

MINUTES OF THE ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021 IN THE FUNCTION ROOM - CIVIC CENTRE, ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

The meeting opened at 1:00pm

1. ATTENDANCE

Mayor Damien Ryan - (*Acting Chair*)

Annemarie Drummond

Cheryl Knight

Carol Muir - *arrived at 1:35pm*

Adrian Scholtes - Disability Advocacy Services

Peter Somerville - Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics

Brigida Stewart

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sabine Taylor - Director Corporate Services, Acting Director Community Development

Stephen Baloban - Manager Infrastructure and Development

Jodie Summers - Manager Governance

Kiri Milne - Community Development Officer

Emma Williams - Executive Assistant

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Peter Bourke - Relationships Australia (Deputation)

Jacinta Cordner - Relationships Australia (Guest)

Colin Dawson (Guest)

Sandy Robinson (Guest)

APOLOGIES

Councillor Glen Auricht

Scott Allen - Director Technical Services

Kristine Capangpangan - Administration Officer (minutes from recording)

Zoe Franey

Karen Stewart

13th Alice Springs Town Council				
Access Advisory Committee Attendance List 2020/21				
	Sep-20	Nov-20	Feb-21	May-21
Mayor Ryan		✓	✓	
Councillor Glen Auricht	✓	✓	A	
Peter Somerville	✓	✓	✓	
Annemarie Drummond	✓	✓	✓	
Zoe Franey	✓	✓	A	
Cheryl Knight	✓	✓	✓	
Carol Muir	--	--	✓	
Brigida Stewart	✓	✓	✓	
Karen Stewart	✓	A	A	
Adrian Scholtes			✓	

✓	Attended
✓ Proxy	Proxy attended in place of committee member
A	Apology Received
--	No attendance and no apology tendered
	Not on the committee at this time

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Nil

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Access Advisory Committee meeting held 24 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Moved: Annemarie Drummond

Seconded: Cheryl Knight

CARRIED

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

4.1 Mayoral Awards and International Day of People with Disability – (Standing Item)

Community Development Officer gave the Committee a summary from the Mayoral Awards event held at the Double Tree Hilton Ballroom last 3 December 2020. There were 13 nominations received with 93 people attending the event. The guest speakers were Sarah Brown from Purple House and Fiona Hartnett from DAS who presented advocacy videos depicting lived experiences of people with disability.

The winners for the Awards were:

2020 Michele Castagna Medal – Winner - Virginia Heydon

As Manager of Community Cultural Development with Incite Arts, Virginia has consulted and developed work with diverse community groups, especially people with disability. Virginia has championed the rights of people with disability in Alice Springs in myriad ways through her work with Incite Arts.

2020 Noteworthy Award - Winner - Sandy Robinson

She currently sits on the PEER Support Advisory Committee providing expert advice to Disability Advocacy Service through their PEER Support Program. She is a positive, helpful person always prepared to volunteer and lend a hand volunteering in many capacities, organisations and events in Central Australia.

2020 Champion Award - Winner - King Marong

He is a Disability Support Worker at Life Without Barriers. King Marong leads the music therapy component of the Alice Springs Community Pathways Program every morning at Life Without Barriers. King brings an incredible energy and enthusiasm to his work every day, and is adored by participants, clients and colleagues.

Community Development Officer extended her thanks to Fiona Hartnett of DAS for helping organise the event and LWB for supplying the catering. Council will be seeking interest from appropriate groups within the sector to see who might be interested in helping on the event for 2021.

The Committee noted the information.

4.2 Council Infrastructure and Accessibility Update

Manager Infrastructure provided the Committee with the following updates.

- There are 62 CBD pram ramps left to be upgraded with contractors aiming to do one ramp per week.
- Council is looking to undertake upgrades to 10 of its railway crossings. As a part of these upgrades, appropriate footpaths will be provided for pedestrians that will be mobility device friendly. One railway crossing has been upgraded with 2 expecting to progress this year. The remaining 7 will be dependent on funding and grants along with the Railway Authorities timeframe to upgrade its railway.
- Council and the NTG are currently exploring upgrading ramps on bus stops

Concerns were raised with regard to lack of consultations on projects like the footpath upgrades. Some felt more consultation was required to enable the disability sector to provide feedback in the process.

Discussion ensued with regard to the use and requirement of installing tactile indicators on pram ramps.

Manager Infrastructure advised that the footpaths are built to Australian Standards. The Australian Standards are tested for years for people with disabilities. These are frequently updated as mobility devices advance. Council is actively upgrading infrastructures in the CBD like the current upgrade to the ramps as well as looking into improving the quality of pavers and footpath angles.

It was advised that any concerns with damage to Council infrastructure be reported to the *NeatStreets* or as an alternate to contact DAS or Council for the concern to be directed to the relevant department.

