

Record of Meeting: Youth Council

Venue Committee Room 2, 101 Wakefield Street, Wellington

When 4-5.30 pm, 19 September 2012

Present

Members: Bing Ying-Lou, Cameron Oldfield, Devon Robinson, Edgardo Reyes, Jack Marshall, Lily Simmons-Donaldson, Morgan Watkins and Zoe Doole.

Councillor: Cr Simon Marsh

Officers: Rekha Jatav, Mark Jones.

Guests: Jason Paul from WREMO and Mayor Celia Wade-Brown.

Minutes

1. Opening

Zoe welcomed the group. Note: There was no quorum at this meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Brittany Trilford, Brydon Sundgren, James Wall-Manning, Roma Simmons-Donaldson, Stevenson Pule, Zared Wall-Manning and Simon Wright. Edgardo Reyes apologised for arriving late.

3. What's on top

Members reported a diverse range of 'what's on top' activities including getting a driver's license, working, keeping healthy, finishing internal assessments, attending a conference in Australia, going to movies, working on university papers and family matters.

4. Conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5. Previous minutes and matters arising

This item was deferred due to the lack of a quorum.

6. Portfolios/Forward Programme

Morgan informed members that he had met with Councillor Jo Coughlan a fortnight ago at a meeting. Councillor Coughlan holds the Economy portfolio and it would be useful to invite her to Youth Council meeting to talk on her portfolio.

7. General Business

Regional governance submission to independent panel

Bing tabled a draft regional governance submission for the independent panel and members provided responses to the panel's six questions on local governance and development in Wellington region, that is, on Wellington as a super city, local government elections, Maori representation, principles for local government and local democracy, effectiveness and efficiency.

Bing will incorporate these responses into the draft submission on Drop Box and seek ratification on Loomio. Zoe thanked Bing and YC members for their input.

Mark Jones, Review of last weeks Open Spaces Strategy work

Mark gave a brief overview of the review of Open Spaces Strategy and reported back on 1-10775203-Youth_Council_minutes_190912.doc

the findings of the interactive session at the YC meeting of 19 September. He pointed out that good ideas came out of the group work and that YC members valued diverse open spaces where a number of activities can be done. The highlights included an adult size playground, better seating, shelter and integration of open spaces, and a list of open spaces in Wellington. One member asked whether community gardens included in the open spaces framework and if space was available to start community gardens.

Mark informed members that we will hold another session in two weeks time on 17 October when we will prioritise what is important. He requested members to take the same set of questions to their friends and family and get some more feedback.

Zoe thanked Mark for his feedback and suggested that we put this set of questions on Youth Council Facebook page.

Action:

- Mark Jones to hold another session on Open Spaces Strategy review to prioritise work at the Youth Council meeting of 17 October.
- Bing to post questions from the interactive session on review of Open Spaces Strategy on Facebook page.

Jason Paul, WREMO, Youth and Emergency Management

Jason informed members about the purpose of WREMO, which is to build people's capacity in emergency situations. The goal is to foster cooperation within community, increase connectedness and enable channels of communication. He informed members that twenty people work across the region.

Jason informed YC members that Jack is the youngest volunteer at WREMO. Jason expressed keen interest in using Youth networks to spread his message on emergency preparedness into everyday activities. He spoke about Shakeout NZ on 26 Sept. and requested everyone to sign up. One member said that their entire school had signed up for Shakeout NZ.

One member pointed out that young people in flats, university campus and those separated from family don't come to know about these kind of initiatives. Is there anything in place for these young people? Jason informed members that there is not much in place at the moment. He is keen to collaborate with Youth Council and to work on its ideas. He suggested that YC members can give feedback to WREMO. Mayor Wade-Brown suggested that we could have a session for University students.

Mayor Celia Wade-Brown asked YC members if they were aware about the Earthquake briefings for Wellington residents. She requested YC members to encourage their friends to attend these briefings. Zoe informed the Mayor that Jack has been to the Johnsonville Earthquake briefing meeting.

Zoe thanked Jason for his talk. She told Jason that YC will put ideas together and will get back to him.

Action:

- Youth Council to put ideas together on Youth and Emergency Preparedness and give feedback to WREMO.

Devon Robinson & Alex Michael Taniwha, Reflections on Cultural Diversity Forum in Auckland

Devon informed members that she was on a panel discussion on 'A Fair Go for All'. She gave a presentation which highlighted the following:

- Difference between Equality and Equity

- Structural inequalities – what does it mean?
- Privilege and Power
- How does this directly affect youth in these minority groups?

Devon pointed out that those who come from a Pakeha cultural background are at advantage as our structural systems privilege them. This does affect youth in the minority groups such as ethnic and cultural minorities, Maori youth and problem youth. She suggested that YC needs to harness this as it is the link between the Council and youth. She suggested that YC should be proactive, and that we need to run workshops for these groups and allow them to voice their concern.

Alex gave a brief introduction about himself in Maori. He shared with YC members what he learnt from the Cultural Diversity Forum. He talked about his experience at the Marae in Manukau, his visit to four temples and his experience of standing upon the stage and sharing stories about discrimination in daily life. People at the conference inspired Alex. Alex thanked the Mayor for this opportunity to go to Cultural Diversity Forum. He sang a waiata at the end of his talk and Mayor joined him to support.

Zoe thanked Devon for her presentation and Alex for his talk. She thanked Mayor for taking time to come to Youth Council meeting.

Zoe agreed that we can certainly do workshops with different minority groups. Devon informed YC that she has made contact with few organisations such as Refugees Services, the Ethnic Council, the City Mission and the Change Makers Forum. Bing suggested that we should make a list of contacts already identified by Devon. Zoe requested Devon and Bing to work further on this and report back at the next meeting.

Action:

- Devon and Bing to work further on contact list for community organisations, planning around workshops and report back at the next meeting.

Resignations and recruitment for 2013

Zoe informed members that Ruth had resigned from Youth Council. Zoe requested members to let her know their intentions for 2013 by email or text. Zoe told members that we need to think about recruitment for next year. We should try to get members in the 12-14 age group, we need more diversity and need commitment from members to attend meetings regularly. She suggested that members can invite their friends to our next meeting.

9. Closing

The meeting formally closed at 5:45 pm. The next meeting is on 3 October 2012 in Committee Room 2.

Action Summary

1. Mark Jones to hold another session on Open Spaces Strategy review to prioritise work at the Youth Council meeting of 17 October.
2. Bing to post questions from the interactive session on review of Open Spaces Strategy on Facebook page.
3. Youth Council to put ideas together on Youth and Emergency Preparedness and give feedback to WREMO.
4. Devon and Bing to work further on contact list for community organisations, planning around workshops and report back at the next meeting.