

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP (DRG)

MNUTES

5.30 PM

TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2006

Committee Room 2

Present

Ollie Goulden
Ross Livingstone
Jules Tangiwha
Lorraine Offord (Chair)
Jenny Rains
Nick Luger

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the group.

2. Apologies

Councilor Gill
Thomas Bryan
Katie Rigarlsford

3. The Governance Strategy

There was discussion on the Strategy in terms of how the group should approach it in the future. At present the group invites people along to meetings on a regular basis as a means of gaining information and giving feedback. The group felt that it would be also beneficial to be in the community meeting with other community groups.

Action:

- The DRG will visit and invite community groups to the DRG. This will be formalized in the forward plan.

4. Summary of International Day of Disabled People

This event has been a partnership with Te Papa and with Maurice Priestley the principle driver behind the event.

It was generally felt that it was a great success and there has been nothing but positive feedback. Suggestions for future themes were being sought and a possible theme with a youth focus was suggested.

Action:

- To be placed on a future agenda for follow up and discussion.

5. Newtown Park redevelopment

A plan of the Newtown Park redevelopment was shown to the group.

The redevelopment includes:

- Ramps up to all levels of the stand.
- Accessible toilets and changing areas.
- Accessible seating in the stand.

The main comment by the group on the plans was that, while there were plenty of wheelchair seats, you weren't able to sit together if you were part of a group. The DRG felt it was important to acknowledge that the seating was good but in future consideration should be given to this fact. A letter will be drafted and circulated to the group.

Action:

- DLO to draft a letter for DRG input.

6. Long Term Consultation and Communication Plan

The LTCCP was discussed and seen as favorable in its inclusiveness when catering for the requirements and special needs of the disability community, including the blind and deaf communities. There was some discussion about the wording in the plan but it was generally seen as good work by the Council and duly acknowledged.

7. Karori Recreation Centre follow-up

Progress was slow at the moment due to Stage Two, which is part of the landscaping and will be where the old Recreation Centre used to be. Included in Stage Two will be more mobility carparking and improvements to the toilet. The only concern expressed was about the trip hazard outside the toilet.

Action:

- Ross and Jenny to follow this up and report back at the next meeting.

8. Wellington Accessible Forum

The draft agenda for the Wellington Accessible Forum on employment was circulated for comment.

9. Other Business

The Sign Language bill goes to its second reading next week.

There is a youth event that will be held in Civic Square called Cultural Revolution and it is about celebrating diversity of youth.

There was more concern expressed about the lack of enforcement of mobility car parks in private facilities. After an incident in the Pak 'n' Save carpark it seems that not enough is being done to stop people who aren't entitled to park, from using them.

Action:

- Ross Livingstone will contact the owner and discuss how best to enforce these parks.

Clarification was sought on the use of a pilot scheme and the correct use of time allowed in carparks when using mobility cards.

Action:

- The new updated map will be out shortly and it was agreed that when these go to CCS card holders a note will be made to highlight the changes. This will be also part of our communication plan.

The issue of drop-off points for mobility taxis is being looked at again. It has been suggested by the Regional Council that specialized drop-off points be provided for this purpose. Suitable drop-off points would have to be such that traffic would not be held up and a drop-off would be safe.

Action:

- Jenny to report back next week. There has been a suggested solution to this (using loading zones) and will be confirmed next meeting.

Ross informed the group of his intention to temporarily stand down from the DRG. He is currently doing contract work for the Council and wants to avoid any conflict of interest.

The Regional Manager of CCS Wellington will be invited to the next meeting to speak about what is happening at CCS.

Action:

- Jules to invite the regional manager to the next meeting.

Nick Tonen is the new Manager of City Communities.

Action:

- Nick is to be invited to the next formal meeting to meet the group and to discuss the restructuring of City Communities.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2006