

MINUTES OF THE ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER
2020 ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held via Zoom teleconference

This meeting opened at 1:00pm

1. **ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Jamie de Brenni
Councillor Glen Auricht (Chair)
Councillor Jimmy Cocking
Peter Somerville – Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics
Annemarie Drummond
Zoe Franey
Cheryl Knight
Brigida Stewart
Karen Stewart
Janet Lash Wright – Disability Advocacy Services
Joanna Laidler – Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Scott Allen – Director Technical Services
Takudzwa Charlie – Manager Technical Services
Kiri Milne – Community Development Officer
Kristine Capangpangan – Administration Officer (*minutes*)

APOLOGIES

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

✓ Attended
✓ **Proxy** Proxy attended in place of committee member
A Apology Received
-- No attendance and no apology tendered

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Nil

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Access Advisory committee meeting held 26 May 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

MOVED: Councillor Cocking

SECONDED: Peter Somerville

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

Community Development Officer advised that due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, this year's Mayoral Awards and International Day of People with Disability will occur differently from previous years.

The following was advised:

- Awards will still be presented to successful recipients but at this stage no official ceremony or event has been planned due to COVID-19 safety risks
- The official unveiling of the library mural will occur on the same day and Council will look at appropriate means to incorporate the Mayoral Awards and International Day of People with Disability alongside this occasion
- Council will work closely with key stakeholders and service providers to promote Mayoral Awards and International Day of People with Disability

The importance of this event was highlighted by the committee especially as it is one of the only events where people with complex disabilities can participate in.

Disability Advocacy Services advised that should Council cancel the event, it will still work with Incite Arts to organise an event to go ahead.

Discussion ensued with regard to looking at other options to manage the event.

ACTION:

Community Development Officer to organise a meeting with Disability Advocacy Services and other not-for-profit organisations to discuss alternative options of celebrating and delivering a safe event for the Mayoral Awards and International Day of People with Disability. Community Development Officer to report back to the committee after the meeting.

4.2 Council Infrastructure and Accessibility Update

Manager Technical Services advised that there are still 66 ramps left to be upgraded.

The committee was reminded of Neat Streets app as a quick and reliable method that the community can utilise by way of notifying Council and other service authorities of any improvements and maintenance requests.

Manager Technical Services advised that a realistic timeframe has to be considered. Any requests that come through Neat Streets are assessed on a risk basis.

ACTION:

Administration Officer to liaise with Council Media with regard to promoting and improving awareness of the Neat Streets app and its functions on Council's website and its fortnightly e-newsletter

4.3 Mobility Map Update

- The draft mobility map that was presented will be updated to address minor errors that was observed.

- The new map has also been expanded to include the hospital area.
- The paper map will be updated every 6 months or annually

Community Development Officer advised that Council is currently obtaining quotes for an online mobility map to potentially be available on the ASTC website. If the costs are achievable and the budget is approved, Council will look to carry this out.

The committee to email any further feedback to Council Officers.

4.4 Terms of Reference and Membership Update

The Access Advisory Committee Terms of Reference were reviewed and updated to ensure the committee could support council in delivery against their commitment to fostering an inclusive and supported community as outlined in strategic objective 1: A dynamic community. The changes proposed are further supported by Council's Access policy and Multicultural and Diversity policy. Operationally, officers can engage with individuals and individual sectors for more specific advice and support as required.

It was acknowledged that the current committee membership does not meet the requirements of the current terms of reference.

The following comments were received from the committee regarding the draft TOR:

- Concerns with combining these groups with varying degrees of ability and the potential to overshadow key issues from other groups
- Changing the committee name to 'Inclusive Alice Advisory Committee'
- To include representation from the NT Aids and Hepatitis Council
- Concerns of losing the intention that has driven member participation in this current committee in terms of accessibility in Alice.
- Alternative to form another committee for the other groups
- Concerns that there will be a shift in focus and the disability sector will get lost amongst the other groups

The committee agreed to offer Disability Advocacy Services, temporary participation in future Access Advisory Committee meetings to provide further support to the committee pending the endorsement of a new Terms of Reference.

ACTION:

Manager Governance and Community Development Officer to revise the draft Terms of Reference and to take into consideration the committee's comments and concerns.

5. DEPUTATION

5.1 Joanna Laidler, Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission and Janet Lash-Wright, Disability Advocacy Services

Joanna Laidler and Janet Lash-Wright were welcomed to the committee.

Your Story – Disability Legal Support is a national service funded by the Australian Government that provides free and independent legal support for people with disability. They have various services to help successfully and safely engage with the Disability Royal Commission.

Three supports have been funded in relation to the Disability Royal Commission including disability advocates, counselling and emotional supports and legal supports.

The following are updates of the Disability Royal Commission:

- The DRC has restarted its public hearings. The first hearing held in Sydney last week looked at experiences for people with disability in relation to COVID-19

- A series of hearings are scheduled in Sydney and Brisbane for the remainder of the year. A full list of schedule dates can be found on <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/about-royal-commission/our-schedule>
- The hearings will be issues based and not place based, and there is opportunity for people across Australia including the NT to attend these hearings remotely

The committee acknowledged Joanna and Janet for their presentation.

ACTION:

Administration Officer to distribute NT Legal Aid and DAS promotional materials to the committee after the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Correspondence inwards
Nil

6.2 Correspondence outwards
Nil

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Disability Carpark on Hartley Street

It was identified that the disability carpark on Hartley Street outside the OLSH Parish office did not have a ramp and that the verge is gravel making it difficult to maneuver a wheelchair. A shortage of disability carpark in the vicinity was also noted.

ACTION:

Cheryl Knight to email Director Technical Services regarding her comments on the disability carpark on Hartley Street outside the OLSH Parish office.

7.2 Garden Cemetery Gate

A committee member identified that it is difficult to access the Garden Cemetery when pushing a wheelchair through the small gate.

ACTION:

Manager Technical Services to investigate on whether the gate could be adjusted so it is lighter to push open.

7.3 Go-carts

Mayor de Brenni advised that he has go-carts that are available for racing and is looking for people with a disability who may be interested to participate. It was advised that the carts are designed for racing and that they comply with Australian Standards.

The committee received and noted.

8. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 24 November 2020 at 1:00pm

The meeting closed at 2:14pm