

Environmental Reference Group

Minutes

Date: Monday, 9 May 2022

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Venue: Zoom

Purpose

- Advise Council on the best ways to improve Wellingtonian's quality of life environmentally, socially, culturally and economically by protecting and enhancing the local environment.
- Bring knowledge and insight into Council around the environment, including water, energy, waste, biodiversity, urban design, climate change, heritage and transport management, in the context of Council's roles and priorities.

Attendance

Chairperson:	Michelle Rush (Co-chair), Lynn Cadenhead (Co-chair)
Members:	Steven Almond, Mike Britton, Sally Faisandier, George Hobson, Clare Stringer, Arran Whiteford
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Laurie Foon
WCC Staff:	Moana Mackey (Chief Advisor to the CPO), Shona McCahon (Reserves Planer), Leteicha Lowry (Democracy Advisor)
Other:	David Dunlop (LGWM Acting Programme Director)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:02pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:
 - David Batchelor – for absence.
2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Items

3. Councillor Foon shared the following updates with the group:
 - Recently, Tākai Here, a partnership agreement between mana whenua groups and Wellington City Council, was signed, Tūpiki Ora Māori Strategy was adopted by Pūroro Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee, and progress has continued on the Newtown trial cycleway following a petition to Pūroro Āmua | Planning and Environment Committee to suspend the works.
 - This week, the Green Network Plan will go to the meeting of Pūroro Āmua | Planning and Environment Committee for adoption.
 - The Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy hearings are taking place tomorrow.

Members discussed organic waste and requested a session/workshop to be organised for ERG on this topic

4. Our Capital Spaces Review – Open Space and Recreation Strategy, *Presented by Shona McCahon.*

Shona presented to the group on the 'Our Capital Spaces Review.' This is a 10 -year review of the strategy. A draft will go to Council in December with consultation on this occurring in early 2023 and adoption of the final strategy in May 2023.

Members asked questions regarding similarities to the Green Network Plan. The Open Space and Recreation Strategy is an umbrella strategy under which the Green Network Plan lies. Members discussed biomimicry as a solution where greenspace cannot be implemented eg. green imagery.

Members requested 20 minutes to be set aside at the next ERG meeting to brainstorm on this topic. Members were interested in Shona presenting to the group in a few months' time with updates.

5. LGWM Update, *Presented by David Dunlop.*

LGWM Acting Programme Director David Dunlop presented an update on the programme to the group. David asked members to contact him to inform how they would like to be involved moving forward.

6. Michelle shared the following updates with the group:

- Michelle will be giving an oral submission on behalf of the Environmental Reference Group tomorrow to the Community Hearings Panel on the Draft Economic Wellbeing Strategy.

Leteicha shared the following updates with the group:

- Updated [Annual Plan 2022/23](#) important dates are as follows:
 - Public consultation closes 15 May 2022
 - Oral forums will be held from 19 May to 25 May 2022
 - Council Deliberations will occur on 1 June 2022
 - The final plan will go to Council on 30 June 2022
- The next Environmental Reference Group meeting (on the 13th of June) will be the final meeting of the group with its current membership. Members decided to have this meeting in hybrid form, and time will be scheduled in the agenda to farewell leaving group members and share food at the end of this meeting.
- The new member ad for the Environmental Reference Group is live and will be promoted on Wellington City Council social media from tomorrow. Members are encouraged to share the new member ad, and advisory group social media promotional material among their networks.

7. Minutes

No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.

LC/CS – minutes carried.

The meeting concluded at 7:14pm.

Information

Next meeting date: 13/06/2022

Actions from previous meetings:

1. Leteicha to organise Angelique Jackson to return to a future meeting to discuss sustainability re: social housing.
2. Leteicha to send formal thanks to Isla for their time on ERG.

Actions from this meeting:

1. Leteicha to send a copy of the ERG new member ad for promotion by group members.
2. Leteicha to follow up with Councillor Foon regarding an organic waste session/workshop for ERG.

Portfolio / Working Groups:

Portfolio Groups	ERG lead	ERG support	Council Officer
Transport	Michelle Rush	Arran Whiteford	Joe Hewitt, Team Leader Transport Strategy
Climate Change	Chris Watson	Steven Almond	Alison Howard, Climate Change Response Manager
Waste	Steven Almond	Clare Stringer	Emily Taylor-Hall, Waste Operations Manager
Water	Lynn Cadenhead		Zac Jordan, Principal Advisor Resilience Infrastructure
Resilience	Sally Faisandier		
Urban Design Agency/Urban Growth	Sally Faisandier		Vida Christeller, Manager City Design & Place Planning; Phil Becker, Manager Build Wellington
Mana whenua and treaty relations			
Biodiversity/Open Space	George Hobson	Clare Stringer, Mike Britton	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Heritage	Lynn Cadenhead	Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Heritage Manager