

Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday 17th May 2018
Meeting commenced at 9:31 am – 11:30 am

Minutes are yet to be confirmed. They will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting to be held on 26 July 2018.

Attendees:

Cr Kylie Spears (Chair), Phil Medley, Judith Lenthall, Ron Major, Jenny Newman, Cara Hudson, Jacob Matthew, Geoffrey Outhred, Andrea Salmon, Tim Cocks

Support:

Jen Richardson (admin support)

Guest speakers:

Item 3 – Alex Hutchinson, Sales and Membership Manager, Leisure

Item 4 – Beate Matthews, Health and Fitness Manager, Leisure

Item 6 - Ben Spiteri, Coordinator Transport and Traffic Engineering, Engineering and Building Services
Martyn Furlong, Local laws Coordinator

Item 7 - Geoff Outhred

1. Opening of meeting

Welcome by Cr Kylie Spears

1.1 Apologies:

Cr Tony Dib, Fiona Burrige, Judy Morris, Melinda Spencer and Michelle Egan

a. Conflict of Interest Declaration/Minutes/Business Arising

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 8th March 2018 having been previously circulated, were taken as read and subsequently confirmed.

Minutes Moved by: Geoff Outhred

Seconded by: Jacob Matthew

2. Welcome to:

- **Jack Mulholland, MetroAccess Officer** (recently returned to Council)
- **Ross Taylor, Croydon Service Manager, Neami National** (introduced to the Committee) who spoke about the challenges around the transition process of the NDIS. Roles within the scheme are still being clarified.

3. Maroondah Leisure Pricing Policy – Alex Hutchinson, Sales and Membership Manager, Leisure

Alex spoke to the current membership packages on offer and how MCC could potentially re-configure these to meet social and financially sustainable objectives.

Discussion points raised:

Kylie

- Undertake comparative pricing analysis across other Council leisure providers
- Support for carers at MCC facilities (eg free access)
- MCC membership discount is less than what is currently offered by other neighbouring councils. Maroondah has the highest suicide rates within the Eastern Region. MCC can lead the way (eg offering the most affordable and accessible membership prices and packages).
- Look to develop partnership programs for targeting groups with different disabilities. (Jack is currently looking into a program)

Andrea

- Funding for gym memberships/access is available through certain NDIS packages although the facilitation of this is still in its infancy. The use of language is key in securing funding. Kim Henderson, NDIS Transition Coordinator, may be able to assist.
- My Aged Care also offers support packages for leisure facilities (Ron advised packages of this nature can take a long time to be authorised).

Judith

- For some with sensory difficulties, bright lights and high levels of noise can cause migraines and impact a person's ability to use gym facilities. Could MCC provide quiet workout times, like Coles' Quiet Hour?

Ross

- Not everyone within the community has/will be given an NDIS Plan. We need to acknowledge the importance of mental health for everyone, regardless of the disability. Manningham Council offers a free gym program for Neami National Clients. Could MCC explore this?

Jack

- Yarra Leisure Centre run a program in conjunction with EACH that enables people with mental health issues to access their gym
- Need to find a way of incorporating access to an exercise program through existing support packages?

Cara

- Can MCC offer discounted casual access of memberships for people who have a disability pension?
- Can MCC offer a social inclusion group at a discounted rate?
- It is important for MCC to consider offering group sessions at different times of the day to accommodate people who study or work

Jenny

- Improvements to signage at the facilities should be considered and improved, particularly the design of toilet signs

Alex

- MCC should benchmark across other council's leisure packages and pricing, eg Whittlesea
- Carers Card – can MCC accept this as concession access, given that MCC already recognise the Companion Card??

Jacob

- It would be worthwhile to enable accompanying physios to enter the swimming pool free of charge

Geoff

- What discounted pricing and memberships can be offered to those over the age of 65, with a disability, but who do not qualify for an NDIS package?

