

Meeting Minutes 29 July 2020

Date: 29 July 2020
Time: 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Venue: Zoom Meeting
Meeting: Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
Meeting Objective: Advisory Committee

1. Welcome

Attendance:

Cr Carol Duncan
Chris Leishman (CL)
Eliot Shaw (Co-Chair) (ES)
Joseph Popov (JP)
Kirsty Russell (KR)
Margaret Wood (MW)
Nathan Burford (NB)
Tracey Walker (TW)
Brett Smith (Director Strategy and Engagement) BS
Ashlee Abbott (Manager Corporate and Community Planning) (AA)
Petria Jukes (PJ) Manager Community Planning and Development (PJ)

Guests:

Kim Becherand (Variety)
Lisa Whinnen (Variety)
Michelle Bisson (Manager Planning and Regulatory)
Brad McCarron (
Stella Fielding (Urban Planning)

2. Apologies:

Cr Andrea Rufo

Norm MacPherson

3. Acknowledgment of Country

The Chair delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

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4. Declarations of Interest

4.1 Nil

5. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were endorsed as an accurate reflection of the meeting by Margaret Wood and seconded by Tracey Walker.

6. Variety

The City has received a grant from *Variety – the Children’s Charity* to help fund the design of a ‘Livvi’s Place’ accessible playground for kids of all ages and all abilities. This will be at Foreshore Park. The City has also applied for grant funding from the NSW Government to contribute to a water-themed play.

An overview of the consultation process, the design reference group, and input from the committee was provided including that this committee will have a rep on the reference group.

From Variety.org.au

Variety Livvi’s Place Newcastle will become a key community hub, a vital part of the Foreshore redevelopment work, and form part of a national network of inclusive play spaces that Variety has helped create. Residents will be invited to provide input into the design of a world-class inclusive playspace, [join our Facebook group](#) to keep up to date on the latest developments.

7. Housing

Stella and Michelle provided an overview of the Local Housing Strategy, which will commence exhibition in August and September. Topics discussed include:

- Expected population growth for Newcastle and expected dwelling increases
- Need to determine the type and location of dwellings and what data is necessary to inform future planning work.
- Supply of adaptable housing and standard guidelines for adaptable housing.

From City of Newcastle website-Local Housing Strategy

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A mix of affordable and sustainable future housing is imperative to meet our growing community's diverse needs. With Newcastle's residential areas experiencing significant growth and change, we must provide a path to more affordable and diverse housing types while complementing the city's heritage and character.

City of Newcastle's housing strategy aims to have a clear set of short, medium, and long-term goals based on priorities, including developing an affordable housing policy, housing diversification, and sustainability.

In the draft strategy, there are three actions that CN will undertake, Audit, Review DCP, and promote affordable housing initiatives.

Topics covered include housing typology and appropriate accommodation, level of compliance with adaptable housing standards, isolation in homes, location of accessible housing, and the need to align with appropriate transport.

8. Report – Emergency egress in high rise design

An overview of the Notice of Motion for Emergency egress in high rise design was provided to the committee. Staff also offered an explanation of relevant technical standards, a general description of design requirements for emergency egress, and recommendations of the proposed recommendations included within the report to address the NOM (Notice of Motion).

The committee commented that the use of advocacy channels in design and regulation matters was essential and more advocacy may influence change at a national level.

9. NDS-(National Disability Strategy

The committee was informed that a discussion paper was open for comment. The committee was invited to review and provide feedback to staff to assist in informing CN's submission. Committee members discussed the emerging strategy and were encouraged to reflect on the role of local government, reporting and data collection, programs for inclusion, the national strategy's role in forming community attitudes, and the appropriate emphasis of a national strategy on infrastructure.

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10. Count Us In

The Count Us In festival was discussed. Given the impacts of Covid and the changed in public health orders, it was unlikely that the festival would proceed in October. For 20/21, it is aimed to program in a similar timeframe to the major Newcastle Cultural Festival.

Staff informed the committee that a hybrid digital model was being investigated with both face to face and 'zoom' like opportunities likely to be on the festival program. Popular activities from 2019 were likely to return in some form, such as inclusive games day, NSW Business Road Show, and other things. The committee explored other ideas such as online board games, zoom concerts, a youtube channel to speak on inclusion, films on human rights, and the real film festival to be curated and shown.

Digital platforms provide for the "Ultimate experience in accessibility" = allow more comprehensive access to people across the community and beyond.

The committee suggested that the next festival take the digital dimension and allow for enough lead time to get involved.

11. General Business

Kirsty Russel informed us that the Hunter Disability Expo was scheduled.

The committee was advised that committee member Norm MacPherson was stepping down from the committee. The committee unanimously expressed thanks to Norm for his work and contribution to the committee since its formation.

Joseph Popov informed the committee about his appointment with the university leadership program to develop sustainable development goals locally. The committee congratulated his work and position.

The meeting was closed at 6.24 pm