

Environmental Reference Group

Minutes

Date: Monday, 13 February 2023
Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Venue: Ngake (16.09), Level 16 Tahiwī, 113 The Terrace, Wellington

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:	Shannon Wallace (Co-chair)
Members:	Steven Almond, Sally Faisandier, George Hobson, Clare Stringer, Sam Satterthwaite, Ben Zwartz, Spencer Clubb, Mike Britton
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Nīkau Wi Neera
WCC Staff:	Kym Fell (Tātai Heke Hapori Chief Customer & Community Officer), Leteicha Lowry (Kaitohotohu Manapori Democracy Advisor), Kristine Ford (Kaitohutohu Kaupapahere Matua Principal Policy Advisor)

Meeting Procedures

The hui opened at 5:02pm with a karakia.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:

- Clare – for lateness;
- Councillor Apanowicz, Arran, Michelle, and Moana – for absence.

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

SW/SS – Minutes carried

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Items

3. Councillor Wi Neera shared the following updates with the rōpū:

- Upcoming Council work includes Annual Plan, Kilbirnie Park Master Plan, Paneke Pōneke connections, and Southern Landfill.

Kym shared the following updates with the rōpū:

- Proposed District Plan hearings start in late Huitanguru February.
- There are 7 EV chargers up and running, and 6 more are to come by Pipiri June.
- Behaviour Change campaign is in design phase. Members commented they found the phrase “behaviour change” patronising.

4. Community Facilities Review, *Presented by Kristine Ford*.

Kristine provided an update on the Community Facilities Review following recent public surveys, highlighting changes made to the plan and providing relevant findings to the group. Key points included:

- Updated purpose/vision statement to better align with Long Term Plan.
- High usage of core community facilities.
- Found swimming pools are high carbon emitters (operational emissions).
- Next steps:
 - Draft plan May 2023
 - Consultation on draft approximately May/June
 - Final plan August 2023

Members’ feedback included:

- Members wish to be provided audit reports.

- Were surprised by high emissions of pool network and would like to see efforts to reduce emission, and energy and water usage.
- Were interested in the ability of Council to influence decisions around waste from contractors at Council facilities eg. cafés at pool facilities. Officers responded that the property team negotiate these provisions in lease agreements.
- Were interested in the definition of vulnerable locations and how these are classified within the context of recent storm events in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and across Aotearoa.
- Were interested in general forward planning for community facilities regarding emergency management and climate change.
- Had concerns for the short timeframe of this mahi and questioned if it was better to take longer, and further consider climate change and resilience. Officers responded that the action plan needs to be completed by May/June, but later dates have the potential to be pushed out.
- Would like to see community facilities utilised for waste reduction eg. as drop-off hubs for recycling.

5. 2023 leadership election, *Presented by Leteicha.*

Leteicha explained the leadership election process, required to be conducted annually in accordance with the advisory groups' [Terms of Reference](#) (Appendix D).

With leave of the meeting, a co-chair leadership model was unanimously decided.

Shannon and Michelle self-nominated for the co-chair positions.

With leave of the meeting, Shannon and Michelle were unanimously appointed co-chairs of the rōpū.

6. Group planning session

Members reviewed portfolio statements and identified changes they wish to be made to these. Following this hui, members will use track changes to edit portfolio statements, and review and update these.

The group decided that the mana whenua and treaty relations portfolio would be dissolved as these principles should be considered across all of the portfolios and mahi of the ERG. A few sentences will be added to the portfolio principles document to reflect this.

Members were divided into three groups to discuss what they wished the ERG to achieve in 2023. Members then reported back. Key points included:

- Would like to identify and achieve one key tangible action.
- Want to improve relationships with key Council kaimahi, and all councillors.
- Want to push for urgent and immediate environmental action.

- Want to give effect to Tūpiki Ora in all mahi including submissions and presentations.

7. Leteicha shared the following updates with the group:

- [Zero Waste Strategy](#) is open for consultation online and closes on 28 Huitanguru February at 5pm.
- Re: previous action, “Democracy Advisor to reach out to the protected animal team to find out what WCC is doing to prevent dog attacks on penguins,” Urban Ecology manager is happy to come and talk to ERG about the mahi Council is currently doing.
- Re: previous action, “Democracy advisor to organise presentation to ERG on Wellington Water and the reform process,” Gen Drake (3 Waters Transitional Manager) is tentatively scheduled to present to the ERG in April.

The meeting concluded at 7:03pm with a karakia.

Information

Next meeting date: 13/03/2023

Actions from previous meetings:

- ERG members to review and update portfolio statements (ongoing action).
- ERG members to read and reflect on Tūpiki Ora Strategy and Action Plan and Tākai Here (ongoing action).
- ERG members to open and close meetings with a karakia (ongoing action).
- ERG members to develop a checklist for submissions to ensure Tūpiki Ora and mana whenua perspectives are front of mind.
- Democracy Advisor to ask Councillor Pannett if she wants any support from ERG with the development of the new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.’
- Democracy Advisor to investigate presentation on the next “big one.”
- Members to update portfolio statements with track changes, and review and agree to changes.
- Members to include a few sentences in the portfolio principles document to reflect the consideration of mana whenua and treaty relations across the mahi of the ERG.

Portfolio / Working Groups:

Portfolio Groups	ERG lead	ERG Support	Council Officer
Transport	Arran Whiteford	Shannon Wallace	Joe Hewitt, City Insights Manager
Climate Change	Sally Faisandier, Arran Whiteford	Steven Almond, Sam Satterthwaite	Alison Howard, Climate Change Response Manager
Waste & Circular Economy	Spencer Clubb	Clare Stringer, Steven Almond	Chris Mathews, Manager Waste, Water & Resilience
Water	Michelle Rush	Shannon Wallace	Zac Jordan, Principal Advisor Resilience Infrastructure
Resilience	Sally Faisandier	Spencer Clubb	Chris Mathews, Manager Waste, Water & Resilience
Urban Design Agency/ Urban Growth	Ben Zwartz	Sam Satterthwaite	Vida Christeller, Manager City Design; Phil Becker, Manager City Development
Biodiversity/Open Space	George Hobson	Clare Stringer, Mike Britton	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Cultural Heritage		Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Cultural Heritage Manager Pouarahi Tu Taonga