

Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Details:

Date: Tuesday 26 September, 2017

Time: 5.30pm-7.30pm

Venue: Committee Room One

Chair: Michael Bealing

Minute taker: Caleb Bridgeman

Attendees:

Michael Bealing

Cr David Lee

Solmaz Nazari Orakani

Carline Thomas

Caleb Bridgeman

Christine Richardson

Crispian Franklin

– WCC Democracy Services

Alan Royal

Allan Brown – Waterfront

Stuart Mills

Operations Mgr. Parks

Sports and Recreation

Nick Ruane

Alice Bates, Policy Advisor,
Strategy and Policy

Tim Pate

Apologies:

Julia Aguilar

Items:

1.0 Welcome from the Chair

1.1 Apologies received as noted above

1.2 Conflicts - Nil

2.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- 2.1 MB: put a motion that the August minutes be accepted
NR: asked for a correction to the August minutes
MB: Moved that the minutes be accepted subject to the amendment raised by NR
SM: seconded the motion

CARRIED

3.0 Introductions - New Staff Member: Caleb Bridgeman

- 3.1 CF: Introduced CB to the AAG.
CB: Introduction

4.0 Waterfront Operations – Allan Brown (AB arrived late. Carline Thomas began the conversation)

- 4.1. CT: spoke to the AAG about another walkaround
AB: Explained to the AAG that they need a relationship with the AAG members. AB is suggesting meeting the members on the waterfront early evening, before the end of the year.
AR: commented that the previous walkaround was not at a good time of year. October / November is a better time of year because it is likely to be warmer and dryer.
- 4.2 AB: explained his proposal for the next walkabout and – would like the views of the group
- 4.2. MB: suggested that a Doodle poll be undertaken to decide on day / time.
- 4.2. MB: Also likes the idea because it is a great way to share their experiences. And also to build relationships with the people who are doing the work.

- 4.2.3 AR: suggested that there be two dates – so that if the weather causes the first date to be cancelled there is a back-up.
- 4.3 AB: explained to the AAG about the wharf fixes / upgrades.
- 4.3.1 MB: pointed out that the sleepers that are sometimes used are extremely slippery. His experience being on crutches full-time, was that the sleepers made moving around on those sleepers very difficult.
- 4.4 AB: Did explain that the sleepers would ideally be covered with non-slip material.
- 4.4.1 SM: Said he would bring his wife to the walkaround because she is wheelchair bound.
- 4.5 AR: Also explained that older people, and people with walking sticks needed to be considered. Some of the grating was large enough that the end of a walking stick or crutch was small enough that it could fall down the holes in the grating.
- 4.6 AB: also apologies that the last walkabout did not go ahead.

5.0 Alice Bates – AAG Action Plan

5.1 Accessible Journey Exercise:

- 5.1.1 Alice asked about the feedback from the Fix-it app.
- 5.1.2 SNO: asked about whether it can be done through Fix-it Map? Because it seems to be the same. SNO also asked about whether it was possible to have new features.
- 5.1.3 Alice: explained that it was an ideas gathering app. So, a lot more work needed to go into the app.
- 5.1.4 CR Lee: then asked about the parks that were being used – enforcement of people parked illegally.
- 5.1.5 Alice: responded about the mobility parks – her team was looking into whether the app could be used to ticket people – Re the Mobility Parking Policy.

