

Submitter 446

## Fiona Dunlop

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**From:** Michael Gibson [michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 May 2013 9:39 a.m.  
**To:** Fiona Dunlop  
**Cc:** jack.ruben@xtra.co.nz; Andy Foster  
**Subject:** My submission: Item 2b)

**Dear Ms Dunlop - please will you very kindly arrange for the item below to be circulated before my oral submission scheduled tomorrow at 11.45a.m.**

### When the going gets rough – they say nothing

May 20, 2013

by Lindsay Shelton

There seems to be a belief, among some people in Wellington, that if you try to ignore serious or embarrassing issues, then they'll go away or be forgotten. There've been some notable silences recently, when the people concerned would have been wiser to have spoken out.


.....

The most recent subject that's been left in the lurch is whether or not the city council paid a management fee of \$5.4million to its new Positively Wellington Venues organisation. The fee is listed in the first annual report from PWV. But after [we reported this](#), PWV chairman Chris Parkin sent two denials. Not true, he said. Twice. With help from reader Michael Gibson, the validity of the payment was confirmed by the council's chief financial officer. After which we've been waiting for Chris either to agree he'd been wrong, or to insist that the council's chief financial officer was wrong. But we've heard nothing more from him.

Can we learn anything from the silence of these Wellingtonians, who are leaving relevant questions unanswered?



### COMMENT:

chris parkin, 20. May 2013, 15:29  I became aware of this Broadsheet only when a member of the public advised me that one of my staff was being maligned. Similarly I have now been advised of your further comments. I am not embarrassed or wrong. I haven't responded because I don't as a matter of habit visit your site.

TAB Lab

## Annual Plan submission

From: **Michael Gibson** (michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com)  
 Sent: Thursday, 16 May 2013 12:37:29 p.m.  
 To: annual.plan@wcc.govt.nz (annual.plan@wcc.govt.nz)  
 Bcc: Michael Gibson (michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com)

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From: michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com  
 To: annual.plan@wcc.govt.nz  
 Subject: Draft Annual Plan submission  
 Date: Thu, 16 May 2013 12:36:27 +1200

Re W.C.C.'s current Annual Plan I SUBMIT that

1/ Very close attention is paid to the submission of Rosamund Averton especially where she gives such thoughtful & constructive thoughts on administrative & organisational matters.

2/ More resources (financed by elected members) are given to the reporting & accountability of, & responsibility for, CCOs.

This would normally be done by current Councillors. Examples of the need for this include the following:

a) A very recent criticism of one CCO is given as follows:

"The chief executive's salary – and the comparison with the much smaller amount that was paid before the organisation was created – is revealed in its first annual report, a document which is well hidden on the council website, where it is filed as an "appendix" which puts it beyond the reach of any search engine."

"Scoop"

b) Sheer chaos is currently illustrated on the "Stuff" website in the following comments from former Councillors who have served many terms on different Councils:

14. Jack Ruben, 13. May 2013, 0:06



Chris Parkin states that the \$5,444,776 shown in Wellington Venues Annual Report as a 'management fee for venue management' is incorrect and refutes the claim. Then why is it shown as such? Surely he too wants to know?? .

He suggests the public should check this or themselves! Rather strange isn't it that he can't be bothered on behalf of his organisation to clarify whether this large sum was paid to his organisation or not?? Is he so disinterested that members of the public are told to research themselves what he is in fact paid to do – as well as those colleagues he informs us are not on the Board for the money. Come on Chris, ask any competent board member of any reputable company, – I have! – and they will tell you that it is your job to ensure the Venues Report is at least accurate. You are paid to safeguard public money.

..

15. Michael Gibson, 14. May 2013, 8:55



As suggested by Chris Parkin, I have asked the Council CFO about the \$5,444.776 Management Fee & here is his (Mr Peter Garty's) response:

"This is correct and represents the management fee paid by Wellington Venues Project (part of WCC) to Wellington Venues Limited so it appears as revenue in the Wellington Venues Limited accounts. The Chairman of the board would have seen these financial statements as they are signed off by him. The auditors, Audit New Zealand, have also signed off the accounts as part of the audit opinion."

Mr Parkin has merely proved what we all suspect about unaccountable CCOs – now do something about it, Chris!!

16. Jack Ruben, 14. May 2013, 17:16



So neither Chris Parkin nor Ms. Coughlan were aware of over \$5 million in revenue shown in accounts which they both approved!! What a scandal and disgrace! Both should immediately resign or be sacked. In any commercial organisation, such a management failure would be dealt with in the most serious manner, but doubtless councillors will ensure the matter gets swept under the carpet.

c) The "spin" which has disguised the following:

"Positively Wellington Venues reported a loss of \$458,000 in the 2011-2012 financial year, its first year of trading. This, it said hopefully, was \$49,000 less than budgetted. There were also "unbudgetted and unanticipated transition year costs" totalling a further \$811,000. As a result, the new organisation's total loss was \$1.269million."

