

## **WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting** **8 September 2010**

#### *Present:*

1. Jack Marshall
2. Helen Yu
3. Stevenson Pule
4. Ben Ogilvie
5. Zared Wall-Manning
6. James Wall-Manning
7. Ruth Corkill
8. Kieran Meredith
9. Harriet Weststrate
10. Amanda Jones
  
11. Georgie Rhoades

#### *Apologies:*

- James Butchers, Emily Murphy, Elesha Edmonds, Susanna Larken, Katja Heesterman, Paul Meuli, Nigel Smith

#### *Welcome:*

- Georgie welcomed everyone to the meeting in place of the Chairs.

#### *Minutes of the Previous Meeting:*

- The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 August 2010 were moved as correct by Ruth and seconded by Jack. All agreed.
- There were no matters arising from these Minutes.

#### *General Business:*

- Kieran and James attended the Link/BGI event. This meeting was to discuss making Wellington a better place for young people. The main question discussed was “what is good for Wellington youth – what is bad?”. This meeting was a good way to build a relationship with Link and the Youth Council. The next step following on from this meeting will be to put together everything discussed at this meeting and include this in a booklet. Link are also looking at conducting another survey

that will be ready by the end of the year. Youth Council members said that they would like to contribute to the questions in this survey.

- Ruth reported back on the Youth Cultural Diversity Forum that was recently held in Christchurch. This forum discussed issues of cultural discrimination, The Treaty, Declaration of Human Rights and what diversity was in general.

### *Lisa Matthews - Social Media:*

- Lisa explained her role at Council working with Council Officers to improve Council's engagement process. In particular she is looking at social media as a consultation tool. At present there is no infrastructure in Council around social media with Council currently having 12 facebook sites. The Consultation Team are looking at guidelines around what to put on facebook pages. She then asked Youth Council what their facebook page is about and what the purpose of the page is. Ideas from Youth Council:
  - Communication – our page
  - Way to get information out to youth
  - Information about other happenings around Wellington to a youth audience
  - Way to freely communicate with youth
  - Open and free communication without restriction
  - Ask for consultation from youth
  - Gather opinion outside normal Council processes
  - Makes it easier without having to follow processes for the formal consultation process
  - Youth Council also asked the question – “why do we not have our own website?”.
  - What is the role of Youth Council? – youth face to Council possibly passing information on through Youth Council methods; efficient way to distribute information to a wide range of people – quick, easy and concise.
  - Mechanism to communicate with youth about issues that are affecting them and provide an avenue to provide feedback in a non formal and confrontational manner.
- Lisa noted that comments on the facebook page become part of a formal submission because you have asked “what do you think”. These comments become part of the acts around public information. The Consultation Team are working on a social media strategy for Council.
- If Youth Council pose the following “we are as Youth Council making a submission and want to know what you think” how would this work?

Youth Council members said that the reason for asking questions this way was to try and avoid formal processes and this is why they used facebook. Lisa said that all this information/comments needs to be scanned into the system so that this becomes part of Council information. Facebook can be used as one portal of gathering information and comments should be printed to attach to submissions. The question was raised about people deleting their comments and what happens then. Lisa said that she would look into this.

- Lisa said that Youth Council need to be posting on a more regular basis. Youth Council members said that they would like to invite Council business units to Youth Council meetings to give updates about what is happening in Council. It would be good to have the RWC team also give an update. Georgie suggested that she uses the Council's staff intranet to ask business units if they need a youth opinion on Council issues.
- Lisa asked if the Youth Council facebook site has a peer review process. Youth Council members said that they peer review through their group page and they also talk about possible postings at Youth Council meetings.
- Youth Council members said that it would be a good idea for them to look into the facebook terms and conditions as they felt uncomfortable about picking and choosing deletions. They also said that they would discuss the guidelines further at the next Youth Council meeting.

### *Councillor Wade-Brown - Elections:*

- Councillor Wade-Brown noted that 20 August 2010 is the cut off date for electoral enrolments. You can still enrol up to the day of the election but would need to cast a special vote. Evolve and other youth workers are organising an enrol to vote session for anyone that is interested.

### *Climate Change Action Plan:*

- 350° are an international climate change organisation pushing for international climate change schemes. They are trying to get world leaders to put solar panels on Government buildings. This group would like to attend a Youth Council meeting. Youth Council could look at the possibility of holding a climate change forum for youth. It would also be good to look at what practical things Youth Council can do. It was agreed to invite 350° to attend a Youth Council meeting.

### *General Business:*

- Councillor Wain asked if Youth Council members had any questions about the recent Council meeting that they attended. She went through the processes around what was discussed, etc. If anyone has any questions about Council voting then they should contact Ross Bly. She noted that Council is quiet at the moment due to the upcoming elections.
- **Meetings** – The question was asked whether Youth Council should have monthly meetings from September. It was agreed that Youth Council would meet again in two week's time and readdress this issue at this meeting.
- **Terms of Reference** – Youth Council members asked what the timeline was for the ToR review. Georgie said that the information was being collated, the team are doing some more research and the draft ToR would be sent through late September and a report would be written after the draft has been finalised. It was agreed that Aroha Rangi be invited to attend the next meeting or the one after to give a brief update. There is some concern that there will not be sufficient time to look at the draft ToR and discuss changes.

**Next Meeting:** 22 September 2010