

MINUTES OF THE DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
HELD AT ROBBIE'S ELMWOOD, 1 NORMANS ROAD
ON TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 10 AM

Present: Claire Phillips (Strengthening Communities Citywide, CCC), Doreen McCoard (Disabled Persons Association), Tracey Doreen (Deaf/Blind Community), Brian Laurie (Physical Disability), Gloria Weeks (Association for Blind Citizens), Simon Atkinson (People) and Lorraine Wiersma (Maori & Whanau)

Minute Taker: Emma Pachnatz (CCC)

1.	<p>Welcome: Claire welcomed everyone. Claire wrote to members in January to introduce herself.</p>	ACTION
2.	<p>Apologies: Adele Wilkinson (Mental Health Education and Resource Centre), Robert Watts (Older Person rep) and Anna Mitchell (DPA).</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting: N/A</p>	
4.	<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability/older person advisor role at Christchurch City Council Claire reassured members the needs of the disability community will not be ignored while Cam's replacement is found. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The disability and older person advisor role will be amalgamated together. ○ The Citywide team also has advisory positions in multicultural, arts, child & youth and Maori arts. Claire will be encouraging all advisors in her team to have a disability 'lense' in the work they do. Not just one person responsible for disability, the whole team to acknowledge and understand that all citizens need equity of access to services, information and participation. <p>The Older Person/Disability advisor is on secondment until June. A temp in the meantime will be employed (four months) to analyse and assess funding applications in the community support unit and update the disability community profile . Cathy Sweet will start at CCC on 24 March and will be in touch with disability groups applying for funding for 2014/15 during the course of assessing those applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Claire will continue to support the Disability Advisory Group to raise their status and efficacy within Council. • DAG Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reviewed at December's meeting and changes noted in the minutes. • Think Differently Funding application: Update at meeting. 	
5.	<p>How Disability Advisory Group can move forward with Council?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Disability Advisory Group are advisors to Council. Need to be clear about the role and seek out an achievable programme of action. • DAG wish to strengthen their relationship with elected members. • Need to speak to the Councillors about accessibility and hear from DAG's point of view. • Before Cam left, Cam and Claire met with Councillors Alli Jones and Yani Johanson to discuss how to better to get DAG's voice heard. Suggested meeting with Community Recreational and Cultural Committee (CRACC) now known as the Community Committee as a way to report. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Claire suggested seeking a deputation to the community committee to explain DAG's Work Plan and priorities for 2014. ACTION: Claire to organise for DAG to be scheduled on Council's agenda to present to the Community Committee on DAG's work, aspirations and goals for the coming year. ○ Robbie's venue has been good however the group is not seen. It was decided to come back to Council where DAG's work is most visible. ○ Some members felt safer at Robbie's venue after earthquakes. ACTION: Council evacuation procedure and Engineer's Report to be sent to members. ACTION: Emma to book future meetings on ground floor of Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street. 	<p>Claire</p> <p>Emma</p> <p>Emma</p>
<p>Future DAG focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ More public profile for DAG. ❖ Accessibility issues – crucial (re building code – new buildings are not accessible to all people) ❖ DAG has a unique role as commentator, critiquer and lobbyist. ❖ DAG members felt they have not been as affective as they could be. Follow up on previous guest speakers and progress made is needed. ❖ Lobbying for basic human rights, access, having a voice, education and awareness includes the Council and Councillors. Need to go back to basics. ❖ Members commented on Lorraine's excellent facilitator skills from the Evaluation Day held last September. Lorraine would make an excellent spokesperson for DAG. ACTION: DAG can lobby. However need individual's and organisations to support. ❖ Christchurch has an opportunity with the rebuild to become the most disabled friendly city in the world and attract tourists. This needs to be continuously challenged and kept on the agenda. ❖ Would like to see 'talking bus stops' installed to assist visually impaired people. Previously discussed with Ecan and Council. Multi bus route stops are more difficult for visually impaired people. Bus driver's will only stop if have a guide dog with you, have a white crane or showing a card with bus number which is demeaning and devaluing. Bus driver's should stop at all bus stops if someone is waiting regardless if visually impaired or not. Japan and other countries have installed 'talking bus stops' which work for blind people and visitors. Perfect opportunity while rebuilding the city to install 'talking bus stops'. Also need audio facilities at main interchange bus station. There are 'talking bus stops' at some of the major bus stops in Auckland. How does DAG wish to move this forward? • Questions asked in the 2013 Census on disability. Some people don't see themselves as having a disability e.g. elderly people with sight problems or mobility problems. Question should include: Do you use any type of mobility aid or support? Walkers, hearing aids. 2013 Census information should be available soon. A session with Stats NZ would be helpful. ACTION: Organise session with Stats NZ at future meeting. 	<p>Members</p> <p>Claire</p>
<p>What is achievable for DAG?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advocating, positive promotion, commentating, critiquing and lobbying for change ➤ To set up regular dialogue with elected members. ➤ Doreen commented some of the buses are not wheelchair accessible and unable to fit two wheelchairs. ➤ Install 'talking bus stops' while city rebuilt, would be less expensive. 	