3) More resources (financed by elected members) are given to the reporting of material on the Council's website e.g. it would be most reasonable to state on the following Agenda that a "pre-meeting" had been cancelled (if indeed it had been):

## **Agenda (Strategy & Policy Committee, May 9th 2013)**

Apologies

Minutes for Confirmation

7 March 2013, 12 March 2013, 21 March 2013, 4 April 2013, 11 April 2013 and 18 April 2013

4) More resources (financed by elected members) are given to the reporting of Committee Minutes. For instance it is quite unacceptable for Committee Chairpersons to delay the publication of significant public records by over two months - as illustrated thus:

## **Agenda (Strategy & Policy Committee, May 9th 2013)**

Apologies

Minutes for Confirmation

7 March 2013, 12 March 2013, 21 March 2013, 4 April 2013, 11 April 2013 and

18 April 2013

5) More resources (financed by elected members) are given to the actual form of Council Minutes - for instance so that they show who was actually present during a vote instead of concentrating on the extraordinary & most casual wanderings-&-out of Councillors. The present mess is illustrated in the following Minutes (which, incidentally, took two months to find the light of day):

1. STRATEGY AND POLICY  
COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2013

9.19am – 11.12am, 11.28am –  
12.02pm, 12.09pm – 12.37pm

Committee Room One  
Ground Floor, Council Offices  
101 Wakefield St  
Wellington

PRESENT:

Mayor Wade-Brown (9.24am – 11.12a  
m, 11.28am – 12.02p  
m, 12.09pm – 12.37pm)

Councillor Ahipene-Mercer (9.19am – 11.03am)

Councillor Best (Deputy Chair) (9.19am –  
11.12am, 11.28am – 12.0  
2pm, 12.09pm – 12.34pm)

Councillor Cook (9.19am – 11.12am,  
11.28am – 12.02pm,  
12.09pm – 12.18pm,  
12.19pm – 12.37pm)

Councillor Coughlan (9.26am – 11.12am,  
11.47am – 12.02p  
m, 12.09pm – 12.37pm)

Councillor Eagle (9.20am – 9.35am, 9.36am – 11.03am, 11.09am - 11.12am,  
11.28am – 12.02pm, 12.  
09pm – 12.37pm)

Councillor Foster (Chair) (9.19a  
m – 11.12am, 12.26pm – 12.37pm)

Councillor Gill (9.19am – 11.12am,  
11.28am – 12.02pm,  
12.09pm – 12.37pm)

Councillor Lester (9.19am – 11.12am,  
11.28am – 12.02p  
m, 12.09pm – 12.35pm)

Councillor McKinnon (9.19am – 11.12am,  
11.28am – 12.02p  
m, 12.09pm – 12.37pm)

Councillor Marsh (9.19am – 10.07am,  
10.15am – 11.12am,  
11.28am – 12.02pm,  
12.09pm – 12.35pm)

Councillor Morrison (9.20am – 11.12am, 11.30am – 11.34am)  
 Councillor Pannett (9.27am – 9.29am, 9.32am – 10.45am, 10.48am – 11.12am, 11.28am – 12.02pm, 12.09pm – 12.37pm)  
 Councillor Pepperell (9.19am – 11.00am, 11.03am – 11.12am, 11.28am – 12.00pm, 12.01pm – 12.02pm, 12.09pm – 12.37pm)  
 Councillor Ritchie (9.19am – 9.23am, 9.29am - 11.12am, 11.28am – 11.29am, 11.30am – 11.45am, 11.48am - 12.02pm, 12.09pm – 12.20pm, 12.22pm - 12.37pm)  
 Strategy and Policy Committee –  
 Meeting of Tuesday 7 March 2013

2

#### APOLOGIES:

Councillor Foster (for lateness)  
 Councillor McKinnon (for early departure)

034/13P

#### APOLOGIES

(1215/52/IM)

#### NOTED:

There were no apologies.

035/13P

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

(1215/52/IM)

#### NOTED:

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

036/13P

#### DEPUTATIONS

(1215/52/IM)

#### NOTED:

There were no deputations

037/13P

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(1215/52/IM)

#### NOTED:

There was no public participation.

