**MINUTES** **ACCESS & INCLUSION**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday 5 May 2020**

**1.30pm – 3.00pm**

Via WebEx

# WELCOME

**MEMBERS**

Alderman Andrew Arthur City of Darwin

Alderman Robin Knox City of Darwin

Brett Peebles Community Representative

Martin Blakemore Community Representative

Lynne Strathie Community Representative

Liz Reid Community Representative

Greg Turner Specialist Representative, Passenger Transport

Ahmed Fathy Specialist Representative, Passenger Transport

Cecilia Chiolero Specialist Representative, Council on the Ageing Northern Territory (COTA NT)

Sheree Scott Specialist Representative, Building Advisory Services

Susan Burns Specialist Representative, National Disability Services Northern Territory (NDS)

**City of Darwin Officers**

Lynn Allan Community Development Officer

Mathew Vitucci Senior Capital Works Coordinator

# APOLOGIES

Catherine Fairlie Community Representative

Sara Braines-Mead Community Representative

**ABSENT**

Kyle Adams Community Representative

Emily Ford Youth Advisory Committee Representative

Man Vo Youth Advisory Committee (awaiting appointment)

# 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE WITH A DISABILITY

# 3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN ANY AGENDA ITEMS

Nil

# 4. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES- 21 January, 2020

Moved: Liz Reid

Seconded: Alderman Robin Knox

# 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Refer to the Summary of Actions list

* Boulter Road

In the 3 March meeting, a motion was put forward for Council to consider pedestrian/ cycleway facilities in the Boulter and Crerar Roads area as a priority for the 2020/21 footpath program. Advice received by City of Darwin from Northern Territory Government (NTG) is that NTG plans to upgrade this area in the next five to 10 years at NTG’s cost.

The Committee believes that pedestrian works should still be prioritised in the short term, to ensure sufficient access for all road users and pedestrians, as outlined in the Disability Discrimination Act.

**Motion:** Council to prepare a report outlining what works are required to ensure good pedestrian access in the Boulter and Crerar Roads area, estimated costs and budget sources, and a proposed timeline.

Moved by Liz Reid

Seconded by Greg Turner.

**Note:** Additional information presented to the Committee after the meeting is advice received by Council from NTG that Boulter Road will be upgraded from a rural cross section to an urban cross section in the next five to ten years. City of Darwin can investigate putting in paths, however the asset would require demolition when the upgrade occurs.

* Carbon neutrality of Education and Civic Precinct within the Darwin City Deal Community

In the 3 March meeting the Committee recommended a letter be written from the Committee to Charles Darwin University, advocating for carbon neutrality to be considered in construction. It was advised that this not the remit of this Committee; therefore this recommendation will not be actioned.

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6.1 Council’s COVID-19 response**

Community Development Officer provided an overview on Council’s COVID-19 response including the Economic Stimulus Package, Green Army initiative, COVID-19 Grants Program, and Libraries services for over 70s and those at greater risk of illness from COVID-19.

The second round of COVID-19 Response Grants opens 11 May for projects taking place between 1 July and 31 December 2021: <https://www.darwin.nt.gov.au/community/programs/grants-sponsorship/community-grants>

**6.2 CBD Accessible Parking**

Community Development Officer summarised the CBD On-Street Accessible Parking Proposed Upgrades List report to be presented at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 12 May. The report recommends that Council allocate $422,000 from its parking reserves in the 2020/21 financial year to fund the upgrade of accessible on-street car parking bays within the CBD. The report outlines the upgrades required for the 18 non-complaint bays, at an estimated cost of $477,000. It was proposed that the 2020/21 Disability Access Program budget of $55,000 be used as a contribution to these costs.

It was recommended that the funding for this project and other accessible parking upgrades come entirely from the parking reserves budget, and not the Disability Access budget. The Committee would prefer to use the Disability Access budget for other access and inclusion initiatives, where there is no alternative budget available.

**Motion:** That the entire cost of the CBD On-Street Accessible Parking Upgrades come from the parking reserves budget.

Moved by Alderman Knox

Seconded by Susan Burns.

**6.3 Budget discussion - EoFY budget summary**



The Committee reviewed this year’s budget expenditure, noting that the Pavonia Place and Jingili Watergardens accessible parking upgrades aren’t yet complete, but have been scheduled for completion before the end of financial year.

It was also noted that Council is continuing to investigate the Mindil Beach accessible matting project, and that this project is unlikely to be completed by the end of this financial year. Council’s maintenance section has reviewed the proposed site and assessed resourcing requirements and associated ongoing maintenance costs. This analysis identified that the site doesn’t meet accessible grading requirements. It is likely that excavation or other work will be required to meet accessible grades. Council officers recommend contracting the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) to assess the site for securing the required clearance certificate. This is likely to cost approximately $10,000. Officers also recommend that an access consultant be contracted to conduct a thorough access audit at the site, taking into consideration the accessibility of nearby amenities. This is likely to cost between $5,000 - $10,000.

Committee agrees that we need to address potential barriers and issues before Council can purchase the accessible matting.

