

DISABILITY REFERENCE GROUP (DRG)

MINUTES

5.30 PM
Thursday 31st January 2008

Committee Room 2

Members

Kendall Akhurst (Co-Chair)	Alan Royal
Jules Taniwha	Rosie Macleod
Sandie Waddell	Philippa McDonald
Thomas Bryan	

Guests

Wendy Walker
Amarjit Maxwell
Michael Webster

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the group.

2. Apologies

Councillor Pannett
Sara Pivac Alexander
Lisette Wesseling

3. Wendy Walker, Director Citizen Engagement presented.

Wendy Walker explained to the group the structure of the Citizen Engagement Directorate and then briefly described each business unit within the Directorate including their responsibilities, goals, and recent developments.

City Housing has a staff of 20 who manage 2500 housing units for 4000 tenants in Wellington City. The housing is targeted at people on low incomes living in Wellington. Central Government has recently contributed \$220 million dollars and Wellington City Council has confirmed that it will be involved in providing social housing for the next 30 years.

City Safety has a staff of two people. This business unit focuses on promoting safety in public places. At present the issues surrounding involvement in the promotion of safety in the domestic and family environments is being explored.

The Treaty Relations Business Unit has two staff and has a memorandum of understanding with local Iwi.

The Grants business unit has recently overhauled its system. Grants can now be applied for at regular intervals during the year.

The Arts business unit is a new initiative and is forming at present.

The City Communities business unit engages with communities in the city on behalf of Council. The DRG was given as an example of how such engagement is facilitated.

4. Michael Webster, Manager Democratic Services.

Michael Webster explained the process involved in how different things are achieved at Wellington City Council. This explanation included the role of local government, its local focus, its legislative requirements, what it cannot do, and at the same time, what it can become involved in. The governance and representative role of Councillors was explained, as were the roles of the Chief Executive Officer and Wellington City Council Staff. The five ward 14 Councillor electoral system was explained followed by governance structures and processes. Council Controlled Organisations and their relationship to Council was explained followed by ways that the community can have input into the decision making process of Council with the note made that the key to effective input is engagement at the beginning of the process.

5. Amarjit Maxwell, City Communities Manager.

Amarjit gave an overview of the unit and issued contacts and details of Ward Managers, Advisors and other staff.

6. Other business

It was suggested that future presenters at the DRG meetings could be:

Laurie Gabites, Manager City Safety
Niky Karu, Advisor, Treaty Relations

The DRG was to consider presenting to the new Council as per the Terms of Reference.

A copy of the Forward Programme would be distributed to members.

7. Confirmation of Minutes

8. The meeting closed at 7.30pm and the next induction meeting was confirmed for Monday 4th February 2008.

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	

