

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday 24 September 2019

Time: 5.05pm–6.24pm; 6.33pm–8.10pm

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

PRESENT

Co-Chairpersons

Tristram Ingham and Rachel Noble

Members present

Erikka Helliwell, Rosie Macleod, Solmaz Nazari Orakani, and Nick Ruane

Councillor

David Lee

In Attendance

Kay Houlahan – Democracy Advisor

Lucy Lang – T/L Libraries & Community Spaces, Wellington City Libraries

Penny Fitzpatrick – Senior Consultant, MartinJenkins

Wendy Weber – Senior Consultant, MartinJenkins

1. MEETING PROCEDURES

1.1 Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed all present.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Stuart Mills, Jenny Rain, and Alan Royal. Apologies for lateness and early departure were also received from Councillor Lee.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of Interest were declared.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes – Minutes of 27 August 2019

That the minutes of 27 August 2019 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Moved Solmaz Nazari Orakani, seconded Rachel Noble

Carried

2. PRESENTATION

2.1 Third CBD Library Site

5.08pm-5.33pm

Presenter: Lucy Lang, Wellington City Libraries

Lucy Lang presented on the establishment of a third CBD Library site following the closure of the central library. The third library will be in the Harbour City Centre in Brandon Street, and she noted that the Libraries team wish to work with a designer on accessibility. Although it is early days, the Council would like to open the third site by early 2020. There will be two accessible carparks on Brandon Street and one on Panama Street.

Members discussed with the presenter:

- the use of libraries as third spaces
- retrofitting buildings for libraries/third spaces
- AAG involvement in communicating with disability groups
- AAG involvement in picking a designer
- earthquake preparation (and staff knowledge of procedures) as it relates to disabled persons
- lighting, orientation of counters, colour scheme, clarity of direction, and talking doors.

Action:

The presenter agreed to:

- provide an update
- send brief overview of what work has been done and questions for AAG.

Democracy Services agreed to forward presenters' contact details to the group.

Tristram Ingham arrived at 5.26pm.

Erikka Helliwell and Councillor Lee arrived at 5.27pm.

2.2 Advisory Group Review

5.33pm-6.24pm

Presenter: Penny Fitzpatrick, Senior Consultant, MartinJenkins

Penny Fitzpatrick presented on the Advisory Group review, noting that the focus of the review is on last 3 years and covers all advisory groups. She went onto note that the review is of the model – not individual groups – and that the intention is no to stop having advisory groups. A survey will shortly be sent out to members as well as to Council staff. Facilitated workshops across all advisory groups are also planned.

Members discussed with the presenter:

- operation, efficiency, and siloing of advisory groups
- the use of support persons and flexibility in support
- the lack of public involvement and support for public involvement
- the disconnect between Council and the group
- tracking feedback and that there is no obligation on council officers to report back
- the Terms of Reference and what actually happens don't line up
- the role of AAG and whether it should be one of leadership or strategy
- a reliance on presenters to interpret group's advice correctly
- work programmes
- other advisory groups are recognised as experts, but AAG is about lived experience
- the high turnover of staff.

Action:

The presenter agreed:

- to check whether the review report will be made public
- to see if support would be available to complete the survey.

The group adjourned at 6.24pm and reconvened at 6.33pm

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Councillor Update

6.33pm-6.38pm

Councillor Lee touched on the fact that this would be his last AAG meeting as he was standing down as a Councillor. He noted that he had been associated with the group almost 6 years and felt that it should be at the front end of every project.

The group thanked Councillor Lee for his work, positive attitude, and advocacy.

2. PRESENTATION, CONTINUED

2.2 Advisory Group Review

6.38pm-7.46pm

Members discussed with the presenter:

- the introduction of new requirements on the Council following its adoption of the Accessible Action Plan
- that the system fails disability groups and that Council staff are often in the middle and having to do things quickly
- bringing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into reality
- the lack of budget to be proactive
- intern programmes through Workbridge
- the lack of induction training
- criteria around accessibility awards
- ELT having a proper presence at AAG
- the District Health Board model.

Councillor Lee left the meeting at 7.08pm.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.2 Democracy Services Update

7.46pm-8.10pm

The Council Liaison Officer discussed a memo tabled on the election of a chairperson or co-chairs, recruitment and feedback. Two pieces of correspondence received were also discussed.

Action:

Democracy Services agreed to:

- clarify Council involvement with the State Opera House

- check whether Arts Access Aotearoa working on issue
- advise SATF of AAG attendance at meeting and clarify what support might be provided for a proposed photo shoot
- draft memo on principles and practices for holding AAG elections
- send list of applicants to members to check for potential conflicts of interest.

The group resolved to discuss holding election at its first meeting in 2020.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.10pm.

The next AAG meeting will be held on Tuesday, 29, October 2019 at 5.30pm.