	<p>ACTION: Claire to contact David Stenhouse from Ecan, Manager of Public Transport.</p> <p>ACTION: Simon to record talking bus stop message when next in Auckland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Simon is on the Accessibility Transport Action Committee and would like to see a nationwide transport system using an 0800 phone number to be connected to a call centre where able to ring to check when the next bus is leaving. Could be part of talking bus stops nationwide. Have GPS on every bus, Citizen Advice are also very helpful assisting. ➤ Have A Go Bus Day is a good way to physically show people how to access the ramp on buses, for people to feel safe to use and would encourage people to use the buses more. ➤ Auditing areas on accessibility. ➤ DAG is attached to the Council not part of the Council. DAG members also sit on other groups. Need to regain strong link with Council and take DAG concerns to Councillors. DAG should be concentrating on what Council controls then DAG can make changes. When the group has a stronger link we will have stronger voice. ➤ Venue: move back to Council Civic Offices, ground floor meeting room if possible. <p>ACTION: Emma to book meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Need a WIN/WIN situation with Council and DAG. ➤ DAG can talk about their stories, achievements and aware of the issues. ➤ Need to promote positive change within Council. Claire presented Auckland City Council's key tips on how to engage/consult with the disability community for Council Staff only. <p>ACTION: Guidelines to be sent out with the minutes. Members to review whether could be adapted for CCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAG CV: Lorraine suggested DAG could develop a mini brief about DAG members. Bio's for each member (DAG CV) and include DAG statement/vision etc to go speakers, Councillors, Council Staff, agencies before they attend a meeting. Add to Council's DAG website page. <p>ACTION: Members to email Lorraine or bring to next meeting their DAG CV bio. Next meeting to discuss further i.e. statement/what want to achieve i.e. issues at broader level – access. Need to watch don't double up on what other agencies are doing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping speakers accountable when present. <p>ACTION: DAG to write to speakers for progress updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Emma to give Claire list of speakers previously had over two years who presented who agreed to feedback. 	<p>Claire</p> <p>Simon</p> <p>Emma</p> <p>Emma / Members</p> <p>Members</p> <p>Members Emma</p>
6.	<p>General Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Central Library – Manchester Street. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Return books slot has gone and replaced with touch computer screen to check books back into the system. Gloria said can't expect a blind person to do this. At the main entrance a blind person will need to give the returned books to the person at the front desk to check back in. ○ Manchester Street Library doesn't have a disability car parking space out front. <p>ACTION: Claire to follow up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On a positive note the library service is excellent. ○ Lorraine commented at New Brighton Library when returning books is like a drive through system. Able bodied people can drive up and place books in return slot. If person in a wheelchair has to park the car and go 	<p>Claire</p>

<p>into the library to drop off the books. Gloria commented can place returned books in the box in front of the library after hours only.</p> <p>ACTION: Claire to follow up.</p>	Claire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Asset Management Filter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Claire commented on the Councils rebuild process called Strategic Asset Management Filter where the considerations for the disability and older person communities, cultural considerations, art works etc are captured. This is a mechanism in which these areas are built into what we do. • Community Public Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir has the disability portfolio focus for Community and Public Health. Claire and Allison discussed the potential of the Community and Public Health attending DAG meetings and co-facilitating. Claire asked members if they were in agreement for Allison to attend and co-facilitate? All members were agreed <p>ACTION: Claire to liaise with Allison.</p> 	Claire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think Different Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No update. <p>ACTION: Adele to update at next meeting.</p> ○ Members felt the Think Different Project was putting extra work on the group. Were not the appropriate advisory group to undertake community development projects. Are not reporting on the Think Different Project to Council and is not a role of the Disability Advisory Group. DAG is about advising Council on disability issues. <p>ACTION: Members were in agreement. Maybe driven by the new Council Disability/Older Person’s Advisor with representatives from DAG advising.</p>	Adele
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview with Robert Watts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interview took place on 24 December, Robert looking forward joining the group, sent his apologies today. • Swimming Pool access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gloria raised questions on the access to swimming pool for blind people; whether the pool has steps or ramp with rail. Gloria comment people need to check on the amenities before they pay over . Buyer beware. ○ Lorraine commented Graham Condon swimming pool is totally accessible now. ○ Lorraine commented still having problems with their non-slip mats that bunch up with wheelchairs. 	Members / Claire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled car park logo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brian commented the disabled car park logo has changed to a blue background which is going nationwide however CDHB do not wish to change. Pioneer Sports facility have blue car parks. <p>ACTION: Claire to follow up.</p> 	Claire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 18 March 2014 <p>ACTION: Allison Nichols-Dunsmuir to attend March DAG meeting. Emma to send Allison calendar invite and add Allison to email distribution list.</p> <p>ACTION: Claire to follow up if Councillors Alli Jones or Yani Johanson are available to attend next meeting.</p> 	Emma Claire

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAG members to attend March DAG meeting at Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street if meeting room available on ground floor. ACTION: Claire to follow up obtaining engineer report and Council evacuation procedure ACTION: Emma to book meeting rooms on ground floor if available or first floor. ACTION: Members to either email Lorraine or bring to the next meeting their bio for the DAG CV. Next meeting to discuss further e.g. DAG statement. 	<p>Claire</p> <p>Emma</p> <p>Members</p>
7.	<p>Next Meeting: Tuesday 18 March at 10 am at Christchurch City Council, 53 Hereford Street, ground floor, meeting room 1.</p>	
8.	<p>Meeting Finish: 11:40 am</p>	