

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP

MINUTES

5.30 P.M. – Tuesday 25th May 2010, Committee Room 2

Present

Sara Pivac-Alexander (Co-Chair), Philippa McDonald (Co-Chair), Thomas Bryan, Lisette, Wesseling, Alan Royal, Isobel King, Linda Hobman, Rosemary Cole Jenny Rains (WCC), Stewart Sexton (WCC), Marie Retimanu-Pule (WCC) and Councillor Pannett

Apologies: Errolyn Jones

AGENDA ITEM	Actions/Questions	update
<p>1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting : were approved</p>		
<p>2. Midland Park Refresh, Charles Gordon</p> <p>The plans for upgrade of the Midland Park were discussed. The upgrade will consider access to the park, particularly from Lambton Quay, cleaning of the park, furniture, lighting, vegetation, drainage, events that happen in the park, general repairs, and potentially a sculpture.</p> <p>As a way to address access, the planned upgrade includes: removing some of the planters, maintaining existing ramps, new seating and improved lighting.</p> <p>The park upgrade is planned for completion in December.</p> <p>It was also noted that a regular maintenance plan will ensure up keep.</p> <p>The group said the location of the access to the park entrance did not line up with the pedestrian crossing and that it was obscured by the taxi stand.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Determine if the traffic signals can be moved.2. DRG members to send comments on this proposal to Stewart Sexton as soon as possible.	<p>The plans have now gone out for tender. Tenders will close in about two weeks. Work will commence once the contract is signed and a start time is agreed.</p>
<p>3. Chief Electoral Office – How Accessibility Can be Addressed in the Voting Process</p> <p>Many older people experience barriers to access to online technology, finding it difficult to afford and difficult to use. Many mental health consumers also find it hard to learn to use computer technology.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Council needs to be aware of these issues.2. Multiple access options for voting need to be available.3. Online tools and documents need to be in accessible formats.	
<p>4. Ross Bly – Local Body Elections</p> <p>It was noted the Local Body elections are by postal ballot and presented a distinct set of issues for people with disabilities. However the system does allow people to be assisted with voting. Ross noted that people still find STV voting confusing / complex. The latest forms have been designed with more colour and the use of symbols. There are still problems with the font size as the amount of information can mean a large amount of paper is needed.</p> <p>The Local Government New Zealand website: elections2010.org.nz was highlighted as an accessible resource. It includes videos and will provide information to voters on the voting issues. Reading software will be able to read the website information. DRG members were invited to test the site and give feedback. Legislation does not allow e-voting in Local Body elections. Local Authorities can choose the listing of candidates on voting documents and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. DRG members will forward any questions to Ross Bly.2. DRG should test the website to give feedback.3. Council officers will explore the opportunity to make arrangements for an assisted voting Station be set up at Council	

Wellington City has chosen random listing. This is not user-friendly for the disability community.

The group enquired if Wellington City Council could provide a place for assisted voting and promote this to the blind community. DRG members could also promote this through their networks.

5. DRG Subgroups

Housing – suggest getting together as soon as possible. Philippa to update Errolyn and Linda on where the group is at and set up a liaison meeting with Wellington City Council.

Governance – this group will retain their four goals from the previous year. The first one is ongoing. The second is to review the guide already put to Council on how to present to the group. The third is a new goal on keeping Council informed. For the fourth one, Alan has started collecting their concerns about the Local Body Elections for presentation to Cassandra Crowley.

Cultural – need to find a time to meet and discuss goals.

Transport – the goals are the same as last year. As a group they have not had the opportunity to meet but will meet prior to the next AAG meeting. It was suggested that there needs to be another person on this group.

3. General Business

An AAG Workshop meeting on the Accessibility Action Plan will be planned. The group agreed that a Tuesday meeting works best. It was agreed that the group would make a submission on the Draft Annual Plan.

1. Email Thomas if you are interested in becoming part of the Transport Subgroup.