

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 23 June 2010

Present:

1. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Chairperson - Samoa)
2. Kolovula Murphy (Deputy – Tonga)
3. Pisa Alaifea (Deputy – Samoa)
4. Malakai Jiko (Fiji)
5. Danny Kauraka (Cook Islands)
6. Manea Allan-Moetaua (Cook Islands)
7. Tina McNicholas (Fiji)
8. Brenda Cottingham (Niue)
9. Lopati Tefoto (Tuvalu)
10. Martha Ahmed (Tokelau)
11. Mailigi Hetutu (Niue)

12. Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon
13. Marie Retimanu-Pule
14. Billie Tait Jones
15. Phoebe Velova'a
16. Trudy Jenkins

Welcome:

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

Opening Prayer:

- Lopati Tefoto

Apologies:

- Councillor Leonie Gill, Ana To'o

PRESENTATION – Zach Rissel, Senior Policy Advisor, Climate Change Office, Wellington City Council

- Zach Rissel gave a presentation on how the Council is taking action on climate change. He explained that the earth is warming up leading to changes to climate and this is increasing at a faster rate. The causes of this warming include greenhouse gases like methane gas, de-forestation, agriculture and using fossil fuels. If these causes are not contained warming will increase. What this means for Wellington. The sea level will rise and the seasons will change, ie, wetter winters and drier summers. This impact on the Council's

infrastructure. What is the Council doing? Council have a new Climate Change Action Plan looking at ensuring the city copes with sea level rises and other types of climate change and reducing emissions. How will this impact on Wellington's Pacific community? The Emissions Trading Scheme will increase costs for households. Climate change creates significant risks for the Pacific Islands. How can we engage the Pacific community? Encourage households to take up grants for insulation and heating and look at people's travel habits. Council need to look at ways to engage the Pacific community and would like the help of the PAG with this.

PRESENTATION – Sarah Meads, Senior Policy Advisor, OXFAM New Zealand

- Sarah Meads explained the “Feel the Heat” campaign that OXFAM are undertaking. OXFAM deal with all aspects of human development and are concerned about the impact climate change has on the most vulnerable communities. Only 0.6% of emissions come from the Pacific Islands. OXFAM are helping the Pacific people voice their concerns to the wider world. The impacts that climate change are having in the Pacific area include contaminated drinking water, food production decreases, health problems and different diseases, biodiversity hotspots are being affected and changing landscapes. This also has a large impact on the culture and identity of the Pacific Nations. OXFAM work at the grass roots level and help by providing resources for these communities. In New Zealand they are making sure the New Zealand Government are aware of what is happening and are holding New Zealand accountable for past emissions. They are also encouraging individual actions with a focus around campaigning, educating people, helping people to take actions by providing ways to connect by storytelling. They are creating DVDs, running events, bringing people from the Islands so they can tell their stories. They are writing reports on the effects of climate change, talking to the Government and facilitating groups to talk to officials.

Questions & Comments:

- This is a very important issue for the Pacific community. Does Council have any information regarding how many Pacific people are making use of the home insulation project? *Currently Council do not have a breakdown of the uptake of this project by ethnicity only by household. What about people who are renting? The way the project works now is the Community Service cardholders get 60% off plus \$1,300 towards the purchase of a heat pump. Other households get 1/3 off the cost of insulation. Is it possible to get the booklet translated? Zach said that he would look into this.*
- Has there been any information produced around how people can make small but incremental changes? Is Council looking at ways to encourage people to do this? *Council have not hit the right market yet and need to look at ways to encourage the public to make changes. Council are looking at providing easy to use calculators to show how much money and energy people can save by making changes.*

- PAG members suggested that Council do presentations on the Pacific radio stations to get the message out to the community.
- What is Council doing with regard to the risk management around soil erosion and the building of houses on hillsides? It seems like there are a lot of houses that fall down during storms and landslides. *Zach said that he could not make an informed comment regarding this but noted that there are a lot of reasons for slips, ie, stormwater, drainage problems. There are Council guidelines with regard to the building on hillsides in new developments.*
- It was noted that people will make the comment why should we make changes towards climate change when we do not see the Government doing anything. *We need to engage the local community first. Council do have a voice in Central Government but our core focus is around raising awareness and having appropriate infrastructure in place. The way we can make the most change is with the Wellington community.*
- OXFAM are working at grass roots level as well as at the Government level and Copenhagen.
- It was suggested that one big event is organised with all the Pacific communities where people could break up into groups to brainstorm ideas. If Council can pay for the venue and catering PAG members will make sure that people turn up. This would be a good way for Council to get the word out to the community. **Action:** Zach and Marie to work on organising this event.
- Sarah said that OXFAM would like to do more but do not have the people resources in Wellington but they do have resources that can be taken out to the community.
- Ideas for the Climate Change Workshop included:
 - Look at getting a DVD from each Island Nation so it is relevant to each community. (It was decided that it was best to concentrate on changes in New Zealand first. There would be possible actions coming out of the workshop that can be taken further).
 - Organise a press release to make sure the event is successful – possibly have a feature article in the Our Wellington Page.
 - Questions to be asked – how do we understand what is happening – what can we do?
 - Need to have a youth element.
 - This would be a good opportunity to work on a collaborative approach with the UNICEF initiative “Beating the Drum”. **Action:** Tina McNicholas to look into this.
 - Have a simplification of the explanation of the Emissions Trading Scheme to present to the workshop around “Why is it affecting my pocket?”
 - Invite Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment, to attend the community meeting.
 - Have this community meeting before the Pacific Forum in September.