Action:

Council Officers to consult the Committee on projects impacting accessibility

Action:

Community Development Officer to redistribute the link of the *NeatStreets* app to Committee members and observers

4.3 Mobility Map Update

Manager Community Development and ICT are reviewing quotations from HutSix for the development of an interactive online accessibility map to determine progression of this project. The development of an online mobility map is a deliverable on Councils 20/21 Municipal Plan. This map will be based off the recently developed Online Public Art map, which has the same back end as the ASTC website. This will ensure appropriate integration into Councils existing ICT infrastructure. Research into best practice accessibility/mobility maps has taken place by the team, with other local governments online mobility maps being reviewed. DAS has also been consulted to obtain its feedback.

Based on research, the map will include a filter/layer option, a click on icon with information (name and address), accessible toilets, accessible parking, ramps, effort ratings and inclines, taxi ranks, police and hospital services and water bubblers.

The Committee will be updated via email on the progress of the online map and an opportunity to feedback will be provided on a draft, should the project progress. Printed copies were provided to the Committee from last year's September meeting with no feedback received.

Action:

Community Development Officer to follow up Sandy Robinson for feedback on the mobility map.

4.4 Terms of Reference and Membership Update

Manager Governance advised that the Terms of Reference (TOR) consists of inclusivity across all access, not only related to people with physical disabilities. Over time, majority of the memberships consisted of people in the disability sector. This has strongly influenced the discussions and activities of this Committee consequently.

The Committee is currently administered by both the Community Development and Technical Services department. Manager Governance determined that majority of the Committee's substance is infrastructure focused which has made achieving the other strategic objectives difficult.

Discussion ensued with regard to the Committee's purpose and whether it should be more aligned to technical and infrastructure related advice and concerns.

Action:

Manager Governance to discuss concept of realigning the draft Terms of Reference to technical and infrastructure related objectives with Officers.

Action:

Manager Governance to provide the amended draft Terms of Reference at the next Committee meeting.

Discussion ensued with regard to membership vacancies and EOI's. It was further emphasized how the membership's interest is guided towards the Committee receiving advice to infrastructure, and not focused on programs relating to community and social engagement.

Manager Governance clarified that the previous delay in advertising for membership to this Committee was in relation to the Governance team identifying any changes to the new legislation and potential impacts to Committee Terms of References. Restructuring of committees was also a factor in the delay, however that has now been put on hold.

It was advised that the Committee use the current (old) Terms of Reference to determine membership.

RESOLVED:

It is a recommendation from the Access Advisory Committee to Council

That the Committee advertise the two (2) vacant general memberships.

Moved: Adrian Scholtes

Seconded: Cheryl Knight

CARRIED

Action:

Administration Officer to provide the Acting Chair with minutes from the meeting held in September 2020

5. DEPUTATION

5.1 Peter Bourke – Relationships Australia

Peter Bourke presented the Committee with an animation regarding Relationship Australia's role in relation to the Disability Royal Commission.

The Disability Royal Commission is scheduled to finish in April 2022 however, an extension (for an additional year) has been requested.

The Committee acknowledged Peter for his time and presentation.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil

7. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

7.1 **Accessible Tourism Opportunities, NT**

Between NDS and DAS, a submission is being prepared on Accessible Tourism NT around the development an audit and self-assess access app for tourists to provide feedback to the Tourism Commission on where improvements can be made as well as provide feedback on their experiences.

There are opportunities within the Accessible Tourism for Committee members to look at other projects. The Committee was encouraged to have a look and put a submission if they have ideas on accessible tourism.

The Committee noted the request.

7.2 **Disability Royal Commission Roadshow**

The CEO of DAS advised the Committee that the Disability Royal Commission roadshow will commence across the Northern Territory in March 2021.

The scheduled date for Alice Springs is on 26 March 2021 comprising of 2 sessions

1. Early afternoon session for providers and workers within the disability sector
2. Late afternoon session for carers and for people living with disability

DAS is currently in the process of securing a location for the roadshow with exact details to be provided soon.

Action:

Community Development Officer to distribute the details of the roadshow to the Committee members once it is finalised by the Disability Advocacy Services

7.3 **Access to Albrecht Oval (Gate)**

Action:

Technical Services to investigate concerns raised in regard to accessibility for wheelchair users at Albrecht Oval

7.4 **Time Limit on Disability Carparks**

Action:

Council Officers to provide clarification to the Committee at the next meeting on whether Council's disability carparks have time limits.

7.5 **Access to Anzac Hill**

A concern was raised with regard to the difficulty for people with limited mobility to climb the steep climb up Anzac Hill.

Mayor Ryan advised that any upgrades that happen in Anzac Hill requires permits and permission from various stakeholders including the Australian War Memorial.

Action:

Mayor Ryan to enquire about proposing to make Anzac Hill more access friendly.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 25 May 2021 at 1:00pm - Meeting location to be advised.

The meeting closed at 1:56 pm.