

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera ō Poneke

MINUTES

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP

*COMMITTEE ROOM 2
101 WAKEFIELD STREET*

TUESDAY 14 August 2007

5.30 PM – 7.30PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Members

Thomas Bryan (Co-Chair)
Kendall Akhurst (Co-Chair)
Ollie Goulden
Ross Lingstone
Jules Taniwha
Rosie Macleod
Nick Luger
Fabian Todd
Lisette Wesseling
Councillor Gill
Kaeti Rigarlsford
Sandy Waddell

Guests

Maria Anselma
Tony Finkle

Public

Sheryl Graham
Hutt Valley DHB

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the group.

2. Apologies for lateness

Kaeti Rigarlsford

3. Maria Anselma – Guest Speaker

“OVERDRIVE”

Guest Speaker Maria Anselma from the Wellington City Library gave a presentation to the group of ‘Overdrive’. ‘Overdrive’ is a trial of digital audio books for all members of the library. Further details of Overdrive include:

- Downloadable audio books.

- An extra resource for Wellington City Library members.
- Audio books can be saved to MP3 or burnt to C.D.
- Has been on trial for one week.
- 49 library members have accessed over 100 titles (so far).
- <http://wcl.lib.overdrive.com/BE0A1F14-ABCB-4C44-B7B7-36AD7A6C93EA/10/338/en/Default.htm>
- The digital books are 'audio only'.
- A guided tour is available from the Wellington City Library main page this tour is 'audio' and 'visual'.
- Requirements: Windows 98 or later and headphones / speakers.
- Not iPod compatible.
- Digital books available: 120 Fiction Titles / 133 Non-Fiction Titles.
- It is possible to burn parts of the book, users don't have to burn all chapters at once.
- All audio books are under a two week loan period.
- A Library card is needed to access audio books.
- Temporary cards can be applied for online however, after four weeks members will need to visit the city library to validate their membership.
- AV (Audio Visual) titles are 'free' for blind or low vision members. You will need to present a doctors certificate or Blind Foundation I.D.
- Digital books are permanent downloads.
- Members without computers can trial digital books on library MP3 players.
- More popular titles will have more copies available.
- Loan period is 3-4 weeks this can be extended for medical reasons.
- All services are on the library homepage.
- Any suggestions can be made online or at the library:
<http://www.wcl.govt.nz/>

4. Thomas Bryan

“REAL TIME SCHEDULING”

Thomas Bryan gave a presentation to the group about “Real Time Scheduling” of city transport for persons with disabilities. Details included:

- Ideal to be introduced into greater Wellington City transport system.
- Wellington does have 'txt' a bus but only gives you expected arrival times straight from a time table so is not exact and doesn't let you know which bus it is when it does arrive.
- Auckland at this time uses V.D.U (Visual Display Units) for scheduling. Since the introduction of this device Auckland bus transport have found that 80% of buses are on time.
- Hamilton uses buttons on poles that give scheduling information however the poles are never in the same place.

- Christchurch uses a V.D.U which indicates how far away a bus is however is not usable by the blind.

International Options:

- Melbourne uses a phone with real time information.
- England uses buttons on poles which give verbal information.
- America uses 'talking signs'. Users have a hand held device which uses an infrared signal to help navigation through city streets and inside buildings. Street signs talk to the device to let the user know exactly where they are. Information given includes actual street names, public buildings and places of importance.
- Talking signs also gives the user bus time tables and other public transport timetables.
- San Francisco uses audible signs with GPS.

Concept revolves around access / ideas / conversation:

- The talking signs concept is not to be seen as a replacement for guide dogs or canes but to give more independence for the blind.
- Users of the infrared handheld device found that the signal bounces around and that audio quality can be low although this can be helpful in that the closer you get to where you want to be, the clearer the signal gets.
- Audible signs need to be as common as curb cuts.
- Audible signs and navigation devices for the blind are already being used in Museums, Zoo's in Japan and bus stops in the U.K.
- This device has a 'World Wide' application.
- Infrared is a relatively cheap option.
- Ear pieces are available to connect with the device.
- http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/visugate/public_imp_signvi.hcsp#P52_8079

5. Confirmation of Minutes

6. Report Back from D.A

Ross Livingstone

- Mentioned the Grants Team, headed by Jenny Rains, and suggested the disability community get involved. There are four rounds per year.
- Accessible Kayaking is being progressed with Fergs Kayaks and Sport Wellington.
- Wellington Waterfront is to install a second bridge from Civic Square.
- Hearing Expo three day event: <http://www.whf.org.nz/?p=113>

7. Report Back from Members

Thomas Bryan

- Warehouse at the Airport has installed new seating for a café possibly taking away mobility parking.

Action: Fabian Todd to visit site to check.

- 'Human Rights Meeting' – Public Transport:
<http://list.beehive.govt.nz/archives/dyson-participate/2003/000015.html>

Lisette Wesseling

- Karo Drive (inner city bypass) steps have been painted in high contrast colour.

Kaeti Rigarlsford

- Matt Frost to possibly present to the D.R.G.
- Lottery grants are available to all people with legitimate needs including individuals with disabilities.

Sandy Waddell

- ACC to initiate a specific unit for serious injuries (October 2007).
- 'Consumer Outlook Group' information and advice for ACC claimants Ross Livingstone is a representative for serious injury.
<http://www.acc.co.nz/claims-and-care/other-information/advocacy/WCMZ002980#members>
- C.C.D.H.B needs to be represented by a person with a disability to make an impact.

Action: Jules to follow up with Margo Meins.

- D.A.G. needs representation by persons with a disability (appointed and elected). Meetings are held six times a year.

Action: Ross to follow up with Maurice Priestley

Ollie Goulden

- No wheelchair access for users of Redwood train station. Regional council needs to be made aware of this.

Kendall Akhurst

- Waterfront submission implemented.
- Westpac banks to have user friendly systems for the vision impaired.

8. Other Business

Greater collaboration partnership with H.V.D.H.B – Sheryl Graham.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, 28 August at 5:15pm, Committee Room 2.

ITEM	ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBLE	DUE	COMPLETED
Warehouse Parking	Need to go and check site	Fabian Todd		
C.C.D.H.B Representation	Contact Margo Miens	Jules Taniwha		

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.