

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 18 March 2009

Present:

1. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Chairperson - Samoa)
2. Pisa Alaifea (Deputy – Samoa)
3. Martha Ahmed (Tokelau)
4. Titia Vaerua (Cook Islands)
5. Brenda Cottingham (Niue)

6. Councillor Leonie Gill
7. Marie Retimanu-Pule
8. Bessie Fepulea'i
9. Billie Tait-Jones
10. Trudy Jenkins

Welcome:

- Warm pacific greetings and welcome from the Chairperson who thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She explained that the large number of absences from the meeting tonight was due to members attending the Pacific Youth Forum.

Opening Prayer:

- Pisa Alaifea

Apologies:

- Kolovula Murphy, Mafi Katoa, Danny Kauraka, Malakai Jiko, Avia Liai, Ana To'o, Mailigi Hetutu, Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon, Jennifer Rains

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

- The only amendment requested to the previous Minutes was to add Councillor Leonie Gill's apologies.
- The Minutes from the meeting on 18 February 2009 were moved as a correct record by Martha Ahmed and seconded by Titia Vaerua.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

PASIFIKA FESTIVAL DEBRIEF

- Marie Retimanu-Pule apologies for taking so long in getting back with a date for the festival debrief but she explained that we have only just had a debrief with the other Council Units. She said that we need to arrange a date for the PAG to meet that should be no longer than a week away. She noted that this will be a paid meeting. Looking at the time factor Marie Retimanu-Pule suggested that we arrange a night time meeting.
- Martha Ahmed suggested that PAG meet next Wednesday, 25 March for the debrief meeting as this day of the week suits most members. She said that it would be good for Council to get feedback from members first so that there were no surprises and then Council would also be prepared to give the appropriate feedback.
- It was agreed that PAG should meet for a festival debrief on 25 March at 5.30pm.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that Bessie Fepulea'i would send a template out to members for their feedback no later than this Friday. She also noted that Mark Farrar from City Communities would be attending this meeting as part of his role in the Unit.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that her understanding of the Pasifika Festival debrief is that it will include feedback on how the day went, what could have been done better, etc, and will not be compromised with issues regarding Vasi Siohane. The debrief should not involve Vasi Siohane's position as this is an HR element that needs to be controlled by Wellington City Council and not PAG. We need to be transparent about what the debrief means.

PACIFIC FORUM

- Brenda Cottingham said that both she and Mailigi Hetutu would not be available to attend the Forum.
- Bessie Fepulea'i said that the theme for this year's forum is Wellington Pacific Seniors in the Community. She said that they have compiled a questionnaire asking each community about how they feel Council can help them in terms of the city and the services it offers. She has been attending meetings with various communities but has found it difficult to reach some groups as they are only represented in Porirua. She said that they have also sent out a Seniors Booklet about what services are available to groups. Bessie Fepulea'i will send out a copy of the questionnaire to PAG members for their information.
- Councillor Gill noted that the Passport to Leisure is coming back in May for over 65's and she said it would be good to get feedback on this at the Forum.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule noted that we do not have lists of groups in the community to be able to let them know what services are available. Ida

Faiumu-Isa'ako noted that this is the way the Pacific people work and they do not like to separate groups and like to keep youth and seniors together. She suggested that the information and questionnaire are passed onto the main church group for distribution.

- Bessie Fepulea'i said that she will be taking the Council mobility scooters out to community groups as one example of the services that Council offers.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that the Council's Older Persons Policy is currently under review. This raises another point that people did not know that there was such a policy. Bessie Fepulea'i said that this policy talks about how Council should be doing certain things to make sure seniors are catered for. She noted that this policy has not really been implemented before. She said that it would be good to get feedback on this policy from PAG members. She will send this policy out to PAG members.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako asked if the questionnaire would be printed in separate languages. Bessie Fepulea'i said that this is in the process of being done by the separate groups.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that something that has been identified is that Pacific people look after their elderly. We know that they are in church group communities but they are not out in the general community and they do not know what is happening and available in the city. We need to get feedback on what it is like living in the community.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako asked if it would be possible to get funding for the PAG members to promote things like the upcoming Pacific Forum on the radio. She noted that this has been successful in the past and has managed to reach a wider audience.
- Billie Tait-Jones made a note of the upcoming annual Mayoral Concert in November. She said that this is not supported by the Pacific people. It was noted that one problem with this is that the concert is held on a Sunday. She also noted that the Pacific people can perform at this concert. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako suggested that maybe choirs could perform.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that we need to have Pacific performers at this concert and also to have input in the programme. Pisa Alaifea suggested that this item be put on the agenda for next month.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that Council were thinking about having the PIPC seniors exercise group do a performance at the end of the Forum. We want to make this a good session and have invited the Hataitai gardening group to give a presentation on their gardening project. There will also be a presentation from Tagaloatele Peggy Fairburn from Victoria University as it is good to have an academic perspective on seniors.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that Council have been trying to get groups from Fiji, Tonga and Niue but we are finding it hard to find groups in the

community. We need to get feedback from the community to tell us where these groups are.

