

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP (DRG)

MINUTES

5.30PM

Tuesday 14 November 2006

Committee Room 1

Present

Kendall Akhurst
Thomas Bryan (Co-Chair)
Leonie Gill (Councillor)
Ollie Goulden
Ross Livingstone
Lorraine Offord (Co-Chair)
Jenny Rains
Kaeti Riggardsford
Jules Taniwha
Bronwyn Hayward

1. Welcome

Thomas Bryan welcomed the group.

2. Apologies

Nick Luger
Joanne Ward

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting (Tuesday 10th October 2006) were confirmed.

4. Bronwyn Hayward – Beauty

After brief introductions to the members of the DRG Bronwyn Hayward introduced herself as the producer, co-writer and dancer of the movie 'Beauty'. She outlined six goals that she had in mind for the production and screening of the movie. These are:

- The production of an art film as opposed to a film about disability.
- To ensure that the movie would be shown on screens for a sustained period of time.

- To employ an experienced crew with sufficient skills, talents, and understanding of the philosophy of the film.
- To raise sufficient funding for the hiring of professionals in order to avoid devaluing the effort invested into the work.
- To achieve a G rating for the film.
- To win an award.

Bronwyn Hayward went on to explain how she achieved all of these goals (save for the winning of an award, which should be weighed in light of the film's many accolades). She avoided the usual funding agencies for film and pursued businesses with a history of spending money on the arts. The sum contribution that willing businesses contributed was ninety thousand dollars. The Royal New Zealand Ballet was especially mentioned as a corporation that contributed by allowing their name to and facilities to be used during production.

The goal of 'connecting people with passions and loves and not disabilities' can be measured by the attention the film met in the three major dance festivals in New Zealand which are held in Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland. In the Auckland Tempo Dance Festival Bronwyn Hayward was selected by the festival director to put together a cerographical showcase.

Media attention for the film included television coverage on 'Attitude' and 'Front Seat' with the balance being spread through newspaper and radio. Bronwyn Hayward expressed her frustration of the fact that many interviews took to be one which focused on her disability rather than her role as producer, co-writer and dancer.

Other measures of success included:

- Sky Television UK buying the movie.
- Sunday 2 April marked the first time that a movie by a person with a disability and made with people with disabilities featured on prime time television.
- The film was also used in a number of magazine advertisements to encourage people to subscribe to Sky Television.
- A warm review by a film critic.
- A sold out theatre in Horowhenua where the screening time competed with the Da Vinci Code.
- Numerous initiations and appearances in schools, universities and conferences.
- An upcoming trip to Tasmania with an exhausting two week itinerary.

In the final part of her presentation Bronwyn Hayward expressed her concerns regarding the lack of understanding and appreciation that some groups have in regards to the movie inasmuch as it is a high quality film about dance. These groups primarily include disability organisation, NGOs and government departments. In these groups Bronwyn has encountered a general unwillingness to pay for her efforts and her work (which includes the actual

price of the movie). She also voiced her opinion that there is prevailing view in these organisations that works produced by people who happen to have some sort of impairment, will be of poor quality.

Jules Taniwha contributed by encouraging Bronwyn Hayward that though these difficulties can neither be denied nor ignored, that there the recognition and changing of peoples' views will materialise.

Bronwyn Hayward later asked what the DRG does and could do to enable dreams to take flight in the community.

5. Other Business

- **Update on Paul Sisson.** Ross advised that Paul had offered his resignation from the group and that it had been accepted.
- **Update on the Feedback from the Kendall Akhurst's oral submission to the Council on the Footpath Policy.** Kendall Akhurst mentioned the positive feedback he had received from the Councillors regarding his submission which he made on behalf of the DRG. The DRG also briefly discussed issues regarding the ongoing pits dug in the CBD because of the recent gas problems, and also the issue of sandwich boards. Thomas Bryan alerted the group to the problems arising from the growing use of the footpath by unnamed businesses in Courtenay Place.
- **Lorraine Offord and Ross Livingstone attended the latest Pacific Advisory Group Meeting.** Nothing important was reported other than that the group was to be reviewed. Marie Retimanu-Pule of City Communities is looking forward to working with the DRG.
- **Ross Livingstone and Kaeti Riggarsford attended the Celebration of the Closing of the Institutions on 14 November.** Attendance was 100-150 people.
- **Thomas Bryan mentioned that submissions on the Bus Shelter Sheds close on 30 November.** The key issues revolving around the shelters are design and location. An email would circulate amongst members to undertake a submission.
- **City Housing Forms.** The distributed amendments to the forms have been well received. Anybody wishing to make further comments regarding the forms should do so in the next two days.
- **Scorching Bay Upgrade.** Ross Livingstone gave an update about the project which will see the reconstruction of the car park (which includes the relocation of two mobility car parks and the building of a mobility ramp) as well as the fixing of erosion problems.
- **Vetting for new members of the DRG.** The positions that Jules Taniwha and Lorraine Offord hold in the DRG will be vacated at the conclusion of the final DRG session for 2006. Along with these positions being vacated, two further members will be sought, one to replace Paul Sisson's position. These positions will be advertised at the forum and thereafter in the Newspaper. The new members will be selected over December and January 2006-2007.

- **Disability Forum 2006 Update.** The two events which were previously designed to be held over two days will now take place on one day. The same space in Te Papa will be utilised as in the previous forum. Ross Livingstone then went on to discuss the agenda of the forum which includes its opening by Mayor Prendergast and its chairing by CEO Garry Poole. This forum will allow greater time for the open forum in accordance with the public feedback from the last forum.
- **The next DRG meeting on 12 December 2006 will include the electing of the next Co-Chairs.** DRG members should email Ross Livingstone expressing their interest and nominations. The next meeting will also include drinks and nibbles in light of it being the final meeting of the year and also the one most opportunely placed in relation to Christmas.

Meeting Concluded at 7.24pm.

NEXT MEETING: 12 December 2006

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