
**DISABILITY INCLUSION & ACCESS COMMITTEE
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GRIFFITH ON
WEDNESDAY, 3 APRIL 2024 COMMENCING AT 1:01 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Laurie Testoni (Acting Chair), Colin Beaton (Community Representative), Patricia Cox (Community Representative), Marilyn Hams (Community Representative), Mike Neville (Community Representative, Via Zoom), Soheil Derakhshan (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Sustainable Development, Bruce Gibbs, Director Economic & Organisational Development, Shireen Donaldson, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst, and Minute Secretary, Hannah Hall

ABSENT

Simone Murphy (Community Representative), Jaimee Damini (Community Representative), Erin Fletcher (Community Representative)

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Patricia Cox and Marilyn Hams that apologies be received from Councillor Shari Blumer, Val Woodland, Melissa Canzian and Melanie Vella.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Patricia Cox and Marilyn Hams that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 March 2024, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 UPDATE ON HER WAY PROJECT

Mrs Donaldson provided the Committee with an update on the Her Way Project. The project is on schedule and project completion is expected in July 2024. Works are commencing in Don Best Park and Community Garden, lighting upgrades in McCook Carpark and Kooyoo Street and Ulong Street bridge rehabilitation.

Mr Beaton enquired as to whether pathways in Canal Street are to be included in this project. Mrs Donaldson advised that the Her Way funding and project budget was to activate spaces from Coolah Street to the CBD which are safe, and did not extend to footpaths along Coolah Street. Coolah Street has been identified as a priority in the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) and is dependent on funding.

Mrs Cox asked if Soroptimist are able to do a clean-up along either side of the canal along Canal Street. Mrs Donaldson asked that the president of Soroptimist liaise with Melanie Vella as Project Manager.

The Committee received the information provided.

CL02 CONSULTATION FOR REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Mrs Donaldson advised the Committee that Council are currently reviewing their Community Strategic Plan (CSP). Council are consulting with the Community to understand what their priorities are for the future of Griffith, and are asking the Community to fill out a short survey. Councillor Testoni stressed the importance of the CSP for Councillors to understand the community's priorities when making decisions.

Mrs Cox asked if Council could present the CSP consultation to different community groups? Mrs Donaldson advised that this is something that Council are more than willing to do, and for any community groups who are interested to get in contact with Council.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

6.1 Regional Disability Advocacy Service

The Committee was advised that Ms Girling is unavailable on Wednesdays. It was asked that staff liaise with Ms Girling to arrange a mutually agreeable time to present to Council.

6.2 Reinstating of MLAK System

Council are currently working out details to reinstate the MLAK System throughout the Griffith Local Government Area.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Pathway from 3 Ways to CBD

Mrs Cox raised the lack of accessible walk ways from 3 ways to the CBD, and asked if this was a priority in the PAMP. Mrs Donaldson took this ON NOTICE.

7.2 Autism Awareness Month

Mrs Hams advised the Committee that it is Autism Awareness Month. Mrs Donaldson said she would arrange for the Nancy Blumer Memorial to be lit with blue lights and outdoor poster to be installed.

7.3 Update on Changes to Recruitment Process

Mrs Donaldson advised that updates to Council's recruitment portal are being tested this week, and should be live by Friday.

7.4 Disability Inclusion Access Plan (DIAP)

Mr Derakhshan asked for timelines in regards to consultation and review of the DIAP by the Committee, conscious of the time restraints leading into the Local Government Elections. Mrs Donaldson took this ON NOTICE.

7.5 Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Initiative

Mr Beaton advised that the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Initiative has gained momentum throughout Australia. Mrs Donaldson advised that Council would investigate further.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Disability Inclusion & Access Committee is to be held on Wednesday, 1 May 2024 at 1:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 1:38pm.