- Councillor Gill said that she has a list of constituents with their ages and suggested doing a letter drop to these people. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako this may not be a good idea because people would question where the information had come from and may breach their privacy.

UPDATE ON THE LTCCP

- Marie Retimanu-Pule tabled an update on the LTCCP from Aroha Rangi and noted that the Tongan community have had a meeting with Aroha Rangi that went really well.
- Bessie Fepulea'i said that the Samoan meeting scheduled for next Tuesday has been cancelled. Marie Retimanu-Pule asked if either Pisa Alaifea or Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako could check with Ana To'o about this meeting.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she had been involved in the radio interview with the Cook Island community about the LTCCP as this was preferable because of the short notice.
- Councillor Gill asked why the meetings were not being held next week after the draft LTCCP had been to Council. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that these meetings being organised to give an overview of the LTCCP.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako suggested that the best way to reach more people would be via the radio and asked if PAG could get radio time in the budget.
- Councillor Gill said that it would be good if PAG could put a submission to the LTCCP as the DRG usually put a submission forward. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako asked what PAG would want to make a submission about. Councillor Gill asked if information is given out via the radio how will this get back to Council and come before the Councillors. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that we would ask people what they want and then make a submission around this.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that we need to look into the next session that is scheduled on Samoan Capital Radio. She also suggested that there needs to be representation on these radio sessions from Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon and a PAG member to make it legitimate. She also noted that it would be good to promote the Councillor's Hotline on the radio.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she has been contacted by Tiatia Ieti Tiatia from New Zealand Statistics who would like to talk to the Pacific Community around the work that they are doing and how the community can add value to his work. Marie Retimanu-Pule suggested that he attend a PAG meeting. This

will be put on the agenda for the meeting in May. He would also like to hook up with the individual nation groups as well. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako suggested that he be invited to speak at the forum. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that it would be better if he attended a PAG meeting first. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako suggested that if he had figures relevant to the forum that he could be asked for these.

- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she had been contacted by a Pacific lady about the Island Bay Golf Course who said that there is a high death rate associated with this golf course because of the steep inclines and there being no golf carts available. Pisa Alaifea said that he thought this was a Council run golf course and the question should be raised with Council.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that PAG need to make sure that we have a good presence of elderly represented at the forum and that members should look for at least five people each from their communities to invite.
- Councillor Rob Goulden joined the meeting. He spoke about an idea he had heard about regarding recruitment into the military and how this would benefit the Pacific community particularly with the current recession. He also talked about the Pacific community getting involved in sport teams. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako invited Councillor Goulden to attend other PAG meetings.
- Titia Vaerua asked if the LTCCP submission forms would be available earlier than 16 April. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that they would not. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako suggested that it would be good to go back on the radio once the forms were available.
- Councillor Goulden said that he has found the forums very useful but he is not getting a clear message about what we can do for people from them. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that you need to understand when talking about Pacific people that there are seven nations that are all different in their approaches. It is also about how you come to us and maybe it is a good idea if you wait till we come to you. She suggested that Councillor Goulden may like to come out and visit the different community groups to get a better understanding of what the Pacific people want.
- Titia Vaerua asked whether all the submission had to come through PAG first. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that it would be preferable if they did.
- Bessie Fepulea'i said that the next meeting will be on 15 April the date of the Pacific Forum. This will be a paid meeting. Brenda Cottingham said that she would encourage people to attend from the Niuean Community and she would talk to the pastors. Bessie Fepulea'i asked for the names and contacts for the reverends of the various churches from the different nations.
- Brenda Cottingham asked if Council are going to fund Pacific Festivals for the next 5 to 10 years so that we can start making plans. Marie Retimanu-Pule noted that this is in the LTCCP so it will definitely be happening next year. She said that she would look into this and bring the information back to the

debrief meeting. It was also asked whether the figure for funding of the festival is set for the next few years. Marie Retimanu-Pule will look into this as well.

- Brenda Cottingham brought up the subject of a photograph book as this would be good to have for tourists to showcase and capture the Wellington Pacific Community. She suggested that this book be sold as a formal book with the proceeds going towards the funding of future festivals.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that Michael Tuffrey has been granted \$13,000 for a youth project at the new Newlands Community Centre. This project came out of the last forum.

Closing Prayer:

- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako

Next Meeting: 15 April 2009 (Pacific Forum)

Meeting Closed: 7:20pm