



Minutes Banyule Disability & Inclusion Committee

24 April 2024

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 24 April 2024
Time	5.30-7pm
Venue	Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub Clara Southern Room
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Tom Melican
Minutes	Sherryn Prinzi/ Nyunkia Tauss

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as Traditional Custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region’s history.”

Diversity Statement

“Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.”

Attendee

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr. Melican	Chair
Shannon Joyce	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Allan Leenaerts	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Emma Lowe	Belgravia Leisure representative
Merryn Lawson	BANSIC representative
Kathryn Drake	IDV
Laila Fernandez	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Gurvinder Singh Cheema	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Rocio Silva	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Ros Melling	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Aaron Williams	Brotherhood of St Laurence (Local Area Coordinator)
Angela Bergman	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Gina Haebich	Disability & Inclusion Committee Member
Cr Alison Champion	Councillor substitute

Council staff

Sherryn Prinzi	Banyule City Council (Coordinator, Community Impact)
Laura Cattapan	Acting Manager Resilient and Connected Communities
Nyunkia Tauss	Banyule City Council (Community and Social Planner)
Jay Underwood	Banyule City Council
Shannon Jimeno	Banyule City Council
Lee Hannah	Banyule City Council

Guests

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Roman Urbanski	Guest

Items

1. Introduction

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians and Diversity Statement as read by Laura Cattapan.

Roman introduced himself to the committee and his intention to give his daughter with cerebral palsy the opportunity to experience a great life.

Read letter sent by Lilla from St Johns Catholic, thanking the Disability and Inclusion Committee for their great work.

Councillor Melican arrived 5.35pm and commenced chairing meeting.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Agenda Item	Progress
Action 1: Committee invited to complete Climate Adaptation Survey	Complete
Action 2: Council to respond to Shannon about whether a company can apply for an accessible parking permit.	Complete
Action 3: Council to consider the committee feedback on accessibility website feedback and report further progress at the next meeting.	Website published. Shannon/Jay will update at this meeting
Action 4: Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) and Council to meet to agree on the scope of project, then invite Committee members to participate in a working group to inform the development of the actions.	Working group will update at this meeting
Action 5: Emma (Belgravia Leisure representative) to be invited to present on the impact of the Immersion Therapy program.	Emma will present at this meeting
Action 6: Provide information on March wheelchair tennis	Nyunkia shared with members via minutes
Action (from previous meeting): Council to find the similarities between all-inclusive Banyule business guides and come back to the committee with options that reflect an intersectional approach.	Progress report included in briefing paper.

3. New business

3.1 Library of Things

Library of Things Project Officer Lee discussed the concept of a Library of Things.

Lee discussed the four motivations for borrowing and these included minimise waste, save money, better for environment, meet new people. Lee shared information about the three main models for Libraries of Things- public libraries, community organisations, drop-in sessions.

Discussion

The Committee were asked what could be borrowed from a Library of Things. Responses included items that might be used only once or twice. These include jigsaws, tools, sports equipment- balls, bats, stand up paddle board, Thermomix and kitchen items, musical instruments, dress-ups. Party kits- small furniture for parties.

Committee agreed it is a good idea to consider a Library of Things in Banyule but was curious about how it would be advertised, noting the existing platforms like the toy library are not well known. The committee discussed the need to build community awareness, like through community radio.

Lee asked about the best ways to choose items. A member mentioned the Good Karma network, an internet-based platform, and how online booking works well.

The role of Council was discussed. Committee discussed the provision of a premises, and management of risks associated with the use of products. An idea was raised to create opportunities for people with disability to be involved.

4. Committee priorities

4.1 Banyule Disability Website Project Update

Shannon and Jay present the live People with disability page on Council's website. Jay explained how the feedback from the committee was used. The key points shared were:

- The name of the page has been changed to People with disability.
- Four questions that might help people as they get started were drafted and included on the where to start page.
- The life span categorisation (ages) was considered. After further investigation, it was decided not to further separate young people as the services provided use the industry standard 12-25 years.
- The reference to U3A was included as requested.

Shannon shared the minimum standard for an event to be promoted as inclusive and committee were asked to provide feedback.

Discussion

The committee shared their views on the website, noting that the four questions to help people get started were appropriate. The use of hyperlinks for services was a good feature, but would also like the web address to be included. A member commented that more information on schools and specialist services should be included, such as St John of God and Araluen. A member asked why 25-60years was not represented. Jay noted that the general information is for any age.

Committee noted that on a computer there seems to be a lot of dead space at the top of the page and there was not an invitation to scroll down further to find the information.

The committee discussed the use of pictures. There was a difference of opinion, with some not seeing the value or relevance of the pictures and others liking them.

Committee asked about the use of screen readers on the site and Jay noted that screen readers work and Council are looking at a voice over function.

With reference to the event standard, the committee noted that there are legislated standards, industry standard, best practice. Council should be aspiring to achieve best practice. It was noted that inclusion is a journey and this document aims to ensure consistency in achieving the minimum, with the ambition to raise the standards across the organisation.

