

Environmental Reference Group

Meeting Minutes

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
He Kōwhiri ki Pōneke

Details:

Date: Monday 9 March 2020
Time: 5:00pm – 7:04
Venue: Ngake (16.09)
Level 16 Tahiwī
113 The Terrace
Chair: Chris Paulin

Members present:

Steven Almond	Chris Paulin
Mike Britton	Martin Payne
Lynn Cadenhead	MichelleRush
Arron Cox	Clare Stringer
Isla Day	Eleanor West
Sally Faisandier	Chris Watson

Democracy Services Staff: Hedi Mueller, Democracy Advisor

Topic	Description	Start time
1.	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from George Hobson, Chris Watson, Andrew Wilks and Moana Mackey, and for early departure from Tamatha Paul.</p> <p>Moved Chris Watson, seconded Martin Payne</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	5.00 pm
2.	<p>Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>Stephen Almond declared a Conflict of Interest in the Waste Minimisation Seed Fund, funded by the Ministry for the Environment.</p> <p>Arron Cox declared a Conflict of Interest in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, written by the Ministry for the Environment.</p> <p>Both parties agreed not to participate in debate or vote on the item.</p>	5:02 pm
3.	<p>Previous Minutes Confirmation</p> <p>The minutes were taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Moved Chris Watson, seconded Arron Cox</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	5:03 pm

<p>4.</p>	<p>Councillor Updates – Councillor Tamatha Paul and Councillor Teri O’Neill</p> <p>Cr Paul discussed the steering group created for the implementation of Te Atakura, which has been delayed but will be out in time for the Long Term Plan Committee meetings in June.</p> <p>Last week the Strategy and Policy Committee approved the WCC submission on the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity, Cr Paul thanked the group for their comments. Cr Paul raised ERG feedback with Moana Mackey, at the SPC pre-meeting and at the SPC meeting itself. Cr Paul noted that the landfills were not included as Significant Infrastructure, but also noted the amendment which passed, which agreed that WCC is working towards a full resource recovery system with the intention of heading towards not needing the landfill in the longer term.</p> <p>Cr Paul met with the team at Zealandia and is looking to see stronger protections in that area, as well as Te Ahumairangi which was recently vandalised. Cr Paul also met with James and Chelsea from Motif, which is an organisation that supports businesses to move towards becoming carbon neutral.</p> <p>Cr O’Neill discussed the implementation of the Outer Green Belt Management Plan and how that will tie in with this year’s Annual Plan, and the potential for community group funding for weed management.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hedi to send out link to WCC submission on National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity 	<p>5:04 pm</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Planning for Growth</p> <p>Adam McCutcheon, Senior Advisor Planning, provided background and an update to Planning for Growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Results of Our City Tomorrow Engagement in 2017 ● Results of engagement in 2019, including ERG submission, which was appreciated ● Difference between Spatial Plan (30yr time frame) and District Plan (10yr time frame), with recent examples ● How the Spatial Plan links in with other council planning projects, such as Backyard Taonga, LGWM, Resilience Strategy and Te Atakura ● Timeframe and where we are currently tracking (i.e., a draft District Plan by end 2020, and finalised end of 2021). ● Report going to Council on 25th March, with consultation opening on 30th March <p>Discussion and decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High level of concern around the implementation, funding and how the current infrastructure will cope with intensification in the city 	<p>5:29 pm</p>

- Ensure that the consultation process informs the public that this is going to be costly
- That Wellington City rates have historically been low compared to other cities of similar sizes – and rate-payers should be reminded about this, as part of the consultation
- That the ERG had written a submission on the lack of a UDA in Wellington, which has been known to work well in other countries
- Adam advised WCC had submitted on the Resource Management Act, and had advocated for local government to be able to do more, as the current scope of the RMA allows local governments to acquire land but restricts what can then be done with said land
- That the Minister for the Environment is looking at a tax on the increase of a house's capital gains due to access to new mass rapid transit systems
- Whether a highest and best use tax was also in the works, Adam advised not to his knowledge though there is currently scope to set out minimum height limits
- A recommendation that biodiversity, fresh water and heritage should be protected in the spatial plan, and indicate areas that should not be intensified as well as those that should
- Consideration be given for how the WCC can make the District Plan accessible to the layperson
- A recommendation that the Urban Development statement will have requirements for heritage and that the pros and cons of heritage protection will be made clear during the consultation process
- How mana whenua have been engaged with, and that central government is taking a coordinated approach to mana whenua engagement
- A recommendation to review the Spatial Plan on a regular basis, and within every three years as a hard deadline.

Actions:

- Hedi to email copies of previous ERG submissions to Adam

6.

