

## Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, 29 June 2021

**Time:** 5:33 pm – 7:18 pm

**Venue:** Ngake (Room 16.09), Level 16, 113 The Terrace / Zoom

---

### PRESENT:

#### **Chairperson**

Nick Ruane and Rachel Noble

#### **Members**

Amy Evanson, Erikka Helliwell, Stuart Mills, Alan Royal

#### **Elected Members**

Councillor Rebecca Matthews

#### **In Attendance**

Gisella Carr (Head of Arts, Culture & Community Services), James Roberts (Acting Chief Operations Officer), Melissa Wells (Senior Accessibility Advisor), Hedi Mueller (Democracy Advisor).

# **1. MEETING PROCEDURES**

## **1.1 Welcome and introductions**

Cr Matthews led the karakia on behalf of the group.  
Group members, guests and staff introduced themselves.

## **1.2 Apologies**

There were no apologies.

## **1.3 Conflicts of Interest**

Rachel declared an interest with her role at the DHB.

## **1.4 Confirmation of Minutes**

That the minutes of 25 May 2021 to be taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of that meeting.

Moved by Alan Royal, seconded Stuart Mills

**Carried**

# **2. General Business**

## **2.1. City Events**

Gisella Carr opened the floor up for questions and discussion on the events.

Members discussed:

- That at the previous presentation to AAG, many of the barriers were discussed but not the opportunities.
- Notice of when interpreters are booked for events, and whether there is seating reserved for people to be able to see the interpreters.
- That Matariki fireworks and other events are being livestreamed this year, and the hope that they will be available on the Council website and YouTube channel.

- Draft programme for the events team is brand new, and not sure when it will be confirmed.
- Whether the programme will be shared externally, for example for community events that have WCC funding, and what support WCC could give those community events that may not have the resources.
- That the programme is an interim document until the Event Management Plan has been worked through with AAG.
- What ticking 'no' means in the draft programme – whether there are mitigations, or whether it will be publicised.
- One person's accessibility is not everyone's – individualised experiences.
- The right of Wellingtonians to participate in society.
- Working with the sector as a whole to develop an interface that tells people the information they need in order to participate.
- Bringing disabled perspectives into the remediation of the library.
- Availability of wheelchair taxis, how this links in with Let's Get Wellington Moving to give the full picture for an event such as CubaDupa.
- Whether there is any funding attached to the draft programme.
- Whether the Council is exploring 'approved venues' that might have been audited through an accessibility checklist.
- That presentation guidelines are included for WCC venues.
- Getting teams to own the responsibility of making events accessible, and that getting real and actual feedback would be complementary to the programme, which would also help with having people own it and do it right.
- Including accessibility in the planning documents.
- Availability of funding for disability specific events
- The link between Aho-Tini 2030 and the engagement with the disabled community, and the visibility of disabled performers and artists, and changes in funding in 2022.

- Needing high-level commitment at Council so that staff can undertake the work – may feel daunting in the beginning but will feel like business as usual soon enough.
- That accessibility makes it better for everybody, not just people with disabilities.
- Acknowledging the work that has been done in the events space since the April meeting.

## **2.2. AAG Strategy**

The co-chairs facilitated a discussion on the Accessibility Advisory Group Strategy.

Members discussed:

- Flipping the onus in the Strategy section
- How this strategy can support the Accessibility Charter and other larger commitments such as the Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities.
- The description section needs review to be in keeping with rights based approach.
- Vision and purpose to be included.
- Splitting the principles of Te Tiriti and Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities into two separate sections.
- Whether leadership and monitoring are the core focus.
- Being more strategic about the AAG role in these areas and where AAG adds the most value.
- AAG co-designing the Accessibility Strategic Action Plan and holding council to account on how it is implemented.
- Clarifying the Senior Accessibility Advisor role, and the wider council take ownership of accessibility.
- Taking care not to cross the line of becoming an activist group.
- Rachel, Erikka and Amy to make a start on tidying up the wording.

### **3. Members' and Councillor's Updates**

- Amy provided feedback to the Wellington Hospital on the service provided to a patient with a visual impairment.
- Rachel discussed public feedback on Golden Mile.
- Alan discussed presentation tips and tricks.
- Erikka discussed the Golden Mile proposal and concern around consideration around disabled people's needs.
- Nick talked about concern around single use plastics ban
- Cr Matthews discussed:
  - Golden Mile project: mobility parking has always been considered, but communication about that could be improved. How the Golden Mile will tie in with Mass Rapid Transit down the track.
  - Spatial Plan: Approved last week, will further push for accessible housing in the District Plan.
- Whether AAG can write letters or make submissions to non-WCC organisations – yes.
- Melissa:
  - Youth Hub established in 2022 for use until the library reopens, venue being scoped out.
- James: Accessibility Charter – Melissa to present to ELT.
- Electric vehicle charging cables project has been tabled for now, team are full on with other work until end of July, have passed on feedback from AAG.
- Emergency response plan with today's weather event on South Coast – how are disabled people being evacuated and communication considered.

### **4. AAG Members Only Time**

**The meeting was declared closed at 7:18pm.**

**The next AAG meeting will be held on 27 July 2021 at 5.30pm, on Level 16, 113 The Terrace.**