

Minutes for the meeting held 14 January 2015

(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 – apologies for lateness), Siofilisi Tafo'ou (Tonga – apologies for lateness), Alapeta Faletau (Tonga), Ledua Taucilagi (Fiji), Alvin Mitikulena (Niue), Herbert Bartley (Tokelau), Merio Marsters (Cook Islands), Kimi Higginson (Cook Islands), Nicole Rex (Niue), Councillor Sarah Free and Councillor Eagle.

Leina Isno was in attendance from the Vanuatu community.

Officers: Martin Rodgers (Project Support Advisor) and Suzanne Tamaki (Events Co-ordinator).

Apologies: Silika Kofe-Pouofenua (Tuvalu), Sharon Samasoni (Tokelau) and Meremine Taiaopo Auelua (Samoa).

Welcome and opening prayer:

Sai welcomed everyone to the meeting. Alapeta Faletau gave the opening prayer.

The Chair reminded members about the attendance requirements in the group's terms of reference. He asked people to inform the Chair and Council Liaison Officer if they will be absent or late. He also proposed, given the group has been together for six months, that they reflect on their performance against the terms of reference. As Chair, he is proposing to meet with members individually to get their thoughts on this.

Minutes for last meeting and matters arising:

The minutes as circulated were agreed with one change. Meremine Taiaopo Auelua would be added to the list of members who provided their apologies.

Councillor Update:

The Councillors noted that:

- it was disappointing that the conference centre was not proceeding on the announced site
- Reverend Tom Etuata received a Queens Service Medal in the New Year's Honours List for services to the Pacific community
- workshops on the Council's Long-term Plan commence on 28 January
- Winnie Laban had raised the Pacific Fale with Cr Eagle, saying that while Victoria University has identified a site for one on Kelburn Parade, she thinks a more prominent location within the city should be found.

In response, the Chair encouraged communities to nominate Pasifika people for civic honours with nomination forms available from local MPs.

Pasifika Festival:

Suzanne Tamaki circulated the confirmed programme. She requested assistance from members to identify two ministers to participate in the opening of the Festival.

In terms of the role of PAG members on the day of the Festival, it was agreed that:

- all members would be on stage for the official opening of the event
- the Chair would speak for 5 minutes and introduce the members individually
- lanyards would be provided so that PAG members could be identified by their communities at the event.

Members sought clarification on some practical aspects of having a stall and the operation of the event.

A concern was raised about Niu FM not being able to have a visible presence at the Festival. Suzanne explained that the network had made a commercial proposal to Council, which was less favourable than a proposal that was accepted from another network, which promoted all the Summer City events including Pasifika. She emphasised that the Niu FM could still attend and report from the event, but that it could not profile itself commercially.

Nicole said that the group had signalled its desire early on to involve Niu FM in the event and that negotiations with the network had not occurred properly. The Chair recognised Council's imperative around achieving value for money but felt it was a missed opportunity to involve the Pacific Radio Network, which enabled communication with the different Pacific communities in their own voice. It was agreed that a discussion will take place after the Festival on the involvement of the Pacific Radio Network with future Pasifika festivals.

Other members commented on the issue saying:

- there is a desire to grow the festival and have it improve each year
- this should happen with a clear understanding of the purpose of the event and its target audience
- Pacific media should be used and funded to promote Pasifika and other Pacific events

It was agreed that the above questions and issues should be addressed after the festival.

Social Housing Service Policy Review:

An updated discussion document had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The first phase of consultation opens on 15 January and runs until 5.00pm on 27 March 2015.

Information on the policy and how people can have a say can be found at:

<http://wellington.govt.nz/have-your-say/public-inputs/feedback/open/social-housing-service-policy-review>

Members broke into groups to identify key issues facing Pacific communities and potential responses. These included:

- Pasifika communities facing some unique, particularly health-related, issues which mean that they should be a priority group for support

- rent affordability issues, which could be addressed through changes to policies that set rent levels and subsidies
- cultural issues around the nature and appropriateness of housing stock
- pathways to home ownership, which could be addressed through changing the mind-set within Pasifika communities and the types of assistance available
- the lack of alignment between central and local government policies and criteria
- confusing and ongoing processes to review eligibility and rents paid by individual households
- the location of housing
- fear and other emotional responses to housing situations.

Members requested that Council staff attend the next meeting to inform a further discussion on the above. It was also suggested that a Pacific tenant and or central government official could participate in the next discussion as well.

Members were asked to discuss the above with their communities and encourage them to participate in the review.

Community updates:

Due to time constraints, the Chair asked members to briefly provide an update on any priority issues from their communities.

Alvin informed the members that he had participated in a meeting on a new suicide prevention initiative and that he would provide updates on as it progressed.

Anthony noted that there are ongoing meetings taking place with Council's City Housing team to address issues that have been raised by Pacific tenants.

Herbert said that the theatre company bringing the show *Brave to Wellington* would like to invite some senior people from the Pacific community to the opening night on 18 February at the Hannah Playhouse (cnr Courtenay Place and Cambridge Terrace). He asked members to recommend the names of people that he could pass on to the company.

The meeting closed with a prayer from Siofilisi.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Wednesday 14 March 2015.