4.2 Events and celebrations

Inclusive Banyule Action 3.13 We will continue to elevate visibility and awareness of people with disability through events, advocacy and days of celebration.

Disability Pride Month and Day of People with Disability

The committee were asked to share ideas about how Council could acknowledge and celebrate these days/month of significance.

Discussion

A member suggested a free event at WaterMarc- Emma said that can be arranged.

Discussed the idea of creating an events calendar and inviting other organisations to add an activity or event.

Discussed the idea of a lunch with the Mayor in Council chambers.

Action

Emma to work with WaterMarc to plan a Disability Pride month activity.

2024 Banyule Volunteer Celebration

Committee were reminded to book their tickets to the annual 2024 Banyule Volunteer Celebration.

4.3 Inclusive Business Guides

Inclusive Banyule Action 3.1 We will review the Inclusive Business Guides to support businesses to uplift inclusive practice for people with disability.

Council will work with the Brotherhood St Laurence and is meeting regularly to develop a project plan. It is proposed that a small shopping precinct in Banyule will be invited to work with Council to develop their inclusive practice. The working group will then go to the shopping precinct to act as 'mystery shoppers' and provide feedback to the business about their experiences. Working group volunteers (*Emma, Angela, Shannon and Gurvinder*) were informed they would be contacted after June to participate.

4.4 Report it

Inclusive Banyule Action 3.10 We will make it easier for community to report access issues in Council's major activity centres.

Council reported that two outstanding tasks were required to complete the back-end tasks before a new tab could be added to the report it function.

Council reported that a letter will be written to Savers in Greensborough to encourage them to address the stairs in the alley way that impeded people's ability to access the rear parking area.

Council reported the advocacy being undertaken to address pedestrian access around the bus interchange project in Greensborough.

Discussion

Committee discuss the importance of responding to the access needs of people with disability, and suggested that they would help with advocacy if needed.

5. Other updates

5.1 Sports and Recreation Strategy Submission

Agenda item not considered due to time constraints.

5.2 Borlase Park – toilet signage (5 minutes)

The State Government is rebuilding Borlase Park in Yallambie as park of the North East Link Project. Committee were asked to provide feedback on the toilet signs.

1. Large signs on the wall of the toilet 'pod' building – these show this building is a toilet block.
2. Cubicle/ Toilet door signage (including braille) – these show what is in each toilet.
3. Wayfinding park signage – these show there is a toilet in this park and where it is.

Discussion

The committee shared confusion as to why they were being asked about the signage, not the design to the whole area and the toilet configuration. There was a suggestion that the consultation bordered on offensive. Feedback from committee included the need to make it clear the toilets are all gender, there is not enough information to comment without information on contrast, lighting etc, wayfinding – need to have braille. Make the toilet symbol visible from an acceptable distance, have to walk up close to figure out if there is a toilet.

Action

Council to provide feedback that asking about signs only feels insulting.

5.3 Immersion Therapy Program

Emma from Belgravia Leisure presented a video of an Immersion Therapy Program participant and described the benefits that participant experienced after one day per week of participation. Emma noted the range of benefits, particularly for non-verbal customers.

Some more Immersion Therapy links:

[Partners in Health – Immersion Therapy website](#)

[Immersion Therapy launches at WaterMarc](#)

[Tim's Immersion Therapy Story](#)

Link to the Cerge Companion Website for WaterMarc:

<https://cerge.app/inclusivevenue/WaterMarc-Banyule>

Action

Emma will share the link with the enquiry form for people who might want to participate in the Immersion Therapy Program.

5.4 Watermarc Visual Story

Emma from Belgravia Leisure presented on the Visual Story that has been created for Watermarc

<https://cerge.app/visualstory/WaterMarc-Banyule>.

The features of the Cerge platform were shown, including the social story and visuals from entry to all areas in the facilities, access guide, communication board and audio guide. A great feature was the ability to communicate with the venue prior to attending, in case you wanted to share your needs.

Discussion

The committee commented that it looks like a great tool for many people, including people with a disability. Council discussed meeting with Cerge next week to discuss the options for Banyule.

Recommendation

Council is asked to consider investigating the adoption of the Cerge platform for Council's buildings like Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub.

5.5 Try Before you Ride

Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Metro Trains, V/Line, Yarra Trams and Kinetic are running a come and try public transport day.

When: Thursday 9 May, from 10:30am – 2pm

Where: Southern Cross Station

At the event, you will have the opportunity to:

- practice getting on and off trains, trams, buses, and taxis safely
- speak with public transport staff who can assist you
- learn about the accessibility features available on our services
- Join a station familiarisation tour.

Register on [Eventbrite](#) for your free ticket. For more information, visit the [Try Before You Ride webpage](#).

Discussion

The committee noted that getting to Southern Cross Station to learn to use public transport might be difficult if you have to use public transport to get there.

5.2 Other updates invited from Committee

No further updates shared.

6. Close and date of next meeting.

Next meeting Wednesday 26 June 2024 – 1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough.