

Environmental Reference Group

Meeting Minutes

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Details:
Date: Monday, 12 October 2020
Time: 5:05pm – 6:55pm
Venue: Ngake (16.09), Level 16, Tahiwī 113 The Terrace
Chair: Aaron Cox

Members present:
Steven Almond
Mike Britton
Lynn Cadenhead
Arron Cox
Isla Day
Sally Faisandier – via audiovisual link
George Hobson – via audiovisual link
Martin Payne
Clare Stringer – via audiovisual link
Chris Watson
Eleanor West

Councillors present:

Staff:
Sean Johnson, Democracy Advisor
Sam Hutcheson, Senior Advisor, Policy and Reporting
Kate Hodgetts, Senior Advisor, Policy and Reporting
Erica Richards, Senior Strategic Advisor, Strategy

Topic	Description	Start time
1.	Welcome & Apologies Apologies were received from Michelle Rush, Isla Day (for lateness), Councillor Paul, and Moana Mackey Moved Aaron Cox, seconded Chris Watson CARRIED	5.05pm
2.	Conflicts of Interest No conflicts of interest were declared	5.06pm
3.	Update from Councillor Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none">Councillor Paul will provide a written update to members as she was an apology for this meeting.	5:06pm
4.	Three Priority Strategies Sam Hutcheson, Kate Hodgetts, and Erica Richards presented to the group on the upcoming Arts and Culture Strategy, Economic Development Strategy, and Children and Young People Strategy. They noted that the three strategies are currently in the scoping stage and are expected to be completed by July 2021. Sam, Kate, and Erica noted that the three strategies are all interconnected and also	5:07pm

	<p>interconnect with the environmental space.</p> <p>ERG members were invited to move around the room and comment on each of the three strategies broadly, and from an environmental perspective. Notes from these discussions are attached to the end of these minutes.</p> <p>Sam, Kate, and Erica reported back to the group on the comments received. At this stage there was additional discussion relating to the need to engage with young people, and the urgent need for transformational change from the status quo.</p>	
5.	<p>Portfolio Updates</p> <p>Members discussed:</p> <p>Transport: Eleanor: Golden Mile submissions and reports are about to be released. Te Ara Tupua, the Wellington to Hutt Valley bike path, is moving into resource consent stage through the fast-track consenting process. Eleanor will investigate ways for ERG to provide feedback. Let's Get Wellington Moving is being investigated which may cause more delays in their work programme.</p> <p>Climate Change: Chris gave an update on his ongoing LGOIMA request regarding the airport. In The Guardian, there was an article saying that the speed of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is so great that we should anticipate a 20m sea rise.</p> <p>Waste: Steven: Oral hearings for the Proposed Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw will be scheduled soon. Lynn and Sally will join Stephen for the oral submission.</p> <p>Water: Aaron is seeking updates from Wellington Water, Wellington City Council, and Greater Wellington Regional Council on implementing the new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. Aaron and Sally will become co-leads for the Water portfolio. Martin noted that the Mayoral Taskforce on Three Waters is about to report back.</p> <p>Heritage: Lynn: Historic Places Wellington did not respond to an email organising to meet. Lynn recently helped organise a freshwater event, which was well attended.</p> <p>Resilience: No updates</p> <p>Urban Development: Eleanor: Submissions on the Draft Spatial Plan have now closed, thanks to the members who worked on the submission. The Spatial Plan will be followed by the District Plan next year. Isla and George will join Michelle for the ERG oral submission on the Spatial Plan.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Clare: The Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy was finalized and launched recently. A National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity is scheduled for release in April 2021.</p>	6:25pm
6.	<p>General Business</p> <p>Members thanked Martin for his service to the Environmental Reference Group over the last six years.</p>	6:50pm
7.	<p>Previous Minutes Confirmation – 14 Sept 2020</p> <p>The previous minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	6:52pm

	Moved Aaron, seconded Elanor	CARRIED	
8.	Next meeting 10 November 2020 – agenda items due Friday 30 October 2020. Isla to chair the meeting. George to provisionally chair the December meeting.		6:55pm

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

Action Points		Responsibility	Deadline
1.			
2.			

General Business	
1.	

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	Arron Cox, Sally Faisandier		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

Economic Development

① What are key learnings / reflections following COVID that are relevant?

- Outbound tourism reduced - benefit economy in Wellington from people staying local → reduction of emissions
→ redirection of the stayers spend
- Resilience of digital business
- Beauty of Wgtn w/out traffic etc
- Less bound for city being focussed on commercial space.
- People are flexible, adaptable. ~~More~~ Not tied to traditional use of vehicles etc
- Has given more time

② What opportunities does this strategy present from an environmental perspective?

- Reduce outbound tourism (international)
- Reduction of inbound tourism (international) which has high carbon footprint + low yield (\$)
- Build up the weightless economy / high value, low waste exports
- Potential productivity gains due to less congestion
- WFH frees up money^{+time} for other activities
- Potential for city spaces to be used more productively
- Act w/ urgency
- What does development mean. (roads etc unsustainable)
- Get real about carbon
- Donut - sustainability + well being
- Restructure our economic structure. Donut - well being + sustainability
- Healthy environment underpin eco system

ED

① What learnings / reflectors from COVID are relevant?

- Both pros + cons: Harder for some (importers) but encouraged local production
- Strong messaging to get public servants to get back into city
- Lots of new skills were learnt over COVID eg food

② What opportunities does strategy present from environmental perspective?

- Increase foot traffic in city
- Intensification of suburbs + CBD - needs to be balanced by maintaining greenspaces + liveability
- Local economies + culture of suburb
- Potential to reinforce the regional story - reduce the need to compete w others
- Opportunity for 'buy local'
- Circular economy

Arts & Culture

① What are key learnings/reflections following COVID that are relevant?

Loss of spaces for conversation was an issue for the city

Connection between the environment & spirituality

When people have to stay local, the community culture is enhanced (everyone out of cars)

② What opportunities does a strategy present from an environmental perspective?

Te Ao Māori - very informed by the environment

Zealandia example to show the link between the community and nature and bring art and performance into together

Culture is built off natural environments, so we need to preserve it.

Many could be channelled into events etc. that help convey environmental messages.

Māori has informed the art (eg. sculpture, music, tattoos, etc.)

ART in like Green Infrastructure and to draw cities to and take care.

Flexible communal spaces at different scales (can re-imagine use of space)

Advocacy and activism from music & theatre that providing spaces and opportunity for conversation.

Need to consider the env. impacts of our events

How do we prioritise the Arts???

Need to engage w a broad range of people to see what they want.

Equity of access

Environmental impact of events ← course next street

0-14
Children &
14-24
Young People

① What are key learnings/reflections following COVID that are relevant?

- Need a "green area" within walking distance from home.
- Need contact nature
- Need walking distance
- Local anxiety
- Safe transport without an adult
- spend money for future generations - green infrastructure
- What dept ~~needs~~ means for future generations - green bag for back
- 1

② What opportunities does this strategy have from an environmental perspective?

- education opportunity - civic's
- grow up caring for environment
- meaningful engagement with young people
- body corporate rules - have to include children
- Expression of path
- independence
- inclusive
- Housing -

Involving lower decile groups in nature & nature experience.

- Climate change - to ~~not~~ give young people a life ... lack of real action
- Anxiety - climate / biodiversity
- Fresh water - lack of action
- Biodiversity - lack of action
- Space for youth to be part of councils decision making process