



Minutes

Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Tuesday 20 February 2024

Location:	Dougherty Community Centre, Victor St, Chatswood
Chair:	Margaret Kay
Attendees:	Members: Glenda Hewitt; Margaret Kay; Wendy Norton; Audrey Thomas; Mark Tonga; Srishti Mahajan; Helen Woodman WCC Staff: Ellen Miller (WCC Community Venues and Services Team Leader); Bushra Salam (Governance Administration Officer)
Apologies/absent:	Honie Boyd (resigned); Julia Norton; Suzanne Hartley; Ella Gillis; Elisha Mangassarian (absent)
Guests:	Councillor Anna Greco Neal Robinson–Clark (WCC Community Engagement Specialist) Elizabeth Scott (WCC Community Engagement Officer)

Items

Item	Topic / Discussion	Action
1	Welcome The meeting was declared open at 4:05 pm when the quorum was reached.	
	Acknowledgement of Country Governance Administration Officer, acknowledged Country on behalf of Council.	
	Apologies Members: Honie Boyd (resigned); Julia Norton Honie Boyd (resigned); Julia Norton; Suzanne Hartley; Ella Gillis; Elisha Mangassarian (absent)	
	Declarations of interest A link to the <i>Disclosure of interest by Committee Members</i> form was circulated with the Agenda. Glenda Hewitt has declared a standing non-pecuniary less than significant interest as a Board Member of the Housing Connection. Margaret Kay has declared a standing non-pecuniary less than significant interest as a Director of Yourside Australia, stating,	

“there may be (in the future) a relationship between Yourside Australia and WCC. None known at present.”

Committee Member - Resignation

Governance advised Honie Boyd had communicated to Council prior to the meeting she could no longer participate due to new work commitments and was resigning her position.

2 Appointment of Committee Chair

Committee Resolution:

The committee agreed in a previous meeting that they did not want to appoint a permanent chair and a chair will be elected at each meeting for that meeting in order to give everybody an opportunity to chair if they wish.

Nominations for Chair of the meeting:

- Glenda Hewitt nominated Margaret Kay
- Mark Tonga seconded her nomination
- No other nominations were received
- The Committee voted the Chair of the meeting be Margaret Kay
- All in favour

In accordance with Item 5.2 of the terms of Reference, the committee appointed Margaret Kayas the Chair for this meeting.

3 Confirmation of Minutes – 21 November 2023

The Committee unanimously adopted the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 21 November 2023.

4 Actions from Previous Meetings

The Committee unanimously resolved to note the actions of previous meetings contained in the agenda, with the following change:

Wendy Norton noted that the Committee were still committed to organising a seminar/webinar on preventing the abuse of vulnerable people.

Mark Tonga stated there are major changes to the NDIS around people with disability who are over 65 and what that means for them moving forward. Committee agreed that might be a good

topic for the seminar/webinar.

Community Venues & Services Team Leader suggested the Committee wait until after the Seniors Festival and use feedback from events to see if there was a topic of interest that had not been covered and would be of interest to the Committee.

Chair requested Wendy Norton to reconvene the group and hold an informal meeting again to determine what outcome the Committee would like to achieve from the seminar/webinar

Action: *Wendy Norton to hold another informal working group and present suggestions at the next Committee*

5 Strategic Activities

5.1 Standing item – Reconciliation Action Plan

Community Venues and Services Team Leader informed the Committee the Draft Reconciliation Action Plan has gone back to Reconciliation Australia for the final approval.

5.2 Community Engagement Strategy

Council's Community Engagement Specialist gave a presentation on Council's Community Engagement Strategy Policy and the development of the Community Engagement Strategy Implementation.

The Committee members made a number of following observations:

- Wendy Norton raised concern about sharing information with US based company Granicus.
 - Mark Tonga stated the community is concerned about the digital shift and suggested more face-to-face sessions and interactions with people with disability would be of more benefit.
 - The Committee agreed that face-to-face interactions are better from an inclusive perspective
 - Wendy Norton noted the original Have Your Say platform allowed access to other people's responses which was valuable as it provided a broader context for responding.
 - Mark Tonga suggested that the Toolkit be co-designed with people with disability so staff had a greater understanding of how to reach more vulnerable communities.
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- Srishti Mahhajan suggested Council undertake some community engagement activities in supermarkets because of their large reach within the Community. The Committee agreed.
- Councillor Greco suggested using the City News publication.
- Margaret Kay suggested targeted training for Customer Service staff on using the correct language when speaking to people with disability.

The Community Engagement Specialist thanked the Committee for their time and input.

6 Other Business

State Government Planning Reforms.

Chair raised concerns around State Government planning reforms and the impact this would have on Willoughby especially in relation to Affordable Housing.

Community Venues and Services Team Leader to find out more information on the impacts of planning reforms on Affordable Housing targets.

See: <https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Council/Public-notice/State-Government-planning-reforms-and-their-impact-on-Willoughby>

Road Safety Issues

Wendy Norton stated that several concerns had been raised at Progress Association meetings regarding the recently approved eScooter trial by Council, especially in relation to older community members.

Ellen Miller to check with Transport team leader and get back on this

Aged and Disability Activities and Events (Venues and Services Team Leader):

- Seniors Festival (1-28 March 2024 – 40+ free and subsidised events)
- Seniors Concert (19 March, Zenith Centre)
- Healthy Aged Webinar by Prof Susan Kurrle
- Staying Independent at Home talk by DCC Staff

- Sessions on digital literacy at the Library
- Dance to the Nines dance for people with disability (18+)
- Youth Week – Discobility – dance for under 18s.

7 Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 16 April 2024 (4:00pm)

Suggested agenda items

- Introduction of new open space team leader

8 Meeting Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 5:30 pm.
