

Minutes for the meeting held 10 December 2014

(6.pm – 8. pm)

- Venue:** Committee Room 2, Council offices, Wakefield Street
- Present:** Sai Lealea (Fiji & Chairperson), Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Samoa), Anthony Leaupepe (Samoa), Siofilisi Taufou'ou (Tonga), Alapeta Faletau (Tonga), Alvin Mitikulena (Niue), Herbert Bartley (Tokelau), Silika Kofe-Pouofenua (Tuvalu), Merio Marsters (Cook Islands), Kimi Higginson (Cook Islands), Councillor Sarah Free and Councillor Eagle.
- Officers:** Martin Rodgers (Project Support Advisor) and Suzanne Tamaki (Events Co-ordinator).
- Apologies:** Ledua Taucilagi (Fiji), Sharon Samasoni (Tokelau), Meremine Taiaopo Auelua (Samoa) and Nicole Rex (Niue).
-

Welcome and opening prayer:

Sai welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged that it was the end of the group's first year together.

Alapeta Faletau gave the opening prayer.

Minutes for last meeting and matters arising:

The minutes as circulated were agreed. As promised at the last meeting, Martin provided a document outlining the activities of Oxfam in Tonga following Cyclone Ian.

Members asked for an update on the Pasifika Community Patrol, the move towards a 'super city' and whether an inorganic waste collection might be instituted across the city. Councillors said that they would cover these off in their updates.

Councillor Update:

Councillor Free wished everyone a Merry Christmas and acknowledged how the group was coming together. She has been attending school prize givings in the Eastern & Southern Wards and has been impressed by the number of Pasifika students receiving awards. Work has been progressing with the Council's long-term plan which is proposed to not include any cuts to services but include investment in economic projects. There is an intension to keep progressing the Living Wage by bringing the Zoo and Museums Trust onboard. There are efforts being made to get the Council's cleaners covered. She would follow up on the question of an inorganic waste collection service, which had been discussed at Council recently.

Councillor Eagle also extended Christmas greetings and blessings to the group. He reported back on the meeting about Pasifika patrollers noting that there was robust debate with a discussion around resourcing and the service coming under Community Patrol NZ. The service is to be launched at the Pasifika Festival in January. Councillor Eagle also summarised the key features of the amalgamation proposal that was recently announced by the Local Government Commission. People can make

submissions on the proposal until 2 March 2015. It was agreed that a presentation to PAG on the proposal will be arranged for February. This Friday is the last day for submissions on Council's policy on 'legal highs'. Members are encouraged to make an individual submission.

Budgeting services for Pacific Peoples:

Geoff Curson from the Newtown Budgeting & Advocacy Service presented on budgeting services for Pacific Peoples. He was supported by Ollie Seumanufagai from the Salvation Army Hope Centre. Geoff circulated a list of issues and situations Pacific people face, including the use of high interest finance companies. He said these situations were not unique to Pacific communities, but proposed to PAG that these issues could be talked about within their communities as a way of reducing the chances of people getting into difficult financial situations.

In response, members noted that it can be difficult to talk about such issues within their communities. There was a desire to promote budgeting services and encourage people to contact them early. Geoff said that he would be happy to come and speak to groups. It was also suggested that the services could be profiled at the Forum next year. The Chair offered the group as a contact point for Geoff and that members may be able to assist with the translation of information or in other ways. He thanked Geoff and Ollie for their presence at the meeting.

At this point, Leina Isno joined the meeting from the Melanesian community.

Problem Gambling:

Fuaillelagi Samoa Saleupolu Heger, a Practice Leader with the Problem Gambling Foundation introduced their work with Pacific communities. Their services include a counselling service for both gamblers and those impacted by it, health promotion tailored to each community, resources (examples of which were circulated to all members) and advocacy, for example encouraging people to participate in political processes. In terms of this last point, submissions are currently open on the Gambling Amendment Bill (No 3) and are due by 30 January 2015.

For more information see: http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/sc/make-submission/51SCGA_SCF_00DBHOH_BILL13194_1/gambling-amendment-bill-no-3

It was again suggested that the services could be profiled at the Forum next year. The Chair thanked Fuaillelagi and offered the group as a contact point.

The Chair also formally acknowledged and welcomed Leina's participation in the meeting.

Pasifika Festival:

Suzanne Tamaki ran through the list of stallholders and the layout of the event. She also ran through the proposed programme to check that there were no issues around timing etc. She asked members to get back to her by the end of next week.

It was agreed that PAG would meet on 14 January to finalise their involvement in the festival. The idea of having a launch event in January before the festival was discussed. It was agreed that there was not sufficient time to organise such an event well but that this should be looked at ahead of next year's event. Similarly, there was a discussion around the idea of a combined church service being held in connection with the festival. It was recognised that this is a good idea but that it would also involve substantial organising and should also be planned well in advance next year.

It was agreed that there should be something to clearly identify PAG members at the festival. The meeting was also informed that a decision has been made not to include any political party as stallholders at the festival.

Social Housing Rental Policy Review:

The papers from the committee meeting where the policy review was discussed have been circulated. Martin also tabled the requested information on the numbers of Pacific people within the Council's housing community.

Submissions on the first phase of consultation close on 27 March 2015. It was agreed that a dedicated session on the topic should be held in the New Year. Members are asked to read the discussion document in the papers and then come to the session prepared to discuss the issues and possible solutions.

Community updates:

Niue:

- There is fundraising underway for a village that is celebrating its 50th Jubilee.
- The television programme *Radar in the Pacific* had a nice 20 minute segment on Niue recently.

Cook Islands

- The language classes have finished for the year.
- Visits to the elderly at their homes or in rest homes will take place this weekend.

Tonga:

- Alepeta will be performing songs and telling stories at rest homes in the coming weeks.
- The homework centre is finishing for the year next Monday and continues to attract children.
- The Tongan Council of Leaders is in negotiation around Pacific Futures funding.

Tuvalu

- A farewell is being held for a popular minister who is being moved to a new church.

Fiji:

- Lots of community gatherings are taking place this time of year and caution is being expressed around the laying of umu etc.

Melanesian communities:

- Leina informed the group that Dr Pala Molisa graduated with a PhD in Accounting which is a great cause for celebration within the Vanuatu community.
- A consulate service has just been established for the Solomon Islands in New Zealand.
- Groups from the community are looking forward to participating in the Pasifika Festival.

Samoa:

- Anthony participated in the Multi-cultural Council of Wellington meeting and noted that they have a promotional flyer, which he feels PAG should have too.
- Social housing is a big issue within the community. Matters identified at a recent meeting are being followed up with Council. It will be important to have input into the policy review.
- There is a proposal to establish a Pacific Living Wage advocacy group.
- Ida attended the Pasifika Patrol meeting. She acknowledged Cr Eagle's role as chair of the meeting and said that it would have been good if more PAG members had attended.

Tokelau:

- The Chop Suey Hui held recently about indigenous culture went very well. The next session will be on 'women in the arts'.
- Participation in the Pasifika Festival is also being promoted within the community.

Sai thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting and acknowledged the achievements of the group so far. He also acknowledged Leina and expressed the group's desire to continue having participation from the Melanesian and Micronesian communities. He also acknowledged the contribution of Councillors Free and Eagle to the work of the group and also to Martin. He wished everyone a happy and safe Christmas.

The meeting closed with a prayer from Siofilisi.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Wednesday 14 January 2015.