- 5.1.6 Cr Lee: mentioned parking sensors / smart sensors, and whether that was a possibility.
- 5.1.7 NR: CCS brought leaders in to talk about the app – and then mentioned that he thought there did need to be an enforcement aspect to the app.
Nick also then asked about what the purpose was of collecting the data – The data that Alice had explained the app gathered.
- 5.1.8 Alice: On NR's question: the point of information gathering was to get feedback on the 'journey' – further, the idea it to take it out into the wider public for more thorough feedback.
- 5.1.9 CR: Asked whether they (parking wardens) were onboard – regarding whether the app was being used to fine people parked illegally.
- 5.1.10 Alice: Explained that her understanding was that there was an issue with using the app for that purpose at this stage because there may be an issue that hasn't been sorted out regarding the legality of issuing a parking ticket from the photo.
- 5.1.11 Caleb: will follow up RE the Fix-it app – what does legal say is the barrier to enforcing infringements if the app is used to send a photo in.
- 5.1.12 MB: Suggested that the enforcement issue and the journey Alice is discussing were two different issues.
- 5.1.13 NR: Had a suggestion about feedback – his question is about how that information is treated when it comes back to council.
- 5.1.14 CR: Asked whether there is a commitment by the council to implement and exercise the apps uses. CR explained that she was worried about whether there is a budget to implement the app etc
- 5.1.15 Alice: explained that they did have timeframes by which time tasks had to be completed. Therefore, from that point of view there is an aim to implement it.

- 5.1.16 MB: Asked about the maintenance of the app – His feedback was that the concept was very good. However, the app needed more clarity and basic scoping.
- 5.1.17 NR: Had several questions on the use and function, purpose of the app – Where does it fit? Why are you doing it? Suggested the Council needed to make it much clearer on what they were proposing.
Suggested specialist app designers to add scope and detail.
- 5.1.18 AR: Two different issues: 1. Accessibility issues 2. Enforcement issues.
- 5.1.19 MB: There is broad agreement that the app is a good idea.

5.2 **Review Website: Feedback**

- 5.2.1 Cr Lee: the website is good, but it only looks at a particular place. Doesn't cover the journey.
- 5.2.2 Alice: the website is specifically about what happens once you have reached your destination.
- 5.2.3 MB: points out that this would be like Tripadvisor. E.g. You review what you thought of the place.
- 5.2.4 TP: this is like "be accessible" – already exists and is for a similar purpose. You can already post feedback.
Concerned that this would mean that there is information all over the place.
- 5.2.5 CR: suggested a bylaw or regulation about how to control that flow.
- 5.2.6 NR: Pointed out that there is some risk to businesses. Negative reviews may get recorded about some businesses – that could impact on the council if this is a council initiative. The business would not be pleased about a negative review and would see that the council were responsible for the website that encouraged it.
NR suggested that the website needed a point of difference.

- 5.2.7 Cr Lee: Suggested that perhaps there could be something where you can plot a journey and that will then show you the problems that you might encounter on your journey – an “accessibility map”
- 5.2.8 TP: An app that catered to your specific disability would be very good. But very interested in a system where you can plot a journey that provides details of the pitfalls you may encounter.
- 5.2.9 Alice: Explained that they were hoping to have a test group for the product.
- 5.2.10 AR: Pointed out that the “accessible Wellington Map” exists and is still useful.

David Lee – apologised had to leave the meeting at 6.42pm

- 5.2.11 AR: Google also already has a wheelchair map – thinks that it may be a universal map eventually.
- 5.2.12 CR: wants to see the Council put resources into that area.

5.3 Mobility Park:

- 5.3.1 This was already covered when the AAG discussed enforcement RE the app.
- 5.3.2 MB: Thinks that the strategic bones are missing. He would like to see a more concrete plan.
- 5.3.3 Alice: explained that there are timeframes, and each phase had an owner. What she presented today was information thus far. Was looking at this stage at just getting feedback on what has been implemented.
- 5.3.4 NR: would like an accessibility plan to work to / speak to because that is the framework we work to or toward.
- 5.3.5 CR: was particularly interested in the political element.
- 5.3.6 MB: noted that he was particularly interested in the timeframes for the work because he said it helped the chair inform the agenda.

