

## WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 20 May 2009

#### Present:

1. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Chairperson - Samoa)
2. Pisa Alaifea (Deputy – Samoa)
3. Kolovula Murphy (Deputy – Tonga)
4. Martha Ahmed (Tokelau)
5. Titia Vaerua (Cook Islands)
6. Brenda Cottingham (Niue)
7. Danny Kauraka (Cook Islands)
8. Mailigi Hetutu (Niue)
9. Mafi Katoa (Tonga)
10. Lopati Tefoto (Tuvalu)
11. Tina McNicholas (Fiji)
  
12. Councillor Leonie Gill
13. Councillor Pannett
14. Marie Retimanu-Pule
15. Bessie Fepulea'i
16. Billie Tait-Jones
17. Phoebe Velova'a
18. Trudy Jenkins

#### **Welcome:**

- Warm pacific greetings and welcome from the Chairperson who thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

#### **Opening Prayer:**

- Brenda Cottingham

#### **Apologies:**

- Malakai Jiko, Ana To'o, Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon

#### **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

- The Minutes from the meeting on 18 March 2009 were moved as a correct record by Titia Vaerua and seconded by Martha Ahmed.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Councillor Gill noted that the Passport to Leisure paper comes to Committee on 4 June 2009. They have now extended the eligibility to everyone over the age of 65. This card gives a discount to pools and other things and was extended to immigrants, refugees and people with a green card and has now been moved to extend to people over the age of 65.
- There has been an extension in the hours of opening of the hydro pool in Kilbirnie for casual users on Thursday and Friday from 11.00 to 12.00 – the times and days need to be confirmed. Bessie Fepulea'i will look into this and send the information out to the PAG members.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako asked whether any submissions had been received for the LTCCP from PAG members. Bessie Fepulea'i said that submissions closed on Monday and Council had received a submission from the Cook Island Community. Vula Murphy said that the Tongan community wanted their previous submission resubmitted regarding the Pacific Centre. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she would check on the submission from the Tongan community to see whether this had been done. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that it would have been good if these submissions had come through the PAG first.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that Council are in the process of going through the information about the Pasifika Festival and putting this together in a manual as it is good to have clear records. The process going forward will be to come back to PAG at the next meeting with a clear plan. The date for the next festival has been set for 30 January 2010 and this has been confirmed with the Events Team. There may be a problem with the hire of tents for the day from Hiremaster as this date clashes with the Trentham Show so Metro are currently look at other suppliers. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that as this is the last term for the current members of the PAG she would like to see this festival be a great success so this committee go out with a 'bang'.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that she was disappointed with the turn out of PAG members at the Pacific Forum as not even a quarter of the members attended this forum. She said that people come to the Pacific Forum to see their representatives and that it is the obligation of the members to their community to attend these events as we are elected by the community. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that there was a great turn out by the community and the presentations were wonderful. The PIC seniors gave a performance. She said that community turn out is on the increase and this is a good time for consultation with the community. Brenda Cottingham said that she agreed with Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako that everyone should have attended this forum. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako noted that if both representatives from a community cannot attend then it should be arranged that at least one member should attend. Billie Tait-Jones said that she had enjoyed the forum and that it was good to learn about Pacific processes. Bessie Fepulea'i thanked

the members for their translations of the questionnaire that was handed out on the night.

- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that the next forum is currently being decided on and that Council are looking at having only one forum per year but we will need to come back to PAG about this. If there is another forum this year it will be held in November and then in April 2010. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako asked if the PAG members could agree with Marie Retimanu-Pule that there would only be one forum per year. The members agreed that they would think about this and come back with a decision at the next meeting.

## **UPDATE ON LTCCP**

- Bessie Fepulea'i said that submissions closed on Monday and she would send an email with the link about the submissions. She also confirmed that the Cook Island submission had been received. Vula Murphy said that there was supposed to have been a submission put through from the Tongan community regarding a Pacific Centre. Bessie said that she would look into this and confirm with Aroha Rangi whether this had been received. Bessie Fepulea'i asked whether anyone from the Cook Island community would be able to give an oral presentation on their submission. Titia Vaerua said that she would come back to Bessie Fepulea'i about this. Councillor Gill said that it was a good idea to give an oral presentation as this gives more weight to your submission. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that she was happy to attend as well to lend her support.

## **CHILD DISCIPLINE AND THE LAW**

- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she had recently attended a