

# WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera ō Poneke

## MINUTES

**DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP**

*COMMITTTEE ROOM 2*

***TUESDAY 10 APRIL 2007***

*5.15PM –7.30PM*

# ORDER OF BUSINESS

## 1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

The joint chairs welcomed the group.

## 2. Apologies

Leonie Gill (Councillor)  
Rosie Macleod  
Sandy Waddell

## 3. PRESENT:

### MEMBERS

Kendall Akhurst (Co-Chair)  
Thomas Bryan (Co-Chair)  
Ollie Goulden  
Ross Livingstone  
Nick Luger  
Kaeti Rigarlsford  
Jenny Rains  
Jules Taniwha  
Lisette Wesseling

### GUESTS

Tania Reti  
Helen Reynolds  
Sean Mulcahy

## 4. Jenny Rains, Lambton Ward Presentation

Jenny Rains introduced herself as the Senior Advisor for Lambton Ward in the City Communities Business Unit. The relationship between City Communities and the geographic populations as well as the specialised populations was described. The positions of senior advisors for the respective wards in Wellington include responsibilities for communities and projects within those wards. Specifically for Lambton Ward this includes the Homelessness portfolio, the Project Margin contract, managing funding for community group accommodation and overseeing the advisors for disability communities and senior communities.

## 5. Tania Reti presentation holidays for the disability sector

The Choice R and R Trust was formed in 2003 in order to provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities. Accordingly the Trust organises weekends away in the Wairarapa for people with disabilities.

Tania Reti presented information to the Group about her background and her current aspirations. She expressed her desire to see an improved state of affairs for people

with disabilities wanting to access information about travel and recreation. The focus for any associated initiative would include Paraparaumu and Wellington.

Next information was presented to the DRG regarding the hope to hold a forum in Wellington which would focus on accessible tourism and travel in Wellington. Through Choice R and R Trust, the forum would include information for organisations and consumers about self auditing of installation of accessibility features within those organisations and staff training. It is hoped that the forum would become the centre of information for accessibility and tourism and a destination where businesses who have successfully integrated accessibility features into their daily business could speak to businesses and organisations that have not yet done so.

The Group questioned whether such a forum would be local or regional in focus. It was answered that while it is hoped that Wellington would be the centre of any such forum, be it local, regional or national, at present the format has not been fully explored.

The Group also questioned whether the forum would be targeted towards as yet non compliant providers or to those who have already made the move towards accessibility in their business practice. The answer given was that it was hoped that both would be there.

The Group raised the issue of sparking interest in such a forum by highlighting to groups the economic advantages that stand to be made by giving disability communities access to business.

The Group also raised the point that the said goals are in common with Wellington City Council's goals for accessibility and that as Council want to encourage communities to be self managing; applying for funding from the Council to fund such a forum would be advisable.

Finally the point was raised that there needs to be more information about consumer behaviour in order for businesses to have more information about disability communities in their target markets so that they could better understand the economic advantages of engaging with accessibility.

**Action:** Reply to Tania Reti to be actioned following her presentation to the DRG.

## **6. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes from the DRG meeting (6 March 2007) were discussed by the group. The following points were discussed:

- a. **Action:** The DRG Transport sub group made up of Lisette Wesseling, Rosie Macleod, Kendall Akhurst and Thomas Bryant will make a presentation to the Group at the next meeting.
- b. The Group made note of their appreciation of the council officers who had made presentations in recent meetings. The presentations had been to the point and the officers had allowed plenty of time for the Group to ask questions.

**Action:** Kendall Akhurst would write to thank the Officers who presented to the DRG.

## **7. Other Business**

- a. The upcoming meetings for the draft annual plan were discussed. Members of the group will attend the Urban Development and Transport Presentation, the Economic Development and Cultural Wellbeing Presentation and the Social Recreation and Environment Presentation, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April respectively.

**Action:** Ross would send out presentation details with day & times.

- b. The next meeting for the DRG has been convened for Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007, 5.30pm, POD Conference Rooms, CNR Willeston & Victoria Sts.
- c. At present there is no update regarding the Kumutoto Waterfront project. More information will be sought for the next meeting.

**Action:** Ross to contact the Project Manager for an update.

- d. The progress of the footpath policy in relation to sandwich boards was raised. It was noted that while the increase in cost to have sandwich boards on the street for retailers has been rescinded by Wellington City Council, there seems to be a proliferation of sandwich boards.
- e. The policy regarding restaurants and toilets was raised. The corresponding building code being 4121 standards on toilets. A copy of this would be provided to members.

**Action:** Ross would send out a copy of 4121.

Meeting closed at 7.00pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 24 April commencing 5.15pm.