038/13P

#### QUARTERLY REPORT – SECON ND QUARTER (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2012)

Report of Marianne Cavanagh – Senior  
 Advisor, Research, Consultation and  
 Planning and Martin Rodgers – Ma  
 nager Research, Consultation and  
 Planning.

(1215/52/IM)

Moved Councillor McKinnon, seconded Councillor Best, the substantive motion with the changes to the recommendations in the

officers report as follows:

2. Strategy and Policy Committee –Meeting of Tuesday 7 March 2013

3

THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Amend the Quarterly Report published as part of the agenda papers to change the following text:
  - (i) Key Variances - Appendix 1, page 14  
Churton Park

The project has been delayed due to the inclusion of a public toilet within the lease space requiring an update of lease agreements, architectural drawings, and building consents.

Work has begun on the fit

-

out and it is scheduled to be

completed by the end of March.

The project has been delayed due to two reasons. Firstly, the inclusion of a public toilet within the leased space required an update of lease agreements, architectural drawings, and building consents. Secondly, there has been a delay in the base build of the shopping complex we are

leasing space in. We cannot start our fit-out until the bulk of the base build is completed so we now project the fit-out to be completed by the end of April.

(ii) Schedule 1, Governance, Highlights of this quarter

We agreed to form a working party with other

councils in the

Wellington region to explore alternative governance models

We joined a working party with other councils in the

Wellington region to explore alternative governance models.

(iii) Schedule 1, Social and Recreation, Key projects planned for

next quarter

We will start construction work on the Keith Spry Pool upgrade

once negotiations are completed with preferred contractor

Following the receivership announcement of Mainzeal

Property and Construction Ltd in late February 2013, the

Keith Spry Pool project will now have a revised start date.

The date and project timeline will be reported on once

contract negotiations are concluded with the new preferred

contractor.

(iv) Amended Schedule 2 as tabled.

(Councillor Eagle joined

the meeting at 9.20am.)

(Councillor Morrison joined the meeting at 9.20am.)

(Councillor Ritchie left the meeting at 9.23am.)

(Mayor Wade-Brown left the meeting at 9.24am.)

(Councillor Coughlan joined

the meeting at 9.26am.)

(Councillor Pannett joined

the meeting at 9.27am.)

(Councillor Pannett left the meeting at 9.29am.)

Meeting of Tuesday 7 March 2013

(Councillor Ritchie returned

to the meeting at 9.29am.)

(Councillor Eagle left

the meeting at 9.35am.)

(Councillor Pannett returned

to the meeting at 9.32am.)

(Councillor Eagle returned

to the meeting at 9.36am.)

(Councillor Marsh left the meeting at 10.07am.)

(Councillor Marsh returned to

the meeting at 10.15am.)

(Councillor Pannett left the meeting at 10.45am.)

(Councillor Pannett returned

to the meeting at 10.48am.)

(Councillor Pepperell left

the meeting at 11.00am.)

(Councillor Pepperell returned

to the meeting at 11.03am.)

(Councillor Eagle left



the meeting at 11.03am.)  
 (Councillor Ahipene-Mercer left the meeting at 11.03am.)  
 (Councillor Eagle returned to the meeting at 11.09am.)  
 The substantive motion with the changes to the recommendations in the officers report was put and declared CARRIED

RESOLVED:

THAT the Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Amend the Quarterly Report published as part of the agenda papers to change the following text:  
 (i) Key Variances - Appendix 1, page 14

Churton Park

The project has been delayed due to the inclusion of a public toilet within the lease space requiring an update of lease agreements, architectural drawings, and building consents. Work has begun on the fit-

out and it is scheduled to be completed by the end of March. The project has been delayed due to two reasons. Firstly, the inclusion of a public toilet within the leased space required an update of lease agreements, architectural drawings, and building consents. Secondly, there has been a delay in the base build of the shopping complex we are leasing space in. We cannot start our fit-out until the bulk of the base build is completed so we now project the fit-out to be completed by the end of April.

- (ii) Schedule 1, Governance, Highlights of this quarter

We agreed to form a working party with other councils in the Wellington region to explore alternative governance models following the receivership announcement of Mainzeal Property and Construction Ltd in late February 2013, the Keith Spry Pool project will now have a revised start date. The date and project timeline will be reported on once contract negotiations are concluded with the new preferred contractor. We will start construction work on the Keith Spry Pool upgrade

- (iii) Schedule 1, Social and Recreation. Key projects planned for next quarter.
- (iv) Amended Schedule 2 as tabled.

NOTED: Conditions are completed  
 With resolution of the officer's  
 recommendations in the officer's report as  
 follows:

The Committee added the text in  
 bold and deleted the text with  
 strikethrough.

