

## **DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP (DRG)**

### **MINUTES**

**5.00 PM**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

Committee Room 2

#### **Attending**

Kendall Akhurst

Thomas Bryan (Co-Chair)

Councillor Leonie Gill

Ollie Goulden

Ross Livingstone

Lorraine Offord (Co-Chair)

Jenny Rains

Kaeti Riggarsford

Jules Taniwha

Joanne Ward

Maurice Priestley (Mobility Advisor-Wellington City Council, Disability Policy Advisor CCDHB)

Andrew Howie (Project Manager of Kumutoto Open Space, Positively Wellington Waterfront)

Evan (Landscape Architect from Istmus)

#### **1. Welcome**

The Joint Chairs welcomed the group.

#### **2. Apologies**

Nick Luger

#### **3. Kumutoto Open Space Project – Positively Wellington Waterfront**

A project manager from Positively Wellington Waterfront presented information regarding the Kumutoto Open Space project. At present the project is expected to be finished by Christmas 2007. The presentation included the following:

- It was confirmed that there will be mobility parking spaces.
- The historic gates of the boat sheds will be open for the public and accessibility will be assured by the construction of a ramp.
- A concern was raised regarding the steepness of the gradient of the ramp to which the response was given that the gradient will be reviewed.
- Lane widths for motor vehicles will deliberately be narrow in order to ensure an environment conducive to pedestrian safety. This will include raised pedestrian crossings across the lanes.
- Access to floating jetties will be provided by ramps. Curbs will be built into the jetties to prevent the occurrence of accidents.

As well as the question raised about the gradient of the ramp, the group also asked about the extent of public seating throughout the space as well as the height of the seats. The reply regarding the first question was that the space will

have a high number of public seats throughout the space. The reply regarding the second question was that throughout the seats are likely to hold to the outdoor furniture standard of 350 millimetres. A final point mentioned was the need for colour contrasting tactiles. The Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind will discuss the possible options and then contact Positively Wellington Waterfront. Discussion also centred around access to the waters edge where currently only steps are planned.

#### **4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were not passed owing to a paragraph concerning the presentation given concerning the film 'Beauty'. The said paragraph was disputed as not conveying the exact point made which was regarding the view that within the disability community there is an unwillingness to pay people for their services or goods where those people have a disability. In other words, there is an expectation to work for nothing. A revised paragraph will be distributed to the members of the group and the minutes will be confirmed pending their approval.

At this point of the meeting the group took the opportunity to discuss the facilitation of the DRG meetings. The issue discussed was the need to make it clear to all attending the meetings that time allocated to different groups or people, needs to be used for the purpose expressed by those groups or people.

#### **5. Election of Chair/Co-Chair**

The process of election was discussed and it was agreed that the election process would remain informal. Two members had expressed interest prior to the meeting. They were Thomas Bryan and Kendall Akhurst. As no further nominations were made, the two afore mentioned were elected to the positions of Co-Chairs.

At this point of the meeting the terms of reference for the DRG as they pertain to the election of a member who is no longer eligible to sit on the DRG for the following year were discussed. It was agreed that in the future there needs to be an amendment to the terms of reference which will make mention of this circumstance.

After this point of the meeting a further issue was discussed by the group this time pertaining to the motives behind having two Chairs for the group. It was agreed that the initial intention of having two Chairs was to support a new person coming into the role of Chair.

#### **6. Other Business**

- The issue of accessibility of EVOLVE was raised. It was mentioned that this particular issue had been discussed previously between Wellington City Council and Capital and Coast District Health Board. The conclusion of this previous discussion was that nothing could be done to make the building accessible short of having EVOLVE move to another premise. The issue will be followed up in the new year of 2007.
- The issue of bus stop shelters and seating was also raised, especially pertaining to a bus stop in Darlington Road in Miramar where an accident happened recently. It was agreed that this issue would be placed on the agenda in 2007.

- The Office of Disability Issues has started a nomination database of those organisations that require people with disabilities to be on their boards. Other nomination services were also mentioned by the group including the service offered by the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Institute of Consumers' Affairs.
- The group also discussed the possibility of making room on the DRG for people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities.
- It was agreed that firstly all of the applicants applying for the new positions will be looked at with the intention to short list potential members. A sub group would then be formed to interview the short listed candidates. Decisions on the appointment of new members would be made by 28 February 07.
- There will be a extra meeting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at 5.30pm. This meeting will be set aside to look at the applications of new members.
- The regular meeting will take place in Committee Room two, Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 2007 at 5.30pm.