6.0 General Business

- 6.1 MB: This is Christine's last meeting – end of the three year term.
- 6.1.1 MB: It is also Tristam's last meeting, however, Michael thinks that Tristam is keen on another term.
- 6.2 MB: Julia also only has one more meeting – October 31 would be her last meeting.
- 6.3 MB: There are therefore 2 spots that the AAG needs to recruit for. The group is interested to have representatives from vision and hearing. Michael will speak to the CEO's of the vision and hearing foundations to see whether that can aid in the recruitment process.
- 6.4 NR: Nick also pointed out that it would be worth speaking to ABC (Association of Blind Citizens)
- 6.5 CR: Christine queried whether the Council would be able to assist with this process.
- 6.6 NR: Nick also discussed the possibility of press or promotion if possible.
- 6.7 SM: Asked about generally communication with the community.
- 6.7.1 MB: Michael then explained that there was no formal structure as yet. But, is keen for that change. Michael is to raise this again RE council involvement or resources.
- 6.7.2 NR: was also keen to know whether it was possible for the Group to engage through the Long Term Plan process?
- 6.8 SM: **Evacuation Process** – This is particularly important, and will be discussed at the next meeting on 31 October.
- 6.9 NR: Reminded the Group of the invitation from the Disability Pride Week organisers. Nick asked the Group to consider what role it would like to play? Left with the Group for consideration.

6.10 MB: Michael reminded the Group that the next meeting is on 31 October 2017. There will be an upcoming Chair Election that needs to be considered.

6.11 AR: Discussed the precinct – There are no hand rails at the War Memorial – Alan also raised the “ Be Accessible’ material.

6.12 MB: Raised the Cycle way news

6.13 Warren Nelson (member of the public from Lower Hutt group) – Spoke to the Group about their experience in Hutt City.

6.13.1 MB: Raised the possibility of a meet and greet with the Hutt Group.

Meeting Closed At 7.40pm

Next Agenda due Thursday 26 October 2017

Actions: The following tables the actions and responsibilities made during earlier meetings:

Action		Responsibility	Completed
28-Mar	That Barbara McKerrow or another member of ELT / management, attends the next AAG meeting.	Caleb	On-going (Caleb has spoken to ELT about this. And will follow up again with BM)
28-Mar	Cr Lee to report back to CSC when he sees necessary or by request from AAG	Cr Lee	Ongoing
28-Mar	Michael to see how we can interact with committees, through talking with Barbara	Michael	Deferred; ELT member confirmed. However, need to

	McKerrow.		Speak to Babara about when she can attend the AAG.
28-Mar	Invite Vicky McLaren to next AAG meeting re inductions	Caleb	Deferred; can incorporate recognition of disability issues in induction process (email); working with Ennoble on intern programme (Cr Calvert)
25 July	Artwork from Disability Pride Week donated to the Council: investigate re space	Caleb	This will need to be deferred because the Council is moving. Will need to confirm where that artwork will be housed.
29 August	Compile the AAG Forward programme	Caleb	Deferred - This needs to be discussed with Council officers and the AAG
29 August	Draft email request to further discuss Fixit App	Carline and Michael	Completed. Alice Bates attended the September meeting and discussed the app with the group.
29 August	Action request from the group to have feedback from John McDonald, Mgr. City Housing, re the WCC social housing block, Arlington Apartments, re the AAG input into the plans	Caleb	Ongoing – further feedback required.
26 September	Allan Brown to organise walkabout along Waterfront with the	Allan Brown	End of October/November

	AAG members		for Walkabout. Caleb has been in touch with Allan Brown and his team. AB will be in touch with Michael to find dates that work for the AAG members.
26 September	Transport team to attend October meeting	Caleb	31 October (organised – Officers will be attending. Officers have asked whether the AAG might like to provide a list of questions in advance that the traffic team can answer at the meeting)
26 September	Raewyn from CCS to attend next meeting on 31 October - + Carol Wahrlich from Service centre manager to discuss the 'fixit app'	Caleb	31 October (will attend next meeting)
26 September	Fixit app – can a photo from the app be used to issue and enforce a ticket – Caleb was to discuss with legal	Caleb	Completed. Answer will be provided to the October meeting of the AAG.
26 September	Moana Mackey to speak to AAG about the Our City Tomorrow project	Caleb	November 28