

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 28 July 2020

Time: 5:31pm – 7:29pm

Venue: Mayor's Reception Room, Level 8,
113 The Terrace

PRESENT

Chairperson

Rachel Noble

Tristram Ingham via audiovisual link

Members

Amy Evanson

Erikka Helliwell

Stuart Mills

Solmaz Nazari Orakani

Alan Royal

Nick Ruane

Elected Members

Mayor Andy Foster

Councillor Rebecca Matthews

In Attendance

Shona McCahon – Reserves Planner

Lloyd Jowsey – Team Leader Planning and Reporting

Hedi Mueller – Democracy Advisor

Public

Callum McMenamin

Troy Murphy

1. MEETING PROCEDURES

5:31pm

1.1 Welcome

Welcome with introductions around the table.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Moana Mackey and Jenny Rains. Rosie Macleod's absence was noted.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

Rachel declared a potential conflict of interest if any items came up that conflicted with her role at the District Health Board.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes – Minutes of 30 June 2020

That the minutes of 30 June 2020 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Moved by Erikka Helliwell, seconded by Rachel Noble **Carried**

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Cemeteries Management Plan Review

5:35pm

Facilitated by Shona McCahon

Shona presented on the scope of the Cemeteries Management Plan Review, advising that closed Cemeteries are included as they will still need to be managed into the future. The review includes the cemetery facilities as well as the services (such as record keeping and dealing with funeral directors). The main operational cemetery at Mākara will be reaching capacity from the early 2030s. Very little of the Council's land there is suitable due to the topography, so more land needs to be acquired.

Shona discussed some trends that are increasing, such as natural burials and people arranging burials themselves, bypassing funeral directors.

Around accessibility, Shona discussed the online cemetery records and how these could be improved, as well as onsite information such as signage. Current issues onsite include: sloping areas (though a maximum gradient requirement exists), an ageing population which means that a higher proportion of visitors are elderly and will have accessibility needs, natural burial areas being rough underfoot by nature of their existence, uneven ground (often from tree and root growth), narrow pathways and few toilets.

Shona also discussed how the cemeteries are increasingly being used as a recreational areas for walking, biking and geocaching; and how the consultation would like to capture people's views of the appropriateness of this. Shona also discussed how the public often assumes that the council take care of gravesites, when in reality these are purchased by the family in perpetuity, and as the descendants become more removed from the interred they no longer maintain the gravesite.

Members discussed:

- Ensuring that the management plan includes adherence to disability standards and that if new toilets are built, they must be accessible. Shona advised that topography is problematic and maintenance is ongoing, so there will need to be a weighing up and prioritisation of funding. There will likely be a project acquire new land and plan its development, including accessibility. With existing and heritage cemeteries, accessibility needs must be balanced with cost and heritage values.
- Whether cemeteries are an archaic system and should be reviewed as a whole? Shona discussed a common practice overseas where graves are reused after a certain amount of

time. This is common in countries where land is either unsuitable or unaffordable, and will be consulted on in the formal consultation.

- How the Cemetery Management Plan review interacts with the Spatial Plan and the wider issue of growth pressures in Wellington. Shona advised that cemeteries could be used as multifunctional spaces so that land is utilised more. Universal design principals need to be included if going down multifunctional route.
- That website records need to be accessible as well – this is non-negotiable as all website content should be accessible, and doesn't have the barriers to accessibility that the physical land access does.
- Signage and information on site needs to be accessible too – such as large print, braille, audio tracks. QR codes are becoming more prevalent and markers are important. Seating in regular areas is also helpful for those with mobility issues that aren't in wheelchairs.
- Whether the pre-engagement survey on Let's Talk is accessible and does it include specific questions that are relevant to accessibility? It is accessible but does not include accessibility specific questions. This can be rectified in the formal consultation.
- Is there an opportunity to add an additional question into the pre-engagement now? Shona to follow up.
- There has been discussion with Parks, Sport and Recreation in the past about the accessibility of reserves, would recommend that Shona refer back to them. The Go Anywhere Trust also did a survey of parks in the region with recommendations to improve accessibility.

Actions:

- Alan to find Go Anywhere survey of parks and send to Shona.

The presenter agreed to:

- Think about accessibility question for the pre-engagement and run it by AAG. *(Note: Shona has since confirmed that this is not possible for the pre-engagement, as there was not enough time before the pre-engagement closed on 31 July and because adding questions late would skew results from the overall survey. However, accessibility questions will certainly be included in the formal consultation.)*

2.2 Long Term Plan

6:11pm

Facilitated by Lloyd Jowsey

Lloyd explained how the Long Term Plan (LTP) process works and what to expect. The LTP is how the Council decides priorities around what it's going to invest in, and brings together all the council does, and takes about a year to provide an update.

Forecasting is an important part of the LTP – decisions are made based on forecasts of how we see city changing in population, economic development, and infrastructure for example.

Proposals get put to public and consulted upon – the whole process is externally audited, and lots of legislation applies as to how this is done.

Lloyd discussed known issues for the 2021 LTP, including financial pressure due to COVID-19, infrastructure spending, Let's Get Wellington Moving and earthquake related investments.

The LTP is due for adoption in mid-2021 – AAG is encouraged to provide their input especially when facing the trade-offs. Note that if an item can't be recognised now, it could be recognised in future LTPs.

