

Record of Meeting: Youth Council

Venue Committee Room 2, 101 Wakefield Street, Wellington
When 4-5.30 pm, 30 May 2012

Present

Members: Ben Ogilvie, Bing-Ling Lou, Brittany Trilford, Brydon Sundgren, Cameron Oldfield, Duncan Armstrong, Jack Marshall, James Wall-Manning, Lily Simmons-Donaldson, Morgan Watkins, Roma Simmons-Donaldson, Ruth Corkill, Stevenson Pule, Therese Kyne and Zoe Doole

Councillor: Cr Simon Marsh

Officers: Rekha Jatav, Elise Webster

Minutes

1. Opening

James welcomed the group.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Zared Wall-Manning, Ani-Piki Tuari, Edgardo Reyes and Simon Wright. Therese Kyne and Ruth Corkill apologised for leaving early. Cr Marsh apologised for arriving late and leaving early.

3. What's on top

This regular agenda item was not discussed.

4. Previous minutes and matters arising

Bing passed the minutes. Jack seconded the motion.

5. Portfolio/Forward Programme

Jack reported that the Draft Community Leases Policy review will take place in June. Councillor Marsh noted a report on smoke-free playgrounds is going to the Strategy and Policy Committee (SPC) next week and that this could be of interest to Youth Council. He also noted that 2,500 submissions had been received on the draft Long Term Plan (LTP). James asked whether an officer could brief YC about the smoke-free playgrounds work at the next meeting.

6. General Business

Regional Governance (Elise Webster)

Elise Webster spoke to Youth Council members about regional governance and about the Council's consultation which runs from 16 May - 29 June 2012. In the consultation document, the Council has provided four options as discussion starters. She gave two examples. Auckland Council was created after an extensive process and legislation. Tasman District Council and Nelson City did not amalgamate because not enough people agreed to the change when it was put to referendum.

Elise mentioned that the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill is now in

Parliament. This bill aims to implement the Government's agenda regarding the reform of local government.

Youth Council members had wide ranging questions such as:

1. What are the issues, pros and cons of amalgamating?
2. What is the problem with current system?
3. Why do we have option 2 and 3 if the argument is to combine Councils and save cost?
4. Are there broader enquiries on the role of Local government by the Central Government?
5. How does the amalgamation impact advisory groups like Youth Council?
6. Will WCC submit on the Local Government Bill? When should the Youth Council submit so that their comments can be incorporated into the WCC submission?

Elise suggested that Youth Council should include all these comments in their submission. She mentioned that there is plenty of time for Youth Council to make its submission and that their input would be received before WCC makes its submission on the Local Government Bill.

A working group party comprising Jack, Ben, Morgan, Lily, Zoe, Zared and Bing was formed to work on Regional Governance submission.

Ben had met with Elise regarding regional governance prior to this meeting. Ben, Jack and Morgan have put together some comments on Regional Governance. James thanked them for their comments. Ben will send a summary of comments to Simon, who will email everyone.

There was a discussion about how regional governance changes could affect advisory groups. One person thought that the amalgamation of councils in Auckland had been 'mis-managed' from the perspective of youth councils. Each youth council sending representatives to an amalgamated youth council had not worked.

Zoe suggested talking with other youth councils in the Wellington region to find out about how they feel about possible changes.

Councillor Marsh commented that WCC has talked to people in Kapiti. There is a survey taking place as well as the consultation process.

Ratify Events Policy submission

Bing told members that the written submission has been submitted and copies were circulated. Bing requested if anyone had any further comments, they should let the working group know as they prepare to make an oral submission. Bing mentioned that Zared wanted to do an oral submission. Zoe clarified that members of the working group party will be contacted closer to oral hearing submission time and whoever can make it would go. James thanked the working group and Bing received a round of applause for her leadership.

Review of Long Term Plan submission

Zoe briefed members about the YC LTP oral submission, which was made immediately before this meeting. The oral submission went well and Councillors seemed

enthusiastic. Ben, Ruth and staff from Consultation and Engagement team, and the Treaty Relations team were there to support the submitters. YC discussed the issue of youth suicide, which had been raised by Cr Eagle, and decided to invite relevant Councillors to a meeting to discuss this further.

Councillor Marsh congratulated Youth Council for doing an oral submission. He suggested that submitters should work on being more direct about what the Youth Council wants and what it thinks the WCC should do.

James thanked the LTP working group for their hard work.

Conflicts of Interest

James briefed members about conflicts of interest. Members need to fill in the conflict of interest form. He also advised that youth councillors are responsible for declaring any conflicts of interests that they may have. These should be declared at the beginning of the meeting, based on business on the agenda. If a conflict arises during a meeting, Youth Councillors should raise it then.

Youth Council dinner, after meeting on 13 June

James asked YC members if this date works for them. Morgan, Lily and Ruth can't attend the dinner. James suggested that we reschedule so everyone can make it. Members should let him know if anyone has any special dietary requirements.

James met with Richard McLean, Council spokesperson who wanted to raise the Youth Council profile. James mentioned that a Youth Council group photograph will be taken after the meeting by a Council photographer.

National Youth Diversity Forum – August 2012 Auckland

James spoke about the forum and mentioned that there is budget to send two Youth Council members. James expressed his interest and asked if anyone else was keen. Ruth, Roma and Brittany expressed interest and Roma will check her availability on the dates and confirm.

Other items

Brittany apologised in advance as she will miss the next few meetings while she is in Washington D.C.

Zoe and James have requested for an update on the potential collaboration with the BGI. Simon will report back.

6. Closing

The meeting formally closed at 5:20pm. The next meeting is on 13 June 2012 in Committee Room 2.

Action Summary

1. James to reschedule another date for YC dinner.
2. Roma to let James know if she can attend National Youth Diversity Forum in August.

3. Rekha to email conflict of interest form to YC members.
4. Simon to provide an update on B.G.I to YC members.
5. Simon to email Ben's summary of comments on Regional Governance to everyone.
6. Zoe to get in touch with Paul Eagle to find out his goals around exploring youth suicide issues.