

# DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP

## MINUTES

5.30 P.M. – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2009

### Committee Room 2

#### Members Present

Sara Pivac-Alexander (Co-Chair)  
Philippa McDonald (Co-Chair)  
Rosie Macleod  
Thomas Bryan  
Alan Royal  
Sandi Waddell  
Lisette Wesseling  
James Tait

#### Also Present

Jula Goebel (WCC)  
Councillor Iona Pannett  
Jenny Rains

#### **1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending.

#### **2. Apologies**

There were no apologies for this meeting with all members in attendance.

#### **3. Accessibility Action Plan**

It was agreed that in lieu of current policy or strategy development for accessibility the group would work with City Communities to develop an Accessible Action plan for the city.

Council officers would update the group on current research and develop a first draft of the framework of an Accessible Action Plan which will be discussed further with the DRG.

Development of this plan will be informed by the DRG and will include advocacy with Central government and local service providers to facilitate the removal of barriers to accessibility and may include the principles of universal design for everyone. It was suggested key areas are city design, information sharing and social connectedness and transport

It was also noted that current mechanisms would assist with reporting on outcomes: these are Councils Quarterly and Annual Reports, DRG report to Council (twice yearly) and the Forum.

#### **Comments**

- It was noted that the Action plan would be for the rate paying area (which includes the suburbs)
- The DRG would like to have further discussion about voting accessibility and would like this to be considered as part of the action plan.
- It was agreed that performance measures for accessibility can be developed as part of the implementation plan of the Action Plan.
- The Councillor noted that she will continue to work on delivering an Accessibility Policy
- While the Older Persons Policy does have some overlap it will not be included in the accessibility plan, but will have some commonalities.

**Action:** Council officers will develop a draft framework for the Accessibility Action Plan which will be available for discussion at the next DRG meeting

#### 4. Report from the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs gave an update on the Accessibility Advisor's role. This will be advertised in the New Year and will include the continued implementation of the mobility parking policy. Council will be advertising for new DRG members in January. There are currently three vacancies with James Tait having also resigned. There will be an advance notice going out in December. It was agreed to request CV's to accompany these applications.

A Senior Traffic Engineer attended a site meeting regarding a pedestrian crossing Tawa. Problems with this crossing will be remedied.

A letter was sent to Council regarding the request for a Council Disability Policy. As yet there has been no response from the Mayor.

Discussion was held regarding the forum which included including changing the time of day for the forum and whether having forums were worthwhile. It was suggested making the forum bi-annual however it was noted that the forums should be an important mechanism to report to the community and unless there are other mechanisms a yearly forum is preferable.

It was noted that

- Forums work well when there is a theme and perhaps the inclusion of international speakers to attract attendees;
- There needs to be plenty of advance notice for groups the need to ensure the forum is well attended
- It was suggested that people need to be encouraged to send in any questions they have in advance of the forum.
- It was noted that there will be might be forums next year as the one from last year was postponed (April) and we usually hold one near the International day of Disabled (December)

Discussion was held regarding changing the day and the length of the DRG meetings. It was agreed to still continue to meet on Tuesdays but change the meeting to last Tuesday of the Month  
**Action:** Accessibility Advisor to look into changing the bookings for the meeting.

#### 5. Accessibility Advisor's Report

One new DRG member has been appointed who will start at the February meeting. Jula Goebel has sent the new list of members to all the DRG.

##### **Accessibility Forum:**

This is scheduled to be held 14 April 2010 and will focus on the annual plan

**Manners Mall** – a meeting for external groups will be held on 18 December. It was suggested that the Transport Subgroup should attend this meeting. Councillors will be debating whether this proposal will now be going ahead.

**Johnsonville Mall** – only resource consent plans have been received. Council have been informed that the DRG would like to consult on the building consent plans when these have been received. **Action:** Accessibility Advisor will follow up on complaint regarding the bus stop to make sure this issue has been addressed.

**Adelaide Road** – the bus stop has been removed and a shelter has been provided. There is parking behind the bus shelter at present but this will be stopping shortly. Thomas Bryan noted that he has heard positive comments about this bus stop relocation.

## **6. Subgroup Reports**

**Arts** – have had three meetings this year and focussed on giving guidance to Downstage with regard to NZSL for performances; also worked with Te Papa, Arts Access Aoteroa Arts for All. The group have also given feedback on various issues and provided input on touch tours at the City Gallery and Te Papa. Next year the group hope to be able to continue giving input on touch tours and also working with Circa with regard to NZSL for performances.

**ICT** – this group have presented papers to the DRG and to Council on the LTCCP. Still have a major concern with regard to the universal accessibility of Council documents. The group have met with David McLachlan (from Knowledge Solutions) to talk about PDFs (size and accessibility), issues regarding documents and colour blindness and concerns around the Council search engine.

**Housing** – this group worked on an evaluation exercise on the Housing Upgrade Project that was very valuable. Their goals have been achieved for the year. Have participated in talks with the architects and engineers on this project but they have not seen the plans after suggestions made. This group also need to follow up on the Housing Upgrade Project that is currently in progress.

**Urban Design & Transport** – this group have made with a range of people and have worked on the upgrade to John Street. This needs to be followed up on as the group have not heard back about this upgrade. This group have also worked on the Manners Mall, Adelaide Road and Airport upgrade projects. They have also worked on the Snapper cards. From January this system will be changing with regard to what happens when you log off the bus, letting you know when your balance is low and there will be changes to the visual display (in February). They will be meeting to see examples of the new visual displays. Next year they will be working on the Adelaide Road project and meeting with the NZ Transport Agency to discuss proposals for the new fly over. There will be numerous issues and impacts with regard to this proposal and consultations will start in February. It would also be good idea for the DRG to put in a submission regarding this proposal.

## **7. Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record by Lisette Wesseling.

## **8. Other Business**

**Pedestrian Crossings** – the issue of the locating tone on the poles has been partly resolved with the tones to be set at different levels in the new year. This will be an issue that will come up again as there is no way of changing the tones with regard to day and night.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm  
Next meeting is scheduled for: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 5:30 pm.