving this in conjunction with unions.
- Substantial change happening in the business over the last year.
- Door entrapment – rear doors have sensitivity edge like lift so should spring open. In all buses except the old buses.

- Real Time Information is now more reliable.
- However the timetables were done in 2007 and now trips are taking longer. Expensive and time consuming to update timetables.

6. Development of the Children's Garden in the Botanic Garden

Discussion:

- 1500sqm2 area
- Difficult in design sense in regard to gradient of the space
- Design to include everybody and ensure that everybody engages with garden – users encouraged to participate in the garden, for example, tactile garden.
- Timeline – currently in conceptual stage. The detailed design will be finished in late October with construction beginning in February 2015 and finishing in June. The garden will be officially opened in summer 2016.

Action:

- David to return with architect in July or August.

7. Terms of Reference Review

Discussion:

- A lot of work has happened in the last month.
- A subgroup was formed of Jason, Michael and Christine to work through the implications of the changes. Tried to strengthen the position of the group. Including looking at reimbursement and resources.
- They presented a terms of reference with the tracked changes that they wanted and followed that up with a Skype conversation with Mark Jones, the policy writer.
- The Terms of Reference that went to the Council didn't reflect all changes but hopefully will help strengthen commitment and input for less tick boxing.
- Other changes:
 - Increased role clarification
 - Members cannot miss more than 4 meetings ie you have to attend 8 meetings per annum.
 - Performance report – all individuals are to contribute to the work of the AAG
 - Language was toned down
 - Change to election of chairs (could only serve one year) was removed completely. This was a complete change from the last version.
- It was a good process and the final draft can be read on Council website. The roles and responsibilities are worth a read.
- Passed today at Governance, Finance and Planning but there are still opportunities to amend as Youth Council and ERG raised concerns.
- No progress was made on extra resources but there is budget as the Environmental Reference Group budget for meetings was increased.
- There is a disparity between fees eg the Youth Council.
- Still some way to go to getting equality/relative to what the Council wants.

Action:

- Subcommittee to look at minor amendments. Lisa to set up meeting with Justin Lester and to include Tim in the invite.

8. Accessibility Advisor report and Accessible Wellington Action Plan Interim Report

- Interim Report of the Accessible Wellington Action Plan is available.
- Launched two new scooters and there will be one available in Newtown soon.
- Accessibility Map will be out soon.
- Looking at welfare in an emergency ie accessible welfare – what does that look like?
- Trying to make the Innermost gardens accessible.
- Changes to mental health funding with funding cuts to Wellington's drop in centres. It is likely that the people that currently use them will start going to libraries and community centres. There is a public forum to discuss the changes this week. Both Elizabeth and Lee are attending.

Action:

- Elizabeth to send details of forum and the key outcomes to the AAG.

9. Matters arising/Adoption of minutes

Approved Micheal/Tim

9. Project reports/action points

International Day of Persons with Disabilities:

- CCS is doing something.
- DPA has not yet decided

Action:

- Lee to report back to the next meeting regarding CCS activity. Next meeting AAG will make the decision whether to approach the Mayor.

Events Accessible Checklist

- Lisa reported back on the meeting with Events regarding the accessible checklist.
- There had been a lull in its use because of staff departures but the meeting was a timely reminder as they were updating their business unit processes and could incorporate the checklist.
- They also wanted to hear if there were any issues regarding the accessibility of the Council events and welcomed feedback from the AAG.

Meeting with Steve Harte

- Jason available from 9,10,11 July after 12pm.

Action:

- Lisa to set up meeting.

3C action point

- Removed.

Forum report back

- Results of the forum review included in the terms of reference review report.

10. Other business

Safe and sustainable transport reference group meeting

- Cycle way in Island Bay was discussed and the project team would be interested in accessible issues. Andy Foster would be happy to speak to AAG.
- Paul Barker, Safe and Sustainable Transport Manager is happy to fix mobility parks that are problem.

11. Next Meeting

AAG's forward programme will be on the next meeting's agenda. This will also require clarification around process around work programme as per the new Terms of Reference.

Tuesday July 29 in Te Mahanga Committee Room One.

DRAFT