Portfolio updates

6:17 pm

Transport: Central City Safer Speeds (proposing 30k speed limits in the CBD) is currently out for consultation, **Michelle Rush** to draft ERG submission. The WCC Parking Policy is currently out for engagement and Stephen has also signed up to be notified regarding the Greater Wellington Regional Council's Regional Land Transport Plan.

Waste: Public consultation currently happening, there are potential issues in that the community wants the landfill to be extended and yet we should be moving towards zero waste. Landfill fees pay for recycling – dumping in Wellington is relatively cheap so there is the risk that if fees were raised, people would just dump at the Hutt landfill instead.

	<p>Urban Development Agency/Urban Growth: Sally and Eleanor will be meeting with Vida Christeller, Manager City Design and Place Planning, later in the month.</p> <p>Biodiversity/Open Space: Confusion over the right person to contact, as the usual Council officer is away on Maternity Leave and her replacement is on leave for a month.</p> <p>Heritage: Mark Lindsay to present at the April ERG meeting.</p> <p>Resilience: Mike Mendonca's presentation at ERG meeting has been postponed, new date yet to be confirmed.</p>	
7.	<p>2020 Draft Work Programme</p> <p>Hedi Mueller tabled a draft ERG 2020 work programme requested feedback regarding the items listed. The group noted items of interest and items not of interest, to be collated, cleared with ELT and presented at the next meeting.</p>	6:42 pm
8.	<p>Annual Report</p> <p>Hedi Mueller advised that all Advisory Groups are required to present an Annual Report to the Strategy and Policy Committee in the last three months of the financial year. All advisory groups' reports will be presented to the SPC meeting of 4th June 2020, which leaves the ERG meetings of 6th April and 11th May to draft the report.</p> <p>Martin Payne volunteered to start on the draft.</p>	6:53 pm
9.	<p>General Business</p> <p>Sally Faisandier presented a draft of the newsletter proposed to circulate among councillors.</p> <p>Group members agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wording of newsletter title, 'Innovation Brief' ● That it is important for ERG to start preparing for the Long Term Plan process early, and to think about other underground services that could also be improved at the same time as water pipes. <p>Action: Sally to send updated Brief with information on Brief's purpose, and then it be forwarded to all councillors.</p> <p>Action: There is a discussion at the next meeting about how ERG might engage with the public, so the Brief has a wider readership (for example, the Youth RG has a FaceBook page).</p> <p>Action: The topic for the next Brief will be on Urban Development</p> <p>Lynn Cadenhead said she would lead the drafting of a submission on the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity. Arron Cox abstained from the discussion due to a Conflict of Interest.</p>	6:56 pm

	<p>Group members discussed how to reach consensus on submissions, when timeframes are often tight.</p> <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is required that submissions from the group represent the whole group, (irrespective of who wrote and contributed to the submission); or not be made. ● All submissions come from the ERG as a group. This means that individuals' names should not be listed, and if members haven't commented on drafts by the set time, then this would be taken as agreement. ● If there are dissenting views, submissions could be changed to accommodate those; things taken out; or the submission not sent. <p>Michelle Rush encouraged attendance at the Rodney Tolley seminar "Delivering the Walkable, Slow City: Visions and Opportunities" held on 25 March 2020, and discussed the range of benefits of improved pedestrianisation.</p>	
10.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Monday, 6 April 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Michelle Rush to Chair ● Backyard Taonga Update – Onur Oktem ● District Plan – Mark Lindsay ● Planning for Growth – Kate Pascall 	7:04 pm

Actions: The following tables the actions, responsibilities and deadlines from previous meetings

Action Points		Responsibility	Deadline
1.			
2.			

Portfolio Groups	ERG Lead		Council Officer
Transport	Michelle Rush		Joe Hewitt, Team Lead Transport Strategy and Siobhan Procter, Manager Transport and Infrastructure
Climate Change	Chris Watson	Isla Day, Steven Almond	Tom Pettit, Sustainability Manager
Waste	Steven Almond	Clare Stringer	Emily Taylor-Hall, Waste Operations Manager
Water	Chris Paulin		Derek Baxter, City Engineer
Resilience	Lynn Cadenhead		Mike Mendonca, Chief Resilience Officer

Urban Development Agency/Urban Growth	Eleanor West	Sally Faisandier	Vida Christeller, Manager City Design & Place Planning
Mana whenua iwi & Treaty Relations			Nicky Karu, Manager Tira Poutama-Iwi Partnership
Biodiversity/Open Space	Mike Britton	Clare Stringer	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Heritage	Lynn Cadenhead	Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Heritage Manager