

Accessibility Advisory Group

Minutes

Date: 30 August 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, Susan Williams
Members:	Donna Fasavalu, Hannah Gibson, Humphrey Hanley, Erikka Helliwell, David Karl, Moko Mataa, Olivia Murphy, Solmaz Nazari Orakani, Rachel Noble, Renee Patete
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Rebecca Matthews
WCC Staff:	Jenny Rains (Community Services Manager), Melissa Wells (Senior Accessibility Advisor), Hedi Mueller (Senior Democracy Advisor), Marcella Freeman (Democracy Advisor), Silas Philips (Advisor, Mataaho Aronui) Kristine Ford (Principal Policy Advisor), Yonas Yoseph (Project Manager Design Manual)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:31pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:

- Solmaz Nazari – for lateness;

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

2. Conflicts of Interest: Rachel declared an interest with her role at Te Whatu Ora.

Items

3. Community Facilities Network Plan, *presented by* Kristine Ford.

Kristine outlined that the Community Facilities Network Plan is needed to ensure that council has the right facility in the right place at the right time, and covers pools, libraries, recreation centres, community centres, public toilets, city housing community spaces, and community and recreation leases. The Council owns or funds many facilities across the city and this project is looking at whether there are enough facilities to meet community needs currently, and in the future.

Members discussed:

- Whether the consultation will ask participants directly about their disability needs.
- Whether the plan is targeted towards disabled communities, or more broadly.
- How much AAG members use community centres.
- Whether individual community centres will be audited.
- The difference in how community centres are used or structured, and that a baseline set of data would be useful.
- The Accessibility Action Plan and Accessibility Charter built into Community Facilities Network Plan.
- Lack of blind accessible computers at libraries.
- Pool temperatures too cold for certain medical conditions.
- Availability of changing rooms in bathrooms across the city.
- Lack of staff training around service dogs, different ways that people are independent, how staff are trained is important.
- How the survey will be structured – by section (eg all pools, all libraries) or by individual facilities.
- The Plan can make recommendations on service levels, but is focussed on whether we have the right types of facilities in the right areas to meet future community needs, or which facilities need to be planned for future populations.
- How to separate service from a facility and whether service will be reviewed.

- Whether the scope of the review can be increased, as it's the service that makes a difference to disabled peoples use of community facilities.

The Accessibility Advisory Group recommends that the Community Facilities Network Plan be rescoped to include a more holistic view of accessibility, including services provided and staff training.

4. The group did a round of introductions.
5. Wellington Design Manual, *Presented by* Yonas Yoseph.

Yonas covered what the design manual is, its current state, project objectives, and timeframes are.

Members discussed:

- The Design Manual complying with web accessibility standards.
- Advocating for the design manual to be embedded as business as usual.
- New Zealand's three official languages.
- Whether staff who are disabled are involved.
- How the Auckland City Council process worked, and how their Disability Advisory Panel was involved.
- Confirmation the "streets and public spaces" including footpaths, cycleways, mobility parks, parklets. The importance of footpaths and also safe crossing at cycleways, and focussing on the streets and places we *want* to have, not modelled on what we currently have.
- Staff capacity at WCC to undertake this work, extra resourcing and external advice.
- Parking issues at schools, and on streets adjacent to schools.
- Importance of universal design.

The Accessibility Advisory Group recommends that accessibility specialists with knowledge of universal design be engaged and brought on board as soon as possible, to find methods of engaging with the disability community outside of the AAG.

6. Councillor Matthews shared the following updates with the group:
 - On Thursday 1 September, advisory group Annual Reports will be presented at the Pūroro Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee.

Hedi shared the following updates with the group:

- The Pūroro Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee meeting will be livestreamed (recording available here, at the point where Advisory Groups start presenting: <https://youtu.be/9chJOHLapUM?t=23860>)

- Special voting hubs will be running at Te Pokapū Hapori Community Centre at 107 Manners Street (16 Sept – 8 Oct) and at Johnsonville (Waitohi), Karori, Newtown, and Ruth Gottleib (Kilbirnie) Libraries (3 October – 8 Oct). Hedi will be at Karori Library all week from 3 Oct.

Susan shared the following updates with the group:

- Disabled artists festival in September, looking for volunteers and people to get involved and share information.

Nick shared the following updates with the group:

- Conversation with Cyrus Dahl and his mum about accessible playgrounds and to deliver accessible playgrounds into wellington.
- Acknowledgement of previous AAG members who have left.

The following updates were also shared with the group:

- Hannah: lack of mobility parking in Hataitai village
- Rachel: Localities work – two people from design and implementation team want to meeting with the community, keen for suggestions about how localities team can engage with community about design and development of healthcare.
- Erikka – new mobility parks at 56 The Terrace, but frequently being used as loading zones. Oranga Tamariki engaging on Disability Strategy.

7. AAG Members only time.

The meeting concluded at 7:30pm.

Information

Next meeting date: 27 September 2022