

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP (DRG)

MINUTES

**5.30PM – Tuesday, 11 November 2008
Committee Room 2**

Members

Rosie Macleod (Co-Chair)
Sara Pivac Alexander (Co-Chair)
Jules Taniwha
Thomas Bryan
Kendall Akhurst
Lisette Wesseling
Sandie Waddell
Alan Royal
Councillor Pannett
Marie Retimanu-Pule (Wellington City Council)
Sinead Roe (Wellington City Council)

Apologies

Philippa MacDonald

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the group and a round the table of introductions was held. It was noted that people should speak one at a time in order for the sign language translators to be able to keep up with translating.

2. Presentation – Paul Siulepa, New Zealand Bus

Overview of NZ Bus driver training on disability awareness.

- NZ Bus are currently looking at training for the bus industry as a lot of drivers do not display the sort of customer service skills that they should do. They have done a lot of work around training regarding people with disabilities and have produced operations manuals but this is just a basic requirement in terms of people with disabilities. Paul believes NZ Bus need to seek further assistance with their training design in this area. Training for drivers on Go Wellington buses has already begun. Paul was asked whether he had seen the Kiwi Host information provided to drivers as a number of people from the disability community and the DRG were involved the training regarding what is required from drivers. There was a noticeable improvement from drivers after this training.

- There is a gap in the training as a Unit Standard on Disability Awareness would be useful for organisations such as NZ Bus.
- Once drivers are trained, NZ Bus has a mystery shopper system to monitor whether drivers continue to comply with best practice.
- The current training DVD features passengers with mobility impairments but not sensory impairments.

The group agreed NZ Bus would be best to design a training package with the aid of a dedicated disability awareness training company. This would include consulting with groups such as the Deaf Association.

The group asked whether any progress had been made on allowing Snapper users to tag on at the rear doors of buses.

The group raised the point that Gold cards should be accepted outside hours for use when a bus arrives after its scheduled time.

Action: The group agreed that the updated information is to be made available to the Transport Group (via Sinead) for review and comment around the end of January or beginning of February.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were moved by Thomas and seconded by Lisette.

4. Matters arising from minutes

ICT/Website – DRG are waiting to hear back from Council who need to make an appointment to come along to a meeting.

Action: Sinead to set up a meeting with the Council Web Centre and the ICT sub group.

Streetscape Project – Alexia Pickering is inspecting kerb cuts throughout the CBD and will provide Infrastructure with information on the design of existing kerb cuts, including recommendations on upgrading kerbs cuts in the CBD.

Infrastructure have commissioned research on Council specifications around pedestrian ramps and will be asked to present his findings so far to the DRG at the December meeting.

Positively Wellington Tourism – The DRG and Councillor Pannett have held a meeting with PWT who are committed to making sure their website is accessible. They have a person coming on board who will manage this project who will liaise with Sinead.

Action: Sinead to make sure things are on track and report back to the DRG early next year.

WCC Housing – DRG Housing subgroup members are participating in Pre-Upgrade Evaluations. Representative from the Housing Upgrade Project will be invited to speak to the group at the December meeting.

DRG Focus – The group feel that it is important to identify four or five central issues to focus on for 2009.

Action: Sinead and the Co-Chairs are to establish what these will be and present to the group at the next meeting.

DRG Report – It was noted that the co-chairs have an opportunity to feedback to Council once a year. Sinead to follow up on when this report is to be given.

Social Portfolio – This covers housing, safety and public health. Need to have housing, Community Facilities Review and LTCCP on the agenda. It was suggested that this action point could be removed as there was nothing to report on.

NZ Urban Design – Someone needs to come back with feedback on the Courtenay Place project. Councillor Pannett noted that the concept plan for this is going to Council but there is no money to fund this project but there is no harm in keeping an eye on this. Thomas noted that DRG members should look at the new Manners Mall concept and make submissions on this.

New DRG Members – The group decided in October that no new members would be sought for 2009. A rolling three-year membership was envisaged in the Terms of Reference but this has become skewed by resignations.

Action: Sinead and the co-Chairs to examine how best to ensure continuity with the three-year rolling membership.

Accessible Meetings Document – Sinead reported this document is in a draft stage and would like feedback from the group around what should be included. Briefing presenters on the terms of reference of the group and ensuring the content of their presentations is relevant is the responsibility of the Council Officer.

Action: DRG members to examine the draft document and relay feedback to Sinead

Accessible Wellington Forum – This is scheduled to take place until April with the provisional date being the 17th. Sinead asked for feedback and comments about the possible theme for the forum – Accessible Accommodation. The group agreed the most appropriate time to hold this forum was between the hours of 9:00 and 15:00 to allow Total Mobility Scheme users to attend. The group agreed that alternative methods of consulting with the community should be considered. It was agreed the DRG look at putting together a subgroup for the forum to look into this and to finalise the members of this subgroup at the next DRG meeting.

Action: Accessible Wellington Forum sub group to be put in place at the next meeting.

5. Other Business

It was asked if there was any other business to be discussed at these meetings could it be emailed to the co-chairs before the meeting so these items can be put on the agenda.

Email Groups – The option of the group having an email or online group is being investigated by Sinead. Several options have been looked at but online groups such as Google and Yahoo are not accessible.

Action: Sinead to investigate further options and report back to the group.

Art Subgroup – Those interested in being on an Accessible Arts sub group to email Thomas.

Strategy on Disability – Councillor Pannett pointed out that Council have no policy or strategy on disability and she would like to know whether the DRG have any feedback regarding this. She will put an email out to this regard to the DRG. Thomas said that Manakau City has a policy and he will send this to Councillor Pannett.

Taxi Chits – For the regular monthly DRG meetings taxi chits will be provided. With regard to sub group meetings taxi chits will be provided but there needs to be a programme established with the sub groups to see how often they would like to meet and work out a budget. Democratic Services pays for taxi chits for the DRG meetings and there is now a separate taxi book held in City Communities for the DRG.

Meeting Closed:
Next Meeting:
5.30pm

7.45pm
Tuesday, 9 December 2008 commencing at