

Accessibility Advisory Group

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 28 June 2022

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Ngake (16.09), Level 16 Tahiwī, 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.

Attendance

Chairpersons:	Nick Ruane (Co-chair), Susan Williams (Co-chair)
Members:	Humphrey Hanley, Erikka Helliwell, Olivia Murphy, Rachel Noble, Alan Royal, Nick Ruane (Co-chair), Susan Williams (Co-chair)
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Rebecca Matthews
WCC Staff:	Kim Fell (Chief Culture and Community Officer) Melissa Wells (Senior Accessibility Advisor), Hedi Mueller (Senior Democracy Advisor), Jenny Rains (Community Services Manager), Andy Lowe (City Arts Manager), Shona McCahon (Reserves Planner)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:30pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:

- Solmaz Nazari Orakani – for absence.

No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Items

3. Aho-Tini Progress Update, *presented by Andy Lowe*

Andy introduced himself and outlined the goals, progress and submissions to Aho-Tini. Andy discussed the intentions and 'to-do' list for the Arts Team, and asked what opportunities AAG members would like to see.

Members discussed:

- Their happiness with Aho-Tini and it being a pleasure to be involved in the community workshops.
- Companion ticketing being available in NSW for a long time, being long over-due to Wellington. Also available in the Manawatu.
- Difficulties and annoyance in ticketing systems for anyone.
- Disability Pride missing from the work - celebrating identity and seeing that coming through in the arts. In 2016/17 WCC supported this concept with funding – AAG keen for this to become a national initiative.
- Larger productions and organisations – seating options (such as the floor, if desired), and other little things that don't cost anything. The scale of the arts and feedback from larger organisations.
- Consistencies in wording – government preference is 'disabled people' as opposed to 'people with disabilities'.
- Whether there are any disabled people in the Arts Team itself.
- Community leadership remaining after introduction of new Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People on Friday.
- Lengthy taxi wait and hospitality staff being more proactive in ordering them for customers.
- Ushers, sound tech or lighting tech staffed by disabled people.

4. Open Space and Recreation Strategy, *presented by Shona McCahon*.

Shona outlined the scope of the strategy and the definition of 'public open space' and 'recreation facilities'. The drivers of the review were discussed, including the spatial plan and district plan, sustainability and changing communities and needs. The results of the

Where's your Happy Place Survey were discussed, with 1500 responses received. Based off the results of the survey, strategic outcomes have been proposed and were outlined.

- No disability demographic questions asked and whether that can be imbedded into all surveys and engagements.
- Survey data analysis – when undertaken by a disabled person, more data may be found than when undertaken by a non-disabled person.
- Accessibility being part of the equity and inclusiveness strategic outcome, as well as the healthy and active outcome.
- Accessible mountain biking trail on Matairangi intended to be a co-design process.
- 'Equity' and 'safety' and who those relate to – whether the council has articulated who their priority populations are, and whether the disability community is included in that. Equity meaning different things to different populations and importance of using common language that all understand, to ensure that people aren't talking across purposes.
- Safety in carparks, or temperature in swimming pools – process for logging complaints/requests.
- Criteria around making things Accessible beyond physical impairments – such as upgrade of facilities at the times of renewals. Making sure that fixing single issues doesn't detract from other users.
- Commitment to Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities – equivalent to Te Tiriti for disabled people.
- Accessible public toilets and changing spaces and the importance of Braille on the doors.
- Bus shelter seating accessibility, often too low and lacking in hand supports to be useful for elderly people.

5. Councillor Matthews shared the following updates with the group:

- Met with Kim on Accessibility Charter.

Melissa shared the following updates with the group:

- Met with counterparts at Tauranga City Council and Hutt City Councils.
- Started in working group for Wellington Design Manual.
- Reporting issues in FiXIT/online/via phone is key, so that data is gathered.

Kim shared the following updates with the group:

- Meeting to discuss Accessibility Charter and getting that endorsed by ELT.

Susan shared the following updates with the group:

- Greater Wellington Regional Council is asking for feedback on a plan for discounted public transport, with the exception of total mobility taxis. They encourage others to also write submissions.

- Running a workshop on including audio descriptions on shows.

The following updates were also shared with the group:

- Rachel suggested that an upcoming agenda item could include a session on identifying priorities for AAG. She also gave an update about the locality work in the establishment of Health New Zealand.
- Alan farewelled the group, as it was his last meeting and reflected on his interest in Accessibility, first with the publication of the Convention, then continuing with his son's studies through to postgraduate qualifications. Alan first joined AAG in 2008, recalled name change from Disability Reference Group and Jenny Rains' employment. The group commended Alan for his service, his high standards and for representing the views of the elderly population.
- Hedi gave an update on the recruitment of five new group members, information about the induction evening on 30 June 2022, and work needed for the AAG annual report and forward programme, both of which are scheduled to be reported at the Pūrora Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee on 1 September 2022.

The meeting concluded at 7:20pm.

Information

Next meeting date: 26/07/2022