Other General Comments

- Pricing and memberships needs more synergy with client's rehabilitation goals and needs
- Can MCC begin testing out new programs?
- Can we utilise the expertise of Kim Henderson, NDIS Transition Coordinator in a greater capacity?

Next Steps

Pricing and situation/trend analysis to be conducted by Council's Leisure Team. Any recommendations will then need to be drafted and endorsed by Council. Intention is to have approved final Policy available by late 2018.

Further Feedback

Any additional feedback can be directed to Alex via alex.hutchinson@maroondah.vic.gov.au

4. Review of Aquahub Gym Equipment – Beate Matthews, Health and Fitness Manager, Leisure

Between 21/05 to 04/06/18 (2 weeks), Aquahub will be subject to a major renovation with the following improvement being made:

- Replacement of strength equipment, T. V's, desks
 - Painting of entire gym
 - Reconfiguration of gym area to create three new dedicated training zones
 - Floorplan redesigned to integrate cardio and strength machines
 - Installation of more low profile machines with smaller footprint. This will provide more open space, increase the ease of access and generate clearer sightlines for staff to monitor clients
 - New machines will be more inclusive and designed to accommodate users with sensorimotor needs
 - Installation of more 1:1 equipment
 - All trainers are Cert III and Cert IV qualified and can help train and support members with a disability
 - MCC Leisure does work with qualified physio's (and those undertaking study)
 - Official launch of renovated gym is Wednesday 6th June
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- **ACTION: Beate to circulate presentation to members**

5. Break

6. Technology in You Workshop

Positive feedback given with regards to the session recently held at Karralyka. Featuring Gary and Christopher Hills, the session demonstrated how active technology can assist those with disabilities by helping to enable employment opportunities and generate more independent living

Further Information: <http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/media-centre/article/?id=registrations-open-for-7th-international-carers-conference>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/icdhills>

7. Maroondah DDA Construction Program Update – Ben Spiteri, Coordinator Transport and Traffic Engineering, Engineering and Building Services

Works undertaken by this team are funded through Council's DDA Program and do not include building upgrades. The budget across 2018 / 2019 is \$300k.

Ben spoke to the program management approach, how projects are prioritised and ranked and the following upcoming works planned across the FY:

- Wonga Road Pedestrian Refuge at McAlpin Reserve
- Narr Maen Drive Pedestrian Refuge
- Wellington Park Drive Pedestrian Refuge
- Oliver St / Mullum Mullum Rd Pram Crossings
- Rouse Glen Court Pram Crossing
- Wicklow Ave and Alto Ave Pram Crossing (Kylie - can we keep the crossing at Alto Ave)
- Wicklow Ave Zebra Crossing Pram Crossing
- New footpath along Georges Road
- Bedford Rd POS Pedestrian Fencing (Kylie - could this be widened)
- Dorset Rd POS Pedestrian Fencing

Discussion

- Projects will not be of any additional cost to residents
- Slow down mechanisms at Oliver Street are required
- Patterdale Court – footpath has not been provided and there are plants located right up until the edge of the road
- Integrated stair and platform at HE Parker – a ramp would be helpful. Ben advised the team was trying to minimise impact to the vegetation, plus the topography makes updates challenging

ACTIONS:

- **Ben to look into Patterdale Court footpath**
- **Ben to circulate presentation to members**
- **Meeting notes to be sent to Ben**

8. Travels in Canada and Alaska and how they cater for travellers with disabilities – Geoff Outhred

Geoff spoke about his travels to Canada and Alaska including the successful way these countries and tourism providers catered for those with mobility needs.

9. Thank you to Geoff and Briere

Sadly, Geoff and Briere have come to the end of their terms as members of the Committee. Kylie spoke to the many achievements Geoff and Briere have been involved in over the past few years. The Committee thanks both members for their ongoing enthusiasm and support for the many initiatives put forward.

10. Additional News

Jacob working with PTV to secure works at Croydon Train Station, i.e. shelter, ramp access and raised platforms.

11. Close of meeting 11.30 am

The next meeting will be held on 26th July 2018