

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY GROUP

**Tuesday August 26 2014 in Te Mahanga Committee Room One, Wakefield Street
5.30pm to 7.30pm**

- 1. Present**
- 2. Welcome from the Chair**
- 3. Conflict of interest**
- 4. Gayle Souter-Brown (20 mins)**
Author, Landscape and Urban Design for Health and Well-Being
- 5. Lower Cuba st (10 min)**
Peter Fraser, Trudy Whitlow, Urban Design
- 6. Development of the Children's Garden in the Botanic Garden (20 min)**
David Sole, Botanic Gardens, Lisa Rimmer, landscape designer
- 7. Accessibility Advisor report (5min)**
Elizabeth St John-Ives, Community Services
- 8. Completion of planning (30 min)**
Michael Bealing
- 9. Matters arising/Adoption of minutes (5 mins)**
- 10. Project reports (5 mins)**
- 11. Other business (5 mins)**
- 12. Next Meeting**
Tuesday 30 September 2014 in Committee Room Two – note the change of venue

PTO

Action Points

Action points from 26 August	Person responsible	Status
Chair/Cochair election is due in October. Members to have a think about it and speak to Michael or Lisa.	AAG	

Action points from 29 July	Person responsible	Status
Julia will visit Evans Bay dog park	Julia	Not done
All to work on Loomio to help form an activity for the International Day of People with Disabilities.	AAG	Not done

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5.30pm to 7.30pm**

1. Present

Members: Michael Bealing, Christine O'Sullivan, Tim Pate, Julia Mosen, Shannon Krogmann
Apologies: Paula Booth, Lee Rutene
Councillors: Cr David Lee
Council officers: Lisa Matthews, David Sole, Peter Fraser, Trudy Whitlow, Greg Orchard
Guests Rachel Ingram, Head of Learning and Programmes, Museum of Wellington City & Sea, Lisa Rimmer, Landscape designer, Isthmus

2. Welcome from the Chair

Jason Strawbridge has tendered his resignation as he is too busy to continue.

3. Conflict of Interest

None.

4. Gayle Souter-Brown, Author, Landscape and Urban Design for Health and Well-Being

Presentation:

- Landscape and urban design for wellbeing.
- Biophilia – innate love of living things.
- Environment design – soft space and trees.
- Cost effective – address depression and inactivity.

5. Lower Cuba st

Presentation:

- Rain gardens are the incorrect soil mixture. The result is they aren't draining properly and the level of earth has dropped.
- 22 tree pits – not designed as rain gardens but ended up taking a lot of water. The trees have wet feet and aren't growing well. New species has been selected that can tolerate wet feet.
- Moving the mobility park to location with no tree pits and more space.
- Stainless steel tactile indicators will be addressed

Discussion:

- Seating design – is it ok? Yes has backs (but no arms).
- The number of mobility parks adequate in central area.
- Red bricks are slippery and dangerous.
- Space between bike racks and mobility parks car door – only about 0.5 metres.

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

Presentation:

- Steep and challenging site. – most retaining walls will be under 1 metre so don't need balustrades.
- Soft entrance acoustically and tactile important for people with autism.
- Can access site from above, assistance needed though because of topography.
- It will sit above the Treehouse and Myrtle Park playground. There will be a Learning Pavilion that will be a centre for learning.
- The Children's garden will look at "Plants for Life". There will be hands-on activities to do with food, fibre, medicine and construction.
- Carpark by arrangement or can drop off in Myrtle Way.
- Accessible unisex toilet at playground and Treehouse.
- Design engagement has been through schools and school holiday programme database. There is some level of re community ownership already.
- Signage is
 - large print, braille (take a look at braille trail).
 - Part of fun of garden too
- Children with impairments – have their feedback been sought? Have had workshops including children – some on autistic spectrum. Need to have this perspective from beginning of process.
- Engage with the Visual Resource Centre, which is across from Kelburn Normal School, as it works with lots of children with impairments.
- Further questions from AAG are welcomed.

7. Accessibility Advisor report

- Organising new scooter site for Newtown.
- WCC contributed towards Disability Support Network's conference at Te Papa.
- Located a few errors in the map so a new version will be out within next two weeks. Have created a text version with description of the streets.
- Getting quote for making Innermost Community Gardens, in particular the building located there, on Mt Victoria more accessible.
- Visited gardens in Auckland where accessibility service providers have involved gardening in their activities.
- Worked on 9 mobility parking requests – new mobility park going outside Miramar Library and new kerb close to mobility park in Thorndon Quay.
- Organising autism training for myself and a few others at council.
- Received many responses to my question "what is an accessible welfare centre". Have put a document together to help guide our assessment of the welfare centres.
- Have started to contact mental health service providers to discuss possible outcomes of CCDHB mental health service changes.
- Increasing focus on employment for people with accessibility needs. Attended PSA conference on removing the minimum wage exemption. Organising seminars for hiring managers at WCC
- Working with Marketing and Communication team to include Easy Read in their style guidelines.
- Organising an internal hui focused on the 5 Ways to Wellbeing. This is an approach to mental health that the Mental health Foundation uses and has helped Auckland City Council use within all their work.
- Jason's webtool is near completion and being trialled by corporate property team.
- Talked to the Parking Services team about mobility parking. Will work with them to get some clarity.

8. Accessibility Advisory Group annual planning

Top 10 Projects

- Town Hall – strengthening is the key time to improve accessibility
- Fifa Under 20 World Cup /International Cricket Club Cricket World Cup– more and more events consider accessibility when designed.
- Kilbirnie – raised dots one side not on the other, steep grades. There have been 2 serious accidents. AAG to continue to give input to improve.
- Site 8 – difficult sloping planes to sea edge. Looks good but may cause problems with safety.
- Any other focus areas help engagement between officers and disability groups.
- Elizabeth has reviewed and commented on points from forum.
- The forum notes show that the Council has lots in hand. AAG could look at access to events and mobility parking.
- AAG keen to get on with advice-giving role. The group felt that there has been too much time with the Terms of Reference Review and planning.

Action:

- Michael to recirculate the top ten activities nominated at the last meeting.

9. Matters arising/Adoption of minutes

Approved Tim/Julia

10. Project reports/action points

1. Fenced dog parks – Julia apologised as she has not visited the dog park yet.

11. Other business

1. Farewell to Shannon who is going on leave from the AAG to have a baby.
2. Advertising for new members. AAG has 2 vacancies.

Action:

- Members to send the recruitment notice to their networks.
- Multi-cultural council candidates.
- David Lee to send out recruitment notice.

3. Chair/Cochair election is due in October. Members to have a think about it and speak to Michael or Lisa.

12. Next Meeting

Tuesday 30 September 2014 in Committee Room Two – note the change of venue