Members discussed:

- Councillors want to focus on accessibility – Cr Matthews had discussions with other elected members about how they can use the LTP to bring accessibility to the fore.
- How does this plan fit into existing plans? Currently in year three of the 2018-2028 plan.
- How to balance needs of majority against needs of community in each consultation phase? Lloyd – ultimately comes down to setting priorities, which is not easy with limited pool of money. The advantage is that Council is committed to accessibility so it can permeate across all projects. Starting with outcomes – being clear about the outcomes and city we want to shape, and how we can get there. Accessibility will be included in the LTP, but how much and where will be determined by the priority setting process.
- Continuing to use Cr Matthews as advocate at the table, and to continue to submit during consultations.
- That disabled community have input on shaping of questions for surveys, so that disabled community are more likely to engage. DBH did a recent survey in which has 47% of respondents self-identified as having a disability or impairment. Surveys need to be accessible too.
- Sequential process of the LTP is great; it will be less subject to politically motivated projects if core priorities are endorsed.

Actions:

- Planning team to lock in consultation slots for specific months with AAG.

3. General Business

3.1 Councillor Updates

6:35pm

Cr Matthews discussed the following:

- The Accessibility Advisor position is with CEO for sign off.
- Advisory Groups Review – the draft report exists but is not yet available. Cr Matthews has asked whether the Strategy and

Policy meeting where the review is discussed could be held outside of office hours to accommodate more group members attending.

- Cr Matthews is meeting with Prudence from Disable Persons Assembly regarding mobility parking on/in the vicinity of the Golden Mile
- Nick Ruane and Carl Halliburton attended Kristine Ford's workshop on the Footpath Management Policy and Trading in Public Places Policy. There was lots of support from fellow councillors.
- Update on the shovel ready project application for central government funding, for retrospective accessible infrastructure. This wasn't accepted as it didn't meet requirements of scale or readiness.

Actions:

- Cr Matthews to update group on date and time of SPC meeting that has the Advisory Group Review on the agenda.

3.2 Member Updates

6:47pm

- Alan: My Health Passport is being launched on Monday in Porirua. Alan has also pushed for event videos to be put on WCC website, nothing yet. City Events are lined up to present to AAG in August.
- Solmaz: Will be starting a new job at the Donald Beasley Institute later in the month, monitoring the project on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New Zealand.
- Nick: There's a need for second mobility park in Brooklyn, so will be following this up. Workbridge will be launching a policy document at end of August that Nick will make available to AAG. Kristine's workshop was very engaging, and councillors seemed keen to get hazards off footpaths. Good to have subject matter experts involved and hoping this continues in future. Nick also attended Jenny Rains' Emergency

Management workshop – met with WREMO staff, will be meeting on a regular basis. There was a conversation about pandemic learnings to be fed into policy response.

- Stuart: Ongoing issue of footpaths being blocked in CBD by construction sites, and no ramps to get around.
- Tristram: Ministry of Health is exploring new models of disability governance which would allow a genuine disability voice into their work. Tristram met with National Emergency Management Agency, who coordinated the pandemic response, to debrief. Significant gaps were recognised. NEMA is seeing that community resilience starts during non-emergency times, so need to work now so that people can be more prepared.
- Rachel: Attended the joint Advisory Group workshop on the Golden Mile consultation in July. Youth Council, the Pacific Advisory Group and the Environmental Reference Group were very aligned in their comments, but AAG did not have a strong voice as there weren't many attendees and the presentation didn't show how it would work in the community. No consideration was given in terms of mobility parks, pick-ups or drop-offs. There were lots of 'baked in assumptions' around speed and efficiency that were inherent in options. There are issues with lack of modelling for accessibility requirements, for example no modelling of needs for future mobility car parks. Mobility parks tend to not be strategically aligned with places of amenity, or public transport links. Modelling needs to be done early so that whole process is accurate.

Callum and Troy were also invited to address the group:

Callum: Would be keen for AAG meetings to be more accessible – the Mayor's Reception Room having restricted access doesn't help, would be keen for meetings to be livestreamed.

Troy: Was keen to attend to see how the meeting is run as no such group exists at Parliament.

Actions:

- Cr Matthews will raise with Cr Condie, Deputy Mayor Free, and Mayor Foster the issues around LGWM and accessibility.
- Co-chairs to write letter regarding LGWM and cc Cr Matthews in.
- Hedi to raise construction site accessibility with Moana.
- Hedi to invite LGWM to September's meeting.
- Hedi to look into AAG meetings being accessible to the public by Zoom
- Hedi to look into AAG meetings being held in Council Chambers instead of the Mayor's Reception Room.

4. Member only time

7:11pm

Hedi facilitated a discussion on how an upcoming AAG election is proposed to work.

- Between now and the 25 August meeting, group members can nominate a member for co-chair by emailing Hedi.
- Hedi will liaise with the nominee during this time, as nominations need to be accepted to be valid.
- Hedi to publish nominees in the 25 August agenda, but not nominators.
- Election to be held during members only time at the end of the August meeting.
- Nominees to address the AAG for up to two minutes.
- Voting:
 - Only members present at the meeting may vote.
 - Pens and secret ballot forms to be provided to each member of the group with tick boxes for each nominees (ballot form to meet accessibility standards).
 - Votes to be placed in the ballot box.

- Hedi to tally votes for each membership position. No vote totals or margins to be announced.
- The candidate with the highest number of votes will be declared the winner.
- In the event of a tie (eg nine members, three nominees and three votes each) the winner shall be decided by the drawing of lots.
- Hedi to ensure destruction of ballots after the count has been verified.

By consensus, the group resolved to hold an election at the 25 August 2020 meeting.

By consensus, the group resolved that they would continue to utilise the 'co-chair' model of leadership.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:29.

The next AAG meeting will be held on 25 August 2020 at 5.30pm.