

Minutes

Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday 18 April 2012

Venue:

Coolamon Cultural Centre

Time:

10.00am

Present:

Ron Douglas (Chair), Una Cowdroy, Karen Collins, Cr Dot Holdom, Lee Clark, Milena Morrow (Vice Chair), Cr Phil Youngblutt, Ben Dierikx, Trevor Harris

Apologies:

Bev Kelso, Rob Noakes, Vic Sparks

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: Milena Morrow

Seconded: Una Cowdroy

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Equal Access Committee meeting held Wednesday 18 April 2012 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Outstanding Matters Report:

1. Access to bus stop in Kingscliff Street

Update provided by Trevor Harris advising that a concrete footpath to the bus stop had been completed. Ron Douglas, Committee Chair thanked everyone involved in supporting this outcome. This item is closed.

2. Access issues at St Joseph's Primary School, Tweed Heads

Trevor Harris visited the site and does not feel that there is an access problem or a problem for emergency vehicles entering school. This matter will be discussed again at the June meeting when Bev Kelso (the member who raised this issue) is present.

3. Flood Safe Brochure

An email has been sent to the Tweed Shire Council's Emergency Response Education Officer requesting information about how to proceed with changes to the brochure design.

Agenda Items:

1. Access and Inclusion Policy and Action Plan

Update provided by Karen Collins. The community consultation phase has ended and analysis of the information collected has commenced.

2. All Access Playground

Update provided by Karen Collins. Council has given (in principle) agreement to a site for the playground on Coral Street, Tweed Heads. Executive Management has approved the formation of a working group to progress the project.

3. Tweed Link monthly access news

A monthly quarter page has been purchased for one year commencing in June. Karen Collins discussed a schedule of information, themes and issues to be included through the year. The Committee decided to run four themes over three-month periods as community education on issues affecting people with disability. The annual program of information is being developed.

4. Access funds

No changes from February meeting.

5. Access funds

No changes from February meeting.

General Business

1. Accessible Arts Forum

Karen Collins informed the Committee about the regional Accessible Arts Forum being held on 1 May at Tweed River Art Gallery. This is a collaboration between Tweed Shire, four other northern LGAs and Accessible Arts Northern Rivers to progress the Connecting Communities program funded by NSW FACS. Milena Morrow and Ben Dierikx will represent the Equal Access Committee at the forum as invited panel members and forum participants. Karen Collins is the MC for the forum.

2. Regional forum for Equal Access Committees, 7 May

This is an opportunity for members of Access Committees from the northern rivers LGAs to meet. Karen Collins tabled the proposed forum agenda. The forum will be held in Casino. Attendance and transport needs were confirmed.

3. Accessible parking and ramps, Murwillumbah library

Raised by Cr Dot Holdom following a comment in local media. Karen Collins advised that accessible car parking is a major issue arising in the Access and Inclusion consultation. The Access and Inclusion Issues Papers and Action Plan will include matters relating to accessible car parking.

4. Car parking across footpaths

This was highlighted by Ben Dierikx as an access issue in Tweed Shire. Community education on this matter will be the first theme to be covered in the Tweed Link monthly access information.

5. Information on assistance animals for Tweed Tourist Parks

Karen Collins informed Committee that the Manager of the Tweed Tourist Parks has made an enquiry about rights and responsibilities relating to assistance animals. The development of a written guide for tourist operators and education for staff was suggested. There was general agreement from members. Ben Dierikx and Karen Collins will work on guidelines and education for tourism operators.

6. Certificate IV Access Consulting

Karen Collins is undertaking this qualification with support from Council and provided an update to Committee on completion of the first half of the course.

7. Incident at a Shopping Centre and person with guide dog

Ben Dierikx advised the Committee about an incident at a shopping centre while shopping with a friend. Both Ben and his friend were treated aggressively by a security guard after the friend's guide dog defecated in the shopping centre. The Committee suggested that the management of the shopping centre should be approached in person and education offered to staff. Karen Collins agreed to make the first approach.

8. Footpath along Tumbulgum Road connecting Coolamon Cultural Centre to Murwillumbah Library

Ron Douglas raised the matter of the narrow footpath as the only access to the library and enquired about the reconstruction of the footpath on the river side of Tumbulgum Road. Trevor Harris advised that Council had approved works to reconstruct the footpath but could not give a time frame at this point.

The meeting closed at 11.40am

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Equal Access Committee will be held on Wednesday, 20 June 2012 at 10.00am at Banora Point Community Centre.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Nil.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nil.