

Minutes

Minutes of the Equal Access Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday 04 November 2020

Venue:

Harvard Room, Tweed Heads Administration Office and Virtual and telephone conference

Time: 11.30am

Present:

Community representatives: Karen Sculley (Chair), Suzanne (Suzy) Hudson (Deputy Chair), and Kyle Sculley.

Tweed Shire Council representatives: Cr Warren Polglase - Councillor, Robert Noakes – Senior Building Surveyor Building and Environmental Health **Joanne Watters** – Coordinator Community Services, **Giselle Benitez** – Community Development Officer, and **Paola Stelmach** (Minutes).

Apologies:

Community Representatives: Milena Morrow, Prospero Aplet, Bev Larsson.

Tweed Shire Council representatives: Tracey Stinson – Director Sustainable Communities and Environment, Alana Brooks – Road Safety Officer Alana Brooks, Gabby Arthur – Program Support Officer.

Agenda Items:

Open – Chair, Karen Sculley commenced the meeting with an Acknowledgment of Country.

1. Introductions and apologies

Each member introduced themselves. Tracey Stinson, Bev Larsson, Prospero Aplet and Milena Morrow, Alana Brooks were noted as apologies. Giselle advised members that community members Milena Morrow and Bev Larsson had tendered their resignations.

2. Administration

Review of Expressions of Interest (EOI) for new members – Giselle noted that this EOI call was to fill two vacant places. This EOI call was promoted through the Tweed Disability Interagency, Tweed Carers Forum, and EAAC members to share with their networks. The EOI was also sent to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to circulate with their networks, as per actions of the last meeting.

Given the recent resignations received, there were now four (4) vacant positions to be filled. Four (4) applications were received from Ms. Vanessa Riggs, Mr. Col Usher, Ms. Tarnhee Wilson and Ms. Wendy Buckingham. Giselle noted that the EOI call asked for candidates to live in the Tweed Shire, however, this is not a condition of membership in the Committee's Terms of Reference. Members asked that this be clarified with Council's Corporate Governance staff, to confirm if residency within the Shire is a criteria for eligibility on the

committee. Members reviewed the EOI applications and responses provided to four selection criteria, as follows:

- Q1. Tell us about yourself and why you want to be part of the Equal Access Advisory Committee.
- Q2. What do you know about any laws or policies in NSW, Australia or internationally that protect the rights of people with disabilities?
- Q3. What do you think are the main issues that affect the lives of people with disabilities?
- Q4. What improvements to universal access for social inclusion would you like to see in the Tweed Shire?

Upon review, members were impressed by all candidates and found they all demonstrated genuine interest, understanding and a range of different experiences of disability, which would bring value to the committee. Members agreed unanimously to recommend that Council appoints all candidates to the committee.

Action: *Giselle to confirm Council's Corporate Governance protocol concerning the eligibility of any candidate on the basis of residency in the Tweed.*

Giselle to submit Council report requesting Council appoint Ms Vanessa Riggs, Mr. Col Usher, Ms Tarhnee Wilson, Ms Wendy Buckingham as members of the Equal Access Advisory Committee, subject to pending advice concerning eligibility.

3. International Day of People with Disability – 3 December 2020

Members discussed the preparations for the event on the 3rd December 2020. Giselle discussed plans for a media campaign in Tweed Link and social media to celebrate and profile the EAAC, past and present – recognizing 22 years of active contribution and achievement to make the Tweed accessible for all. Quotes from Chair and a past-previous member of the committee will be arranged by Communications staff.

Community representatives discussed their preference to host a public celebration for the day at Tweed Heads Administration Office Auditorium and Plaza. Members discussed their ideas for celebrating with wider community and showcasing how accessible the Tweed Shire is, including:

- Extending invitations to members and ex-members of the committee and their networks, Council staff that have been involved with the Committee, Mayor and Councillors, General Manager, Members of Parliament, networks of carer and disability support services, businesses and any the wider public;
- Speeches by the Mayor, CI Polglase and EAAC Chair;
- Stalls or facilities to screen "Untold Stories" Tweed Museum Online Exhibition or promote other active individuals or groups;
- Live entertainment and attractions such as Life Bridge Band and/or Sprung Integrated Dance Company. In case they are not available on the day the members will still want someone to play; and
- Morning tea or catering to be served.

Giselle and Joanne discussed that options would be defined by the available budget and risk management for COVID-19, as a priority for a public event involving vulnerable members of

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the community. Council must manage the number of attendees for this purpose, with an option to use a RSVP tickets system. Kyle mentioned this may restrict people from coming to the event.

Action: *Giselle and Joanne will verify the budget and COVID-19 safety measures before progressing in confirming these activities and planning logistics and promotions. Giselle will advise members on the options, once these matters are clarified.*

Meeting closed: 12.30pm.

Next Meeting of the Equal Access Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday 16 December 2020.