

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP (DRG)

MINUTES

5.30 PM
Thursday 7th February 2008

Committee Room 2

Members

Kendall Akhurst (Co-Chair)	Alan Royal
Philippa McDonald	Sara Pivac Alexander
Thomas Bryan	

Guests

Jenny Rains
John McGrath

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the group.

2. Apologies

Sandie Waddell
Lisette Wesseling
Jules Taniwha
Councillor Pannett

3. **ROSE PALMER, ACTING BUSINESS PERFORMANCE MANAGER, URBAN DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORT**

- Transport Planning aligned with Urban Development in 2007 restructure
- Allows for greater integration between the disciplines of urban design, transport planning and urban planning
- Concerned with built environment and planning for the future of our city
- Strategic level planning (e.g. regional transport studies)
- Transport policy
- Improvements to existing roads
- Traffic engineering
- Planning and developing new roads
- Maintenance of the District Plan under the Resource Management Act

- Strategic planning of the city
- Three teams dedicated to specific areas of the city: Central, North and West, South and East
- Process resource consents and provide guidance on development in the city
- Policy and advocacy on Urban Design issues
- Includes heritage and landscaping considerations
- Concerned with the interaction between the built environment and public space
- Central area public spaces
- Street upgrades
- Suburban centre upgrades
- Community Engagement is a priority for the Directorate
- We will be looking at new ways to engage the community
- Engaging those who don't currently have a voice in our processes

3. JOHN MCGRATH

Mr McGrath explained how the policy unit in Council operates. It was explained that the unit has 10 policy advisors and one administrator. The work embarked upon encompasses a wide area of topics. The purpose of the policy unit was explained, its organisational relationships, how work is selected, highlights from 2007, how the unit engages and consults with other groups and intended work for 2008.

5. JENNY RAINS

Purpose of Grants Business Unit

Grants provide a mechanism for the Council to respond to community and community groups that are undertaking projects that:

- Meet a need identified by the community
- Align with council's strategic goals and community outcomes.
- Rely to some extent on participation and engagement by community organisations

Organisations and projects are funded through contracts and contestable grants pools (The contestable pools provide grants that are discretionary, short term and project based in nature)

Contestable Grants

1. General Grants \$876,000 p/a

- Four pools – Social, Cultural, Economic and Environmental
- 3 general funding rounds in a year (July, November, March)

- a. **Social Pool**
Social wellbeing means living in a supportive, ongoing community and having access to shelter, education, food and income and funding in the social pool supports this by funding within the following focus areas
 - Building capability & capacity in the community
 - Promote personal and community safety
 - Promote participation in sport and recreation – particularly for youth
 - Youth development (10-25 yrs old)

- b. **Cultural Pool**
Before applying for funding from the cultural pool check whether the project fits Creative Communities scheme. Focus areas:
 - Community Festivals
 - Maori Arts
 - Grassroots arts / youth participation
 - Other arts projects

- c. **Economic Pool**
These are normally one-off grants, which can be large and projects should be of economic benefit to Wellington. Focus areas are
 - Strengthening the city's status as a centre of creativity and innovation
 - Increasing Wellington's international linkages
 - Attracting and retaining skilled migrants
 - Encouraging the deployment of open access broadband infrastructure

- d. **Environmental**
Priority areas for the environmental pool are
 - energy and water efficiency and conservation
 - renewable energy technology
 - biodiversity enhancement and stream restoration
 - community partnerships

2. Special Grants – WCC (Rate \$)

- a. **Sports Development Fund**
 - New fund – first round planned for November
 - Improving strategic management of clubs

- b. **Betty Campbell Accommodation Assistance Fund**
 - For community groups who work to reduce social disadvantage in Wellington City
 - Grants to assist with rental costs

- c. Sports & Cultural Representatives Fund
 - One off grant of \$200 for individual representing NZ overseas
- d. Mayoral Relief Fund
 - Emergency assistance for individuals with basic needs
 - Administered by Wellington City Mission
- e. Tawa Community Grants
- f. Venue Subsidies
- g. Discretionary Funds