(Councillor Foster left the meeting  
 at 11.12am and Councillor Best assumed  
 the Chair.)

(The meeting adjourned for morn  
 ing tea at 11.12am and reconvened at  
 11.28am.)

(Mayor Wade-Brown, Councillors Be  
 st, Cook, Eagle, Gill, Lester,  
 McKinnon, Marsh, Pannett, Pepperell and Ritchie were present when the  
 meeting reconvened.)

039/13P

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

(1215/52/IM)

NOTED:

Council Best as Chair advised the mee  
 ting that Report 2 – “Wellington City  
 Council Submission to Department of  
 Internal Affairs on Review of  
 Development Contributions  
 including timelines and  
 next steps and advice  
 on transferable development credits” be taken next.

040/13P

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL SUBM  
 ISSION TO DEPARTMENT  
 OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ON  
 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT  
 CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDING TI  
 MELINES AND NEXT STEPS  
 AND ADVICE ON TRANSFERA  
 BLE DEVELOPMENT CREDITS

Report of Corwin Wallens – Senior  
 Policy Advisor and Andrew Stitt –  
 Manager Policy.

(1312121)

Moved Councillor Pannett, seconded Mayor Wade-Brown, the  
 substantive motion with changes  
 to the recommendation 2 of the  
 officer's report as follows: ETC., ETC.

6) Introduce a regime so that elected members accept responsibility - & sign accordingly - that submissions have been duly considered. Under the Council's last regime the Audit Office has been misled about the proper consideration of submissions which are the subject of a statutory process.

I wish to be heard.

SIGNED  
MICHAEL GIBSON

about this before its certification on this.

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## Making an oral submission

Councillors welcome the opportunity to hear from the public in person during our consultation processes. Here is some information to help make the best possible use of this opportunity to have your say.

### Booking your submission time

Submissions will be heard by Councillors 21–23 May 2013.

The first thing to do is book your time slot. **The process for this is slightly different from previous years.** You can book your time slot in the online booking system after 16 April. Or you can ring us to book in a time – just ring 499 4444 and ask to make a time for a draft annual plan submission.

Each individual submitter is allocated a five-minute slot and representatives of organisations can book a ten-minute slot. This slot includes any time you need to make PowerPoint or video presentations and receive questions from Councillors.

### Planning your submission content

Remember Councillors will have already received a copy of your written submission and will have it in front of them. Therefore, it's best you use the time you have in your oral submission to only emphasise your main points and present any new information. Importantly, this is also an opportunity for Councillors to ask any questions in relation to your submission. Therefore, we strongly recommend you plan your presentation so there is time left for Councillors to ask questions.

#### Tips for making a good oral submission

- Highlight any evidence supporting your submission.
- Speak at a pace that will allow Councillors to take notes if they want to.
- If you're asked a question that you aren't sure of the answer to, it's okay to say you don't know or that you'll follow it up.

#### Prior to the day

- Confirmation – if you book online you'll get an automated confirmation email. If you call to book we'll contact you to confirm your submission time.
- You can use a PowerPoint presentation to reinforce your submission but you need to deliver it to the Council's Democratic Services team at least 24 hours in advance so we can check it works and load it into the system. You can arrange this by calling 499 4444 and asking for Democratic Services.
- You can bring along written material supporting your submission. If you're bringing written material, bring 30 copies for the Councillors, Council staff members and members of the public.
- Bring a copy of your submission for yourself.

#### What to expect on the day

- Hearings are held in Committee Rooms, located on the ground floor of the main Council building at 101 Wakefield Street.
- Please try to arrive at least 10 minutes early. If submissions are running ahead of time you may be asked to speak earlier.
- When you arrive, you'll be greeted by a Council staff member who will show you to the gallery of the Committee Room where you wait to be called to speak. They will

also show you where you'll be speaking from and answer any questions you may have.

- If you've brought along written material, please give it to the staff member to distribute.
- If you've already provided a PowerPoint presentation to accompany your submission please advise the staff member of this.
- When it's your turn to speak, the Chair of the meeting will introduce you and invite you to come up and speak.
- The Chair will advise you how long you have to speak.
- There will be a countdown clock in front of you to let you know how much time you have remaining.
- After you've finished your submission, Councillors may want to ask you questions so they can better understand your position. Please allow for this within your allocated speaking time.

Please be aware there are often journalists or other members of the public at the meeting. It's therefore possible that what you say could appear in a news report or elsewhere, for instance on an internet blog site.

If you have any questions about making your oral submission please contact the annual plan team on 499 4444 or email us at [annual.plan@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:annual.plan@wcc.govt.nz)