- Where is the Emissions Tax going? *All countries that agreed to the target of 1990 level of emissions by 2012 need to meet that target. Every single emission produced is supposed to have a \$1.00 amount attached and all producers of emissions have to pay the Government. If we are above the line then we have to pay the United Nations for the amount that we are over and if we are below then they have to pay us.*
- Does the forestry in New Zealand not give enough credits? *We are currently cutting down forests for farming.*
- People do not know where the money is going to through the Emissions Trading Scheme and will ask if super powers are not doing their bit why should we? *Maybe we could use examples, ie, the Hutt River, to show people that what they has actions and consequences. We could also point out that without having something in place we will have difficulty in achieving our goals, ie, like switching the way we provide power.*

Address from Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon

- Council confirmed the Annual Plan at their meeting on Friday, 18 June. The budget has been set for next year with a rates increase that is slightly higher than anticipated at 4-5% but most other council's have set their rates increase at 8-13%. There are also some new initiatives in the Annual Plan. Council have debated the liquor issue and it is the decision of Council that the ban should not be city wide but will be extended to Mt Cook and Newtown as Council do not want to regulate people unnecessarily. Council have also been debating the water issue. With the population growing Wellington are heading towards having a water problem. Council do not want to install water meters but it has been proven in Auckland that households use about ¼ less water with meters installed. Eventually a new dam will have to be built in Wellington. The elections are being held on 9 October and Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon said that he is happy to talk with anyone who wants to put their name forward. He also said that he will be standing for one more term.

Questions & Comments:

- It was noted that 95% of problems with alcohol in the city are in Courtenay Place. During the RWC how will the alcohol ban be affected, will there be exemptions at this time? *Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon said that Courtenay Place will be the World Cup party area. It is predicted that the city could earn between \$40-50 million. Martin Sneddon said that Wellington City is the best organised and advanced their organising. Council are hoping that people will want to come back and stay in Wellington while they are in New Zealand and not just when the games are on.*
- Four world rugby cup teams will be based in the Wellington area and the Tongan and Fijian teams are here for a week. **(This information needs to be confirmed)**. PAG members said that they would like to have a function with the Pacific Island teams.

- **Action:** It was suggested that Derek Fry be invited to the next PAG meeting on 21 July. It would also be good to look at finding out about funding applications for grants with regard to hold events during the RWC.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were moved as a correct record by Malakai Jiko and seconded by Manea Allan-Moetaua.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Have the stallholders been paid? *Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she has requested a full list of who has been paid from Events. Some groups may not have been paid because their paperwork has not been sent in. Action:* Marie will follow this up.
- What has happened about the payment for the church hall? *Marie Retimanu-Pule and Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon will work on this. How much will be paid – suggest a possible gift of \$1,000. Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon said that all the money has been allocated for the Festival from the budget and trying to find extra money is always a challenge.*
- Could Council arrange insurance for cancelled events? *Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon said that the weather is too unpredictable in Wellington and the premiums would be too high. Council are self insured to \$100,000. It was suggested that it would be good to have a contingency fund included in the budget.*
- It was suggested that it would be a good idea to have information included about the lessons learnt from this year for future festivals. *Marie Retimanu-Pule said that these have been minuted and included with documents that will be passed onto the Events team.*
- It was suggested that maybe the present PAG members have another three year term as it is good to have this roll over and experience.
- What has happened about the community garden? *Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she is waiting for Malakai Jiko and Mafi Katoa to get back to her. Malakai said that they will get back to Marie after their community meeting.*

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she attended the launch of the “Findings of Pacific Heritage Arts” that was funded by Creative New Zealand. Pacific Heritage Arts would be a good theme for the Forum in September. Marie noted that Pacific and Maori arts are not visible on the streets and there was a

lot of interest in this subject from stakeholders. PAG members agreed to this theme for the next Forum. **Action:** Marie will try to get copies of the above noted publication for PAG members.

- Marie Retimanu-Pule tabled the information on the Census Community Liaison vacancies from Statistics New Zealand for PAG members to take out to their communities.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule tabled the information on the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards and encouraged PAG members to talk to their communities about nominating their community groups.
- Kolovula Murphy tabled their Tongan community group report.
- Brenda Cottingham said that it would be a good idea to have a Pacific corner in the libraries with Pacific books in different Pacific languages. Phoebe Velova'a said that the libraries do have these facilities. PAG members should make their communities aware that these books are available in the libraries.
- Malakai Jiko noted that the Fijian community are holding a youth forum on 1 July at Zeal.
- Brenda Cottingham noted problems with the ramp at the Tawa Railway station being too slippery. Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon said to send an email to him about this problem and he would forward this onto the Regional Council.
- Brenda Cottingham queried why the beehives were not at the Makara Cemetery anymore. Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon said to send him an email about this and he would follow it up.
- Mailigi Hetutu is unavailable to attend the next PAG meeting and handed in her apologies.

Closing Prayer:

- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako

Next Meeting: 21 July 2010

Meeting Closed: 7:50pm