3. Special Grants -non WCC (external funding)

The unit also manages grants funded through funding streams that do not draw on the rates dollar. These include:

- a. Partnership Creative New Zealand for Creative Communities' Wellington local funding scheme
- b. other schemes include Izzard Bequest, Newton Bequest, Stanley Banks Bequest and the Joe Spell Fund for the Mayors Office,

Funding through Contracts

The Grants team also manage contracts and funding for 51 organisations. These organisations include operational support for 16 community centres and organisations as diverse as: Age Concern, Downtown Community Ministry, Fringe Arts Trust, Vincent's Art Workshop Wellington Ending Abuse & Violence Inc and Wellington Free Ambulance.

Contracts are for 3 years and account for \$2,028,505 of the grant pool.

The Grants business unit also offers expert advice and support across Council to:

- Ensure processes and practices for any funds given as grants from Council are standardised, transparent and accountable i.e. best practice
- Manage the processes and data collection of those grants delivered from other business units (e.g. Heritage grants)
- Develop a council wide understanding of how Council funds community, community groups and sectors within the city.

How can the DRG assist community and city wide accessibility through the grants process?

1. Contestable Grants process:

- a. offer advice to ensure the information about the grants and grant rounds are disseminated to all disability and associated groups
 - b. Assist with the development of information to ensure accessibility to all of Wellington's Citizens
 - c. Critique current application processes for accessibility and that there are minimal barriers to any group who wishes to apply for funds
 - d. Assist in development of project template and that all groups need to identify accessibility to the wider community
 - e. Assist in the development of a template for reporting on how grant was spent, i.e. to make sure includes accessibility
2. Organisation contract funding
 - a. To encourage all organisations to develop best practices in accessibility, and we would encourage this to be part of their 3 year strategic planning
 3. Community Centre Funding
 - a. Include accessibility as a key performance measure
 - b. Embed milestones that reflect the development of a accessibility plan (information, physical etc)
 - c. For those community centres where Council owns the building, the contract is a sister document to the lease and asset management plan. Grants and the DRG would work with City Communities and the property business unit to ensure there is programme for accessibility as part of the asset management and lease.
 4. Develop and promote resources to assist those groups and organisations we fund (and Council business units) to embrace accessibility. Such as:
the continued development of "how to plan and run accessible meetings". This could be a hard copy resource the grants team could use to send as part of the grants information package. It could also be posted on the web site as a city wide resource.
 5. the Grants team is developing a network of Local Authority funders and we hope to meet in November (in Wellington). It would be a good opportunity for the DRG to talk to the network about accessibility/grants

The council website the information about grants (including dates of seminars)
<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/grants/index.html>

We would be happy to provide any information in a word format should you require it.

I do look forward to working with you over the next year

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Ngauranga to Airport document now available for consultation.

Members were interested in an introduction of the Website.

The ability to book Mobility Parks for events was discussed. The Mobility advisor would be asked for comment at the next meeting.

The tourism meeting group would be issued with the previous minutes and a note of the action points.

The next meeting would be Tuesday 12th February 2008 at 5.30pm.

ITEM	ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBLE	DUE	COMPLETED
D.P.A Liaison	Continuous Liaison with Matt Frost	D.R.G members	13/11/07	
Karori Sanctuary	Meet with Alistair Luke / Nick Jones	Ross	13/11/07	
Karori Sanctuary	Any 'Questions' to be sent to Ross	D.R.G members	13/11/07	
Sandwich Boards	Letter from DRG to Leftbank Mall	D.R.G members	13/11/07	
Go Wellington Bus service	Approach Engineers regarding 'Belts' being to low for wheelchair users to access. Wheelchair positions and Colour contrast issues. Ross to follow up in two weeks time.	Garth Stewart/ Ross	13/11/07	
Central Park	Visit Central Park to inform Mike Oats	Ross / Fabian	09/10/07	
Employment	D.R.G to help Youth with disabilities find employment	D.R.G	09/10/07	