

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 27 April 2021

Time: 5:33pm – 7:42pm

Venue: Ngake (Room 16.09), Level 16, 113 The Terrace

PRESENT

Chairperson

Rachel Noble

Members

Erikka Helliwell

Rosie Macleod (via audiovisual link)

Alan Royal

Elected Members

Councillor Rebecca Matthews

In Attendance

David Daniela (Events Delivery Manager), Melissa Wells (Senior Accessibility Advisor), Hedi Mueller (Democracy Advisor).

External Staff:

Renée Corlett, Christiana Torricelli and Ana Faatoia (Advisors - Community Resilience and Recovery, Wellington Region Emergency Management Office),

1. MEETING PROCEDURES

5:33pm

1.1 Welcome and introductions

Cr Matthews said the karakia on behalf of the group. Group members and staff introduced themselves.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Nick Ruane, Amy Evans, Solmaz Nazari, Stuart Mills, Claire Richardson and Jenny Rains.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

Rachel declared an interest through her role at the District Health Board.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes – Minutes of 30 March 2021

That the minutes of 30 March 2021 be adopted as a true and accurate record.

Moved by Alan Royal, seconded Cr Matthews

Carried

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 City Events

5:42pm

David Daniela presented on the work of the Events team, the type of events that WCC runs (as opposed to community events or economic events run by WellingtonNZ), the impact of COVID-19, and that this year so far has been an extremely busy season.

Members discussed:

- Previous approaches to have events filmed in case people are unable to attend in person. David advised of the challenges around getting good footage and the cost of professional filming. Often filming/streaming events is reliant on partnerships or sponsorships from external parties due to the costs involved – the Skyshow was a partnership with a media firm. More commonly WellingtonNZ events has the firepower

to create partnerships, less so for WCC Events. Mana Moana was an event that wasn't able to proceed due to COVID restrictions, so became an online exhibit called Mana Moana Digital Ocean. There are other lightshow events that were brought to the suburbs so that more people could experience them without having to come into the city.

- Difficulties with budget and capacity, as there are 6.5 staff delivering over 15 events per year.
- Opportunities to think about event design and management to meet accessibility needs – influencing community events for example. Possibility for WCC to take on a leadership role showing other event planners what best practice looks like, in things like showing accessible routes on maps, knowing where exits are. Potential for a future event audit from disabled community and working in with the organisers. How to make it an inviting experience, and how using symbols on maps and information. Ensuring you have the right audience for an audit as not everyone will be able to speak to all disabilities.
- Importance of being able to plan and having the info available so that people know beforehand – having it up the top so people know immediately whether it's an event they can attend. Some events can be a self-fulfilling prophecy – people won't go as they assume it's not accessible, so it seems like the demand isn't there.
- Having a workshop with partners like Arts Access Aotearoa.
- Sectioning off areas of the venue and thinking through user experience.
- City safety being an issue, and health and safety being the bottom line for events.
- Wellington being a challenging city for events, and the Botanic Gardens being a difficult venue.
- Incorporating some of that work into general Council accessibility improvements - if we look at everything all at once it wouldn't necessarily come from Events budget.

2.2 Wellington Region Emergency Management Office 6:18pm

Renee Corlett, Christiana Torricelli and Ana Faatoia presented on the advice that AAG provided at a workshop last year.

Members discussed:

- The community suggest a top down–bottom up approach – they will be looking for how WREMO will respond to the disabled community and what WREMO isn't responsible for.
- How people can build into their own plans to account for things that are out of their control (eg not being able to stockpile medications which are highly controlled substances), and how people within a community can help meet each other's needs during an emergency.
- Acknowledging the interdependencies of the agencies like National Emergency Management Agency, Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office, District Health Boards and Ministry of Health.
- Changing target audience of the plan to independent disabled people that live alone, rather than those that live with support. Renee acknowledged that AAG recommended this initially and weren't heard.
- Recommendation that WREMO talk to retirement village association as they have a lot of experience in this area.
- That the Council still have a role to check that the support providers have a plan in place – plan will start with independent adults, but will continue on with support providers
- Going into communities with workshops facilitated by WREMO advisors so that people come out of the workshop with individualised plan, and know which actions they can take and what they might need assistance with.
- A planning toolkit that would work for people in the child-youth transition space.
- Hazard awareness to be part of the plan as well.

- Co-design process could lead to development of an idea that AAG hasn't fed back yet, potential for DHB to be involved.
- Clear expectation setting, really important for people know what the goal is, and being clear about limit and scope.
- WCC has the welfare function that sits with community development team – getting reliable data to inform planning and WREMO facilitating that process.

3. General Business

3.1 Members' and Councillor's Updates

6:58pm

- Cr Matthews gave an update on independent governance review and what that means: advisory groups are out of scope but the portfolio system will no longer exist, being replaced by a different committee structure. Cr Matthews asked how the group would like to ensure that accessibility is championed at governance level. Rachel recommended that WCC sign up to accessibility charter, and that each committee would have obligation to respond to it. AAG could start a petition, or Cr Matthews could bring a notice of motion.
- Alan gave an update on his user-testing of prototype self-service information kiosks, that WCC is testing for different facilities.
- Melissa gave an additional update on the Community Services team starting eight weeks of New Zealand Sign Language classes; Farmers Lane upgrade being planned and the road being leveled with the kerbs; a pilot programme of the Smart Access app which looks at accessibility infrastructure in cities.

Action: Erikka to send email to group AAG about starting a petition about accessibility charter.

The meeting was declared closed at 7:42pm.

The next AAG meeting will be held on 25 May 2021 at 5.30pm, on Level 16, 113 The Terrace.