

Accessibility Advisory Group

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 31 August 2021

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Zoom meeting

Purpose

- Advise Council on how to help grow a great and accessible City, where barriers to people with are minimised.
- Bring lived experience and knowledge to Council around accessibility issues in the context of Council's roles and priorities.
- It is recognised that members come from and remain connected to their communities, it is from this foundation members share their expertise and lived experience in this advisory role and engage with their communities and others as part of the wider council consultation processes.

In Attendance

Chairperson:	Nick Ruane
Members:	Alan Royal, Humphrey Hanley, Susan Williams, Amy Evanson, Stuart Mills, Solmaz Nazari Orakani, Rachel Noble (Co-chair), Olivia Murphy
NZSL Interpreters:	Rosie Henley and Fran Collins
Liaison Councillor:	Cr Rebecca Matthews
WCC Staff:	Melissa Wells (Senior Accessibility Advisor), Hedi Mueller (Senior Democracy Advisor), Claire Barlow (Democracy Advisor), Nadia Webster (Chief Digital Officer – Acting), Matthew Beres (Play Spaces Specialist), Kelly Crandle (Waterfront and City Parks Manager), Jenny Rains (Community Services Manager), Natalie Clausen (Project Manager)
External:	Nicole Thompson – Wraight and Associates

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:31pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:
 - Erikka Helliwell and James Roberts – for absence.No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.
2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Items

3. Digital Infrastructure, *Presented by Nadia Webster.*

Nadia explained to the group how Wellington City Council currently adhere to accessibility standards in their online service provision and what they are moving towards, with a focus on more people-centric design for digital services.

She addressed the question posed about the 'digital divide' by highlighting a pilot project aimed at utilising kiosks in various locations which endeavours to address this inequity, and the takeaways from the work that has been done so far. Nadia then asked for feedback from the group.

Members showed general support for the idea of kiosks but raised questions about how they will assist those with limited digital literacy to engage in these services. The idea is that the kiosks would be situated in locations e.g., libraries, where there would be staff on hand to assist customers.

Members suggested consideration of matters such as location, noise, light, and visual descriptions for those with visual impairments.

Nick thanked Nadia and extended an invite to come back and update the group in the future.

4. Frank Kitts Park New Playground/Te Aro Mahana, *Presented by Natalie Clausen and Nicole Thomson*

Nicole took members through the new playground presentation that had been distributed with the agenda. She talked in considerable detail about the design elements and explained the delays to the project due to Covid restrictions and resource limitations. They are now working on detailed design and she asked members for feedback on the proposal.

Members made suggestions about:

- Tactile routes for white cane users and indicated that seats in the middle of movement routes can be obstacles.
- Accessible toilets near the park, in particular *Changing Places* toilets for those with severe disabilities.
- An edge or barrier at the top of the slide slope to prevent wheelchair users and the visually impaired from falling.

- The value of consulting with the parents/grandparents of disabled children on being able to maintain good visibility over the whole play area when supervising children.
- The importance of using surfaces that are not prone to swelling or creating trip hazards over time.

Nicole gave a brief overview of the Te Aro Mahana 2021 design.

Nick thanked Nicole and Natalie for their time and moved into member-only time.

5. Councillor Matthews shared the following updates with the group:

- An acknowledgement of Melissa's work to keep sending regular information during lockdown and that she had reiterated with bus service providers that there shouldn't be a trade-off with accessibility during restrictions.

Melissa shared the following updates with the group:

- Staff changes in the Executive Leadership Team: Kim Fell, Chief Customer and Community Officer and Siobhan Proctor, Chief Infrastructure Officer.
- The Newtown intersection survey has been extended past 3 September.
- The Aho Tini Arts Strategy has been approved by Council.
- WOAP Accessibility – currently each venue chooses whether to use a filter that identifies accessibility of their location. Melissa has pointed out that this isn't equitable and will be discussed with organisers before next year.
- Asked the group whether she was sending enough information in her emails and if it was useful information.

Rachel shared the following updates with the group:

- She met with Erikka and Amy to discuss the key objectives for the AAG Workplan. This will be emailed to members shortly and included in next month's agenda.

Other members shared briefly about how they and other members in their communities were coping through lockdown.

The meeting concluded at 7:31pm with a karakia by Hedi and Cr Matthews.

Information

Next meeting date: 28/09/2021

Actions from this meeting:

1. Rachel to email the work on key objectives for the AAG Workplan to members for discussion.