

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 24 March 2010

Present:

1. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Chairperson - Samoa)
2. Malakai Jiko (Fiji)
3. Danny Kauraka (Cook Islands)
4. Mafi Katoa (Tonga)
5. Martha Ahmed (Tokelau)
6. Brenda Cottingham (Niue)
7. Tina McNicholas (Fiji)

8. Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon
9. Marie Retimanu-Pule
10. Trudy Jenkins

Welcome:

- Warm pacific greetings and welcome from the Chairperson who thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Opening Prayer:

- Malakai Jiko

Apologies:

- Kolovula Murphy, Mailigi Hetutu, Councillor Leonie Gill

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- The Minutes from the previous meeting were moved as a correct record by Malakai Jiko and seconded by Brenda Cottingham.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- There were no matters arising from these minutes.

PASIFIKA FESTIVAL

- **Reimbursements** – stallholders will be totally refunded for the fee they paid for their stalls with performers to receive 75% of the agreed fee. Letters will be sent out to stallholders and VIPs.

- Any feedback and/or suggestions should be emailed to Marie Retimanu-Pule within the next week as it would be useful to have these

comments documented for future festivals, ie, a plan B; would another date be better. Positive feedback should also be included.

- Discussion was held around the reimbursement to the PIPC Church for hall hire of around \$2,000. As there were more stallholders turning up at the church than expected, there was a lot of cleaning to do and there was a youth event organised for the same time that got taken over. About 7-8 stallholders turned up at the PIPC Church. It was also noted that the Tongan groups went to the Wesley Church and this raises the question of whether this church should be compensated as well.

Questions & Comments:

- Do stallholders get any compensation for the money they have spent buying goods for food and crafts? *There is no policy in place for the cancellation of this event and there is no money for this sort of reimbursement in the budget.* It was noted that this information should be included in the contract that the groups sign. Some groups were very enterprising and went out to look for other venues to sell their food.
- How much would it cost to look at another venue? *It would roughly cost around \$7,000 to \$10,000.* It was noted that this raises the point that giving the Church \$2,000 is quite reasonable.
- It was noted that there was a lack of communication between the PAG members on the day about an alternative venue.
- For future festivals there is a need to make sure that we support that people that have supported previous festivals.
- Maybe it would be good to have some sort of insurance if the festival is cancelled again. Possibly part of the budget could be set aside as a contingency plan. There are still costs that need to be paid for, ie, set up, sound, etc.
- Is it possible to get a reduction in the amount paid to NiuFM? **Action** – Marie Retimanu-Pule to follow up on whether NiuFM has been paid yet.
- Is there any room for movement in the budget? Could performers possibly be given less than 75% of their fee so more money could go to compensate the stallholders? *It is written into the contract that the performers signed that they will receive 75% of their fee and this is a goodwill gesture for the work that they have put into their performances.*
- Could stallholders possibly receive \$200 instead of the \$155 or \$100 that they paid?

- PAG members acknowledged that the churches helped with the morale and selling food on the day and in principle they assisted with goodwill. **Action:** When the accounts are finalised and we see what is available Marie Retimanu-Pule will look at other options. It was agreed that Marie would talk to Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon to see what could be done.
- It was suggested that the option of having only an indoor venue should be looked at the costs compared with Waitangi Park. PAG members did feel that this is a festival that should be held outdoors.
- It was noted that if there is a Plan B then everyone needs to be prepared in advance as the event cannot be moved on the day as it is a major undertaking.

PACIFIC FORUM

- The theme for the Pacific Forum is the Draft Annual Plan that will be going out for submission on 9 April to 9 May. This gives the opportunity for the people of Wellington to have a say. The other theme for the forum is the Rugby World Cup. It was noted that the Fijian and Tongan teams will be playing in Wellington. Council would like the Pacific Nations to help promote the RWC and will want the Pacific Community to help with events that are happening around Wellington as we want to showcase Pacific people as a vibrant community.
- The forum will be held on 19 April at Te Papa. PAG members were encouraged to promote the Forum to their communities and to encourage people to attend. This will be a paid meeting for PAG members and will be in place of the formal PAG meeting for April. **Action:** Marie Retimanu-Pule to send out the draft agenda to PAG members.
- There is also a proposal to ban liquor in public places as part of the Draft Annual Plan. Currently there is a liquor ban in certain areas of Wellington and a current drinking problem in Newtown. This proposed ban will mean that you cannot consume alcohol in any public place. This will also give the police greater powers to arrest offenders. It was agreed that alcohol and the role it plays should be discussed further at a PAG meeting. **Action:** Marie Retimanu- Pule to send liquor ban information to PAG members before the Forum.
- Suggestions for forum:
 - Have Fijian and Tongan group performances during the Forum.
 - Cook Island drummers to signal the beginning of the Forum.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Brenda Cottingham brought up the issue of emergency water asking whether there was a source of water that could be used and were people aware of where these sources of water were. Water from streams and rivers can be used but must be boiled. **Action:** WEMO to come along to PAG meeting. Marie Retimanu-Pule noted that the City Communities Unit has been put in charge of welfare for the City and the setting up of centres.
- Guidelines for scattering ashes and burials with no embalming – these are issues that should be discussed at a PAG meeting as they are important issues for the Pacific community.
- PAG has received no reply/acknowledgement on their housing submission. **Action:** Marie Retimanu-Pule to follow this up.
- There has been no response from Titia Vaerua regarding her resignation from the PAG. It was agreed that Danny Kauraka should call a meeting of the Cook Island community to choose a new representative for the PAG.
- It was agreed that Brenda Cottingham could possibly write profiles for the PAG members or a newsletter to go on the website.
- UNICEF are running a workshop titled “Beating the Drum” working with Pacific youth in terms of climate change debate. This is an opportunity for the voice of the young people to be heard. Maybe the PAG could run a workshop through Council in partnership with UNICEF on the Pacific climate change as this would be a good way to promote awareness of this issue. This workshop/public lecture could maybe be held at the end of the year in place of the Forum as this is a priority for all Pacific people.

Closing Prayer:

- Brenda Cottingham

Next Meeting: 26 May 2010

Meeting Closed: 8:00pm