

Minutes

A4A Forum Accessibility for All

Friday 15 March 2013 – 10.00am
Tasman Council Chamber, Tasman District Council

Present

Cr Judene Edgar (Chair), Sarah Downs, Ben Smithies, Robyn Scherer (Tasman District Council), Brian Say, Kaye Halkett, (Association of Blind Citizens), Simon Horrocks (Independent), Marg Parfitt (Nelson City Council), Jane Chamberlain (NMIT), Ruby Aberhart (Nelson/Tasman Positive Ageing and VCC) and John Harwood (Hearing Association).

Apologies

Wendy Wadsworth, Marion Edwin, Mike Stevens, Marion Edwin, Glen Lauder, Karen Brookes, Donna Smith, Krista Hobday and Joy Aiton.

1. Confirmation of minutes from the meeting of 10 August 2012

MOVED Brian Say
SECONDED Kaye Halkett
CARRIED

2. Matters Arising – Action List

- Placement of recycling bins so access not hindered. Need to include wheelie bins in the same message. Also same message from Nelson City Council to their ratepayers/contractors. A consistent message – place bins on the kerb edge. Sarah to follow up with David Stephenson at Tasman. Marg to follow up with appropriate Nelson City staff.
- Judene has written to the local DoC regional office regarding off-road wheelchairs to use in our national parks.

3. Correspondence - Nil

4. Building Team Update

Ben Smithies noted that the building legislation is currently under review particularly in terms of upgrading seismic strengthening to existing buildings. This review includes fire requirements and disability access. There is an opportunity to apply Section 118 of the Building Act to consider what can be done to improve accessibility facilities (reasonably practicable) at the same time as buildings are being strengthened. Ben will copy the Council's submission to the A4A group.

5. Total Mobility Vouchers

A4A would like to see the current paper vouchers transferred to a plastic card system. Marg will invite the Nelson City person responsible for administering Total Mobility to attend the next meeting to talk about how the system is administered.

6. Richmond Walk with Mayor Kempthorne

Kaye, Donna and Sarah completed a walk along Queen Street Richmond with Mayor Kempthorne in late January. While some issues were identified in terms of footpath clutter, it was agreed that the Compliance team were doing their job. It was suggested that the forum should write to businesses that have improved their practice to congratulate/thank them for their efforts.

It was agreed that Sarah would attend a Richmond Unlimited meeting to discuss this issue. Judene to advise date of next Richmond Unlimited meeting and to request that footpath clutter be included on the agenda.

The issue of sandwich boards is ongoing and it may be that the rules may need to be given some "teeth" through a bylaw. It should be noted that the landowner may not necessarily operate the offending business so there may be some ignorance around what is required.

Nelson has a good model and it was agreed that we should get the Nelson staff member responsible for compliance of sandwich boards to attend the next meeting. Marg will also send the Nelson "rules" around sandwich boards to Robyn for circulation to A4A members.

7. Age2Be Expo – Headingly Centre, 5 April

At Ruby's suggestion it was agreed that A4A would have a presence at this expo. Information on A4A, the beach chair, gadgets that A4A people use and the Accessibility Checklist will all be available.

8. Annual Plan Submissions

Both councils are circulating their Draft Annual Plans for consultation. It was agreed that A4A would put a submission to Tasman District Council for \$10,000 and some staff time for development of accessibility maps for Tasman. Sarah will draft the submission and Donna will present it to the Council.

Sarah will also draft a submission to the Nelson City Council Draft Annual Plan noting the forum's appreciation of the funding for the Business Checklist and Accessibility Map and encouraging NCC to continue support for their staff member to attend the forum.

9. Accessible EFTPOS machines

Brian Say noted that there is now an option to use a headphone set to carry out transactions at EFTPOS machines. Brian will find out where these machines are available.

10. Plaques for Awards

It was noted that the Tasman Mayoral Fund donated the plaques for the Business Awards. Sarah will send a thank you letter to the Mayor Kempthorne.

11. State Cinema

Brian noted that he is in discussion with the State Cinema regarding an option for audio description for the blind. It is likely this will be in place at all State Cinemas soon.

12. Tasman District Council – Speed Limit Bylaw Review

Submissions to this review close on 25 March. It was agreed that the Forum should write in support of the review. Sarah was asked to find out if any traffic calming measures are planned for Queen Street round the Gibbons development in terms of pedestrian access.

13. Nelson 2060

This is a high-level document focused on community growth. Submissions close on 28 March. Judene will develop a submission from A4A.

14. General Business

Brian Say noted that Shirley Miles had raised an issue regarding the bus stop at the entrance to the hospital. It was suggested that we ask the Nelson Marlborough Health Board to install a push button device so that the public can call up the courtesy vehicle to either pick up or drop people off at the bus stop.

Simon noted that the hospital access also provides an issue for wheelchair users because of the hilly nature of the site. It would be helpful if an alternative route could be found.

Simon also noted that the pedestrian crossing facility at the traffic lights does not sound when it is safe for people to cross the road. This needs to be reported to Nelson City Council.

Simon asked who he should contact regarding the instability of wheelchairs in the NBus buses. There is nothing for wheelchairs to hold on to. Simon was advised to contact Tom Heaphy at SBL.

Simon said that mall car parking can be unsafe for wheelchair users. He asked if the new mall development by Gibbons would have safe walkways for wheelchair users. Sarah noted that this has been allowed for in the design.

A4A Survey – Sarah will format and email the results to everyone.

Meeting closed 11.50 am

Next meeting 31 May

Action List

Action	Who	Timing
Placement of recycling bins so access not hindered – follow up with David Stephenson	Sarah	ASAP
Write to Maurice Williamson re accessibility – follow up with Judene Edgar	Sarah	ASAP
Investigate rules, enforcement and penalties for sandwich boards etc – Tasman District and Nelson City Councils. Discuss at next meeting to find solution	Sarah	March
Talk to Nick Smith about Driving Assessment Service	Judene	ASAP
A4A Survey - circulate	Judene	February
Copy Council's submission to the Building Act review to forum members	Ben	Done
Invite Nelson City staff member responsible for Total Mobility to next meeting	Marg	ASAP
Write to Richmond business that have improved their practice in terms of sandwich boards etc	Sarah	ASAP
Attend Richmond Unlimited meeting to discuss the issue of sandwich boards, footpath clutter etc.	Sarah	Next meeting of Richmond Unlimited
Invite Nelson City staff member who is responsible for compliance with sandwich boards to attend next meeting	Marg	ASAP
Write submission to Tasman District Council's Draft Annual Plan requesting \$10,000 and staff time to produce an accessibility map for Tasman	Sarah	ASAP
Write submission to Nelson City Council's Draft Annual Plan noting the forum's appreciation of their funding and encouraging the Council to continue support of a Nelson City staff member attending the forum meetings	Sarah	ASAP
Find out where headphone sets available for use in EFTPOS machines	Brian	ASAP
Thank you letter to Mayoral Fund for donating plaques	Sarah	ASAP
Write to Tasman District Council supporting speed limit bylaw review	Sarah	ASAP
Submission to Nelson 2060	Judene	ASAP