

**Minutes for the meeting held 11th September 2013
(6.00pm – 8.20pm)**

Venue: Te Mahanga Committee Room 1, Council offices, Wakefield Street
Present: Violet Ekenasio, Mailingi Hetutu, Dan Kauraka, Tina McNicholas (Chair), Sainimili Pouvalu, Maria Solouota, Siofilisi Taifo'ou, Fetu Tamapeau, Anthony Leaupepe
Council Officer: Joanne Maraki

Welcome: Tina McNicholas

Opening prayer – Siofilisi Taifo'ou,

Apologies: Cllr Ian McKinnon, Cllr Paul Eagle, Cllr Leonie Gill, Stacey Kokaua – Balfour, Manuila Tausi, Martha Smasoni, Teloma Munro

Minutes for last meeting

Minutes for the meeting held 14th August 2013 accepted as a true and correct record with minor amendments.

Matters Arising

- Annual Report: This is finalised with a recommendation to Council's Strategic and Policy committee to develop an Action Plan/Cultural responsiveness guide to support Council staff engagement with Pacifica communities
- Living Wage: PAG request the Fact sheet and information to be provided following on from the oral presentation provided at the previous meeting. Officer Joanne Maraki responded that Council are still gathering information and data regarding impacts and do not have confirmed information available at this stage (see action items)
- Pacifica Festival: Please see Agenda item.

Councillor Update

No Councillor updates at this meeting

Mayoral Forum (Pacific)

Date set and agreed for 13th November.

PAG agree to host the Forum at the following Venue – St Giles Church Kilbernie

PAG does not agree to the proposed topic and prefers topic and structure to be workshop style.

PAG recommends the following topics:

1. Grants and Submission writing
2. Emergency Preparation
3. Community Education – Road to Council (as elected representatives)

Recommendation to use Radio and seeking clarification of PAG's promotional budget.

Pacific Festival

PAG are disappointed that there has been no follow up, no summary and no other subcommittee meetings organised since the first one. PAG is also disappointed in respect to process and contributions from PAG to this event. Last year PAG was more involved and a part of the recruitment process including being on the recruitment panel.

Officer Joanne Maraki confirmed that the events team are presently recruiting a Coordinator to manage this alongside other events and do see the festival as a priority and of value to Council and the city.

PAG would like to note that the gains that have been made in the past in respect to PAG involvement on behalf of Pacific communities have not been sustained and they have to start again. (see action items) PAG agrees that planning is left too late and would like to see Council staff treat this as a priority especially in respect to gaining sponsorship and resources for the event. PAG would like to see that the coordinator employed can demonstrate cultural competency.

Review of Reference Advisory Groups

Officer Joanne Maraki reported that Council will be undertaking a review of all Reference Advisory Groups to:

1. identify strengths to grow effectiveness
2. identify areas for improvements to ensure that the value of the groups are aligned to Council's aims and objectives

This activity is part of a wider review of Councils engagement practice and mechanisms as part of the recent refresh of Councils Engagement Policy and current Improvement Plan.

PAG expressed concerns regarding changes to structure and the differences PAG has noted and experienced in terms of process, resourcing, and administration for the past year. This includes management of the Pacifica Festival and the Mayoral Forum.

PAG also provided feedback regarding the evaluation of the Alcohol Management Strategy. There were mixed results with some PAG members reporting back that their experience liaising with the evaluator was positive and beneficial. Others felt it was not clear what she was trying to achieve and what mandate she had to directly contact members of the Group, especially in respect to individual community participation.

Officer Joanne Maraki assured the meeting that all members had the choice to opt in or not participate in this evaluation and will have the same option in the review of Reference Groups. Joanne sent an invitation to all members providing the option to participate at their discretion. Chairperson Tina McNicholas confirmed that she suggested the evaluator contact other members to access participants involved in the Alcohol Management Strategy (Forum).

Community updates

Nuie

- Pacific Health radio programme reports 12% listeners
- Language Week 16 – 23rd September
- Miramar Central School is delivering a whole school learning programme about the Pacific
- Police headquarters have been relocated and have desks to give away. Please contact

Maria if anyone is interested.

Tonga

- Tongan Language Week 1st – 7th September. Theme: Enriching Aotearoa with Tongan language, culture, and music. Celebration opened by Mayor Celia Wade-Brown. Launched a Poster to mark 1st year anniversary. This event (launch) was attended by Minister for Pacific Island Affairs Hekia Parata
- Wesley Women's Group have started a walking group around Aotea Lagoon
- Tongan Youth Expo was successful. Held at Well Tech.

Cook Islands

- Language week was a success with many events and activities

Samoa

- Provided feedback regarding the evaluation of Alcohol Strategy and requests follow – up (please see action items)
- Request for meeting with Funding team to discuss grants and funding processes (see action items)
- Rongotai College study centre for Pacific Island students has extended to accommodate primary school students
- Facebook page has been updated with photos (The Chair Tina McNicholas acknowledges Violet and Fetu's commitment to update and monitor the PAG Facebook page).
- Fetu recently returned from Samoa where she was involved in initiatives to raise funds towards Samoa Cyclone recovery
- Fetu also attended a Patchwork hui that explored gender issues from a Pacific perspective which was positive
- Fetu participated in a 'Queer Song Contest' which was also positive

Fiji

- A reminder that the very first inaugural Fiji Language Week will be launched 7th – 13th October.

Actions

1. PAG request that the Living Wage be highlighted as a rolling agenda item with updates from Council officers as this is an issue of significance to Pacific Communities
2. Pacifica Festival
 - a) PAG have requested that their disappointment in respect to the way the Pacific Festival is being managed is formally noted in the minutes.
 - b) PAG would like to know why they are not included in the recruitment process this year.
 - c) PAG would like to draft a formal letter of complaint to the CEO and request Officer Joanne Maraki to draft their concerns expressed in this meeting and forward these to the Chair for action.
 - d) PAG requests participation in the recruitment process including participating on the interview panel.
3. Pacific Forum
 - a) Request confirmation of Promotional Budget for the Forum

- b) Feedback that the proposed Topic and current structure for the Forum is not an effective activity for engagement with Pacific Island communities
 - c) PAG agree that workshop style activities covering the topics above are preferred.
 - d) PAG recommends Grants and Submission workshops to be organised for the Forum.
4. Review
- a) PAG request the Evaluator of the Alcohol Management Strategy to attend the next meeting to present findings and outcomes.
 - b) PAG request a presentation from Officer Joanne Maraki after the review of reference groups to show the impact on PAG before and after Council's reconfiguration of their Consultation and Engagement Team.
5. Funding and Grant submissions
- a) Anthony Leaupepe (Samoa representative) requests Officer Joanne Maraki to ask a member of Councils funding team to contact Anthony to organise meetings with the Samoa community about the processes and criteria provided to sports clubs by Council.

Closing and final prayer

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Next PAG Meeting: Wednesday 9th October 2013 - 6pm

Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Wakefield Street