

Minutes Disability Access Committee 28 May 2012

Meeting commenced at 4.00pm.

ITEM 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Attendees: Clr Joe McGuiness; Clr Howard Fisher; Daniel Smith (Community Rep); Janine Smith (Community Rep); Julie Favell (Uniting Care), and; Levente Boda (LINC).

Apologies: Julie Murnane (LINC); Peter Lee (Community Rep), and; Jim Nichols (Lithgow City Council),

Officers: Matthew Johnson and Viktoria Gulabovski

Declaration of Interests: NIL

Recommendation

That the attendance and apologies be confirmed.

MOVED: Clr Fisher

SECONDED: Julie Smith

Carried

ITEM 2 INTRODUCTIONS

As this is the first meeting of the Disability Access Committee, members gave a brief introduction of themselves:

Daniel Smith

Daniel is a past member of Council's previous Access Committee, is a client advocate at Uniting Care and has a broad knowledge of access issues.

Janine Smith

Janine is a carer, a past member of Council's previous Access Committee and has experience on a number of other committees.

Julie Favell

Julie works for Uniting Care Lithgow and has worked with people with disabilities over many years. Julie was recently a member of Council's Ageing Strategy Advisory Group.

Councillor Howard Fisher

Clr Fisher listens to community needs and works to ensure that Council responds to these needs within budget constraints.

Councillor Joe McGuinness

Clr McGuinness has always taken an interest in access issues, has heard many complaints over the years about access issues and has worked to bring these matters to Council's attention.

Viktoria Gulabovski

Is Council's Community Development Officer and will be the Access Committee's executive officer with responsibility for meeting agendas and minutes etc.

Levente Boda

Works for Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre (LINC) and oversees LINC'S boarding house community access programs.

Matthew Johnson

Is Council's Manager Community and Culture and recently oversaw the development of Council's Ageing Strategy.

Item 3 Committee Terms of Reference and Officeholders

Summary

The Committee Terms of Reference and nomination of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson were discussed.

Commentary

The Committee made the following recommendations for Council's consideration:

Recommendations

1. That an occupational therapist or social worker from Lithgow Health Service be invited onto the committee.

MOVED: Clr Howard Fisher
Carried

SECONDED: Clr McGuinness

2. That Daniel Smith, Janine Smith and Peter Lee be endorsed as the three community representatives on the Committee.

MOVED: Clr Howard Fisher
Carried

SECONDED: Julie Favell

3. That Councillor Howard Fisher be nominated Chairperson of the Committee

MOVED: Clr Joe McGuinness
Carried

SECONDED: Julie Favell

4. That Levente Boda be nominated as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee.

MOVED: Julie Favell
Carried

SECONDED: Cllr Howard Fisher

Item 4 Disability Access Plan

Summary

There was discussion on a workplan for development of the Disability Access plan.

Commentary

Viktoria provided summaries of disability access plans developed by Orange and Blacktown Councils for committee members to take away to consider if they will assist in development of the Lithgow plan.

Some initial issues were discussed including the ageing of the Lithgow population, concerns about trip hazards associated with footpath pavers and the compliance or otherwise of kerb ramps.

It was agreed that a field walk would be undertaken by committee members within the next couple of weeks to look at the pavers and kerb ramps. Iain Stewart, the Acting General Manager is to be invited to this.

Council Officers will in meantime review the Australian Standards in relation to kerb ramps.

It was also agreed that a media release will be issued advising the community of formation of the committee and asking for them to advise Council of their issues of concern. This information will also be placed on Council's website.

Recommendations

That the report on development of the Disability Access plan be noted.

MOVED: Julie Favell
Carried

SECONDED: Janine Smith

Item 5 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 2012 Meeting Schedule

In accord with the Committee Terms of Reference, there are to be 8 meetings per year of the Disability Access Committee. It was agreed that they be held at 4.00pm in the Hartley Building as follows:

10 July 2012
21 August 2012
2 October 2012
13 November 2012
22 January 2013
5 March 2013
16 April 2013

Next Meeting

**Thursday 10 July 2012 at 4.00 pm in the Hartley Building Meeting Room,
Lithgow City Council**