

Accessibility Advisory Group

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2021

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Ngake (16.09), Level 16 Tahiwi, 113 The Terrace, Wellington

Purpose

- Advise Council on how to help grow a great and accessible City, where barriers to people with impairments are minimised.
- Bring lived experience and knowledge to Council around accessibility issues in the context of Council's roles and priorities.
- It is recognised that members come from and remain connected to their communities, it is from this foundation members share their expertise and lived experience in this advisory role, and engage with their communities and others as part of the wider council consultation processes. The expectations around this connection are set out in the Communication and Involvement of communities points below'.

Attendance

Chairperson:	Rachel Noble
Members:	Amy Evanson, Erikka Helliwell, Stuart Mills, Solmaz Nazari Orakani, Alan Royal, Humphrey Hanley, Susan Williams
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Rebecca Matthews (Zoom)
WCC Staff:	James Roberts (Chief Culture and Community Officer) Melissa Wells (Senior Accessibility Advisor), Hedi Mueller (Democracy Advisor) Claire Barlow (Democracy Advisor), Rebecca Tong (Programme Manager, Housing Development), Jenny Rains (Community Services Manager) Mel Fawcett (Principal Advisor, Culture, Inclusion and Engagement)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:35pm.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from the following members:
 - Nick Ruane, Olivia Murphy, Maeve Ryan – for absence**Minutes:** No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting. *Amy/Alan*
2. **Conflicts of Interest:** No conflicts of interest were declared.
3. **Introductions:** The Chair initiated a brief round of introductions for those who were there.
4. **Group Photo:** Neil Price took a formal photo of the group which will be shared with members and posted on the group's webpage.

Items

5. **Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, Presented by Mel Fawcett.**

Mel explained that she was leading an internal project for Wellington City Council aimed at building a more inclusive organisational culture, with the hope that this will then flow through to how staff interact with a wide range of customers in the community.

She outlined the four pillars that support the work and indicated that she was at the foundational "first draft" stage of this piece of work. A draft summary has gone to ELT and Mel distributed it to members for feedback.

The following matters were discussed:

- Whether the *Reasonable Accommodation Policy* will be implemented consistently across the organisation.
- The definition of diversity and inclusion – WCC want people to feel like they can bring their whole selves to work and not have to leave a part of themselves behind.
- NZ Disability Strategy is a good source for suggestions of better wording in the document.
- Part of the *WCC HR Talent Acquisition Strategy* will include information around unconscious bias.
- Consideration may need to be given to the placement of Te Tiriti o Waitangi on the visual representation wheel.

6. **Build Wellington, Presented by Rebecca Tong.**

Rebecca introduced her presentation *Council's Housing Strategy and Action Plan* and asked members for feedback.

The following matters were discussed:

- The definition of accessible housing.
- Future opportunities to cater for very specific needs.

- Opportunities to encourage private developers to build to universal design standards by offering incentives.
- The need for engagement to be broad and to include those with 'lived' experience.
- Not all people with disabilities want to live in one big community. Thought needs to be given to include universal design in a wide range of projects.
- The process of requesting accessible housing needs to be simplified and geared towards those with disabilities.
- Opportunities for the group to have input into the development of the plan.

Updates

Melissa Wells spoke to her monthly update and requested feedback.

The following matters were discussed:

- Bowen Street stairs and the work that BarrierFree NZ are doing on suggested solutions.
- The disability parks in Bunny Street and their future purpose.

Rachel Noble explained to new members the history of AAG, where they are at now and how they are taking a more strategic role in engaging with Council going forward. She also noted the value that both Cr Matthews and Melissa Wells have brought to the work of the group.

Alan Royal noted that he had been working with the Department of Statistics around the Washing Protocol and information sharing/privacy. He has also been working with access advisors on the Gold Card app.

Councillor Matthews provided a brief update via Zoom.

Erikka Helliwell endorsed the progress Council has made in a culture shift and genuine engagement with the group and noted her appreciation for the difference that Cr Matthews and Melissa Wells had made.

New members briefly shared their reasons for joining AAG.

The meeting concluded at 7:30pm.

Information

Next meeting date: 31/08/2021