The Committee considered allocating the unspent budget on three to four low-cost CBD accessible parking works identified in the upgrades list.

Allocating the budget towards accessible playground features, such as accessible swings, was also raised as a consideration.

A decision wasn’t reached on how to use the remaining unspent budget; however the Committee requested Community Development Officer to investigate the options further for the Committee to make an informed decision in a follow-up meeting during the first week of June.

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| **ACTION** | CDO to consult with Recreation and Leisure Coordinator about the Playground and Parks strategy and previous playground equipment audits undertaken with reference to accessible equipment. |
| **ACTION** | CDO to follow-up on costs of playground equipment and installation. |
| **ACTION** | CDO to investigate costs for contracting AAPA and an access consultant to progress the Mindil Beach accessibility project. |
| **ACTION** | CDO to schedule a budget discussion meeting for the first week of June. |

**6.4 Terms of Reference and Specialist Representatives membership terms**

Community Development Officer advised that the term for Specialist Representatives is ending 30 June 2020. They will be sent an email shortly to determine if the four current agencies represented will renew their membership term, from 1 July 2020- 30 June 2022.

At the 3 March meeting the Committee proposed that the Community Development Officer to approach Headspace Prism and Vanessa Harris from Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition about joining the Committee as direct appointments to diversify representation. To action this recommendation, the Committee’s Terms of Reference (ToR) will need to be updated, with the new ToR approved by Council.

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| **ACTION** | CDO to email current specialist representatives regarding a renewal of their membership terms.  |
| **ACTION** | CDO to amend current ToR with suggested addition, and forward onto the Committee for further review and feedback, before the July meeting. |

**6.5 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)**

YAC representatives were invited to attend; however were unable to make it; an invitation will be extended for the next meeting in July. AIAC members are also welcome to attend a YAC meeting.

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| **ACTION** | CDO to invite YAC to attend July meeting. |

# 7. MEMBERS UPDATE

* Greg Turner - Specialist Representative, Passenger Transport

Try before You Ride public transport event has been postponed; further updates will be provided once confirmed.

Spinal Life Australia is working on an accessible Australia app to enable users to locate and navigate to facilities, venues and experiences that are accessible to them.

* Susan Burns - Specialist Representative, NDS

NDS have been sending our regular COVID-19 updates, relevant to the disability sector, to their members and networks. Email Susan Burns if you want to be added to the contacts list.

# 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Works being undertaken on the Nightcliff exercise equipment have not taken accessibility for people with mobility impairments into account; due to raised curbing around the entire edging.

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| **ACTION** | CDO to enquire with Recreation and Leisure Coordinator and/or the Design and Project Delivery team about the Nightcliff fitness equipment works and request that accessibility of the site be reviewed. |

# 9. MEETING CLOSED

Meeting closed at 3.00pm.

# Next meeting is 1.30- 3.00pm, Tuesday, 21 July 2020. All meetings are held at Casuarina Library Meeting Room.

**Summary of Actions**

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| **Meeting Date** | **Item** | **Notes** | **Status** |
| 02/06/2019 | Event Accessibility | * Members to send outline of event accessibility concerns to CoD to be raised with event organisers.
 | Ongoing |
| 02/06/2019 | Sector Support | * Members to support events and activities as much as possible.
 | Ongoing |
| 25/09/2019 | MLAK Key System | * CDO to review documentation on PDA’s campaign and MLAK system and seek further guidance on any possible action.
 | Ongoing |
| 03/03/2020 | Project Grants | * Committee investigate and advise Council of any grants that could be applied for to assist in funding recommended projects.
 | Update by next meeting |
| 03/03/2020 | Accessible Parking Permits | * CDO to investigate ambulant and wheelchair accessible parking request from committee.
 | Update by next meeting |
| 03/03/2020 | YAC Update | * CDO to invite a YAC representative to the next AIAC committee meeting.
 | July meeting |
| 05/05/2020 | Accessible Playground Equipment | * CDO to consult with Recreation and Leisure Coordinator about the Playground and Parks strategy and previous playground equipment audits undertaken with reference to accessible equipment.
* CDO to follow-up on costs of playground equipment and installation.
 | For June meeting |
| 05/05/2020 | Mindil Beach Matting | * CDO to investigate costs for contracting AAPA and an access consultant to progress the Mindil Beach accessibility project.
 | For June meeting |
| 05/05/2020 | Budget Discussion | * CDO to schedule a budget discussion meeting for the first week of June.
 | For June meeting |
| 05/05/2020 | Specialist Reps | * CDO to email current specialist representatives regarding a renewal of their membership terms.
 | By end of May |
| 05/05/2020 | Terms of Reference Review | * CDO to amend current ToR with suggested addition, and forward onto the Committee for further review and feedback, before the July meeting.
 | For July meeting |
| 05/05/2020 | YAC Attendance | * CDO to invite YAC to attend July meeting.
 | For July meeting |
| 05/05/2020 | Nightcliff Fitness Equipment | * CDO to enquire with Recreation and Leisure Coordinator and/or the Design and Project Delivery team about the Nightcliff fitness equipment works and request that accessibility of the site be reviewed.
 | ASAP |