

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 29 October 2019

Time: 5.32pm–7.36pm

Venue: Level 8 Mayors Office, Wellington City Council,
113 The Terrace, Wellington

PRESENT

Co-Chairpersons

Tristram Ingham and Rachel Noble

Members

Errka Helliwell, Tristram Ingham, Rosie Macleod, Stuart Mills, Rachel Noble, Solmaz Nazari Orakani, Alan Royal, and Nick Ruane

Councillor Elect

Rebecca Matthews

In Attendance

Kay Houlahan – Democracy Advisor

Liam Farrell – Senior Urban Designer, Wellington City Council

1. MEETING PROCEDURES

1.1 Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed all present.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jenny Rains.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

Alan Royal declared a conflict in that he will be writing pamphlets for the Capital and Coast District Health Board.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes – Minutes of 26 September 2019

That the minutes of 26 September 2019 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Moved Rachel Noble, seconded Erikka Helliwell

Carried

2. PRESENTATION

2.1 Laneways Projects: Swan Lane and Garrett Street 5.41pm

Presenter: Liam Farrell, Senior Urban Designer, Wellington City Council

- Liam Farrell presented on the Laneways Project as it relates to Swan Lane and Garrett Street. He noted that the project was mainly about laneway enhancement but included accessibility matters. He also noted that the project was looking at raising the road in Glover Street, repairing some areas to durable non slip material, improved lighting, and that it was also hoping to look at the connection between Garrett and Victoria Streets.

Members discussed with the presenter:

- whether project was intended to be an accessibility leader
- how previous work by the advisory group had informed current thinking
- the necessity for parking in Garret Street
- extending the project to include Glover Park
- footpath hazards in Ghuznee Street
- demand forecasting for accessible carparks
- using the Garrett Street project to start the conversation around developing the Council's accessibility action plan

- design standards, including the American with Disabilities Act 1990 Standards
- seating and platform crossings.

Action:

The presenter agreed to:

- look at how work has been integrated
- consider having only a loading zone and accessible carparks in Glover Street
- check previous hydrological concerns about platform crossings.

2.2 Karori Public Space Improvement Project and Bowen Street Steps 6.20pm

Presenter: Liam Farrell, Senior Urban Designer, Wellington City Council

Liam Farrell presented on the Karori Public Space Improvement Project and Bowen Street steps. He noted that the Karori project wanted to improve the connectivity with public buildings which might include ramps and improved lighting. He also noted that the library was working on a project to improve the book returns slot. The presenter noted that the Bowen Street steps was a reactive project; that the Council has been monitoring accidents and the Ministry of Education has lobbied for the steps to be improved.

Members discussed with the presenter:

- "accessible" steps
- handrails
- the inclusion of a ramp
- the right of every person to enter a building through the front door
- including accessibility in project templates.

Action:

The presenter agreed to:

- send a copy of his meeting notes to Democracy Services.

3. General Business 6.40pm

3.1 AAG Members Update

AAG Members provided an update on items they were currently working on:

- Rosie Macleod advised that she is looking at what information is available on building accessible social housing.
- Nick Ruane advised that he had attended a meeting with the Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) and the wider accessible community to discuss transport. He noted that the Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Disability Commissioner were in attendance and that a DPA survey on public transport was discussed. The meeting formally requested that the Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Wellington City Council work together on big issues and projects. He expressed the hope that this will spark opportunity for councils that don't have accessibility groups to ask for them.
- Rachel Noble noted that members have been invited to the accessibility induction session for new councilors, and that the co-chairs would be attending the swearing-in ceremony for the new Council. She expressed a wish to have a meeting with the new mayor – whether it be with the advisory group or co-chairs.
- Tristram Ingham discussed his interactions with the Elections team during the recent local body election. He also discussed the e-scooter trials.
- It was noted that the advisory group review presenters gave an excellent presentation.

Action:

- Nick Ruane agreed to send members the DPA survey results.
- Democracy services agreed to:
 - check if a council review of the local body election will occur as well as the parliamentary review
 - ask the Council to supply the safety analysis of e-scooters and request a presentation from the Council.

The advisory group resolved to invite Council officers to present to the group on forward planning for the next local body election, including data or research on disabled participation in the 2019 election.

3.2 Democracy Services Update

The Council Liaison Officer advised the group that the Wellington State Opera House is operated by Venues Wellington (a council controlled organization) and that Arts Access Aotearoa have not done any specific work on opera house but would be happy to discuss accessibility concerns with the group. A piece of correspondence received was also discussed.

The advisory group resolved to:

- ask Arts Access Aotearoa to work together on accessibility concerns with the State Opera House
- ask David Karl if he would like to give a paper or a presentation to the group on playground accessibility.

The meeting was declared closed at 7.36pm.

The next AAG meeting will be held on Tuesday, 26 November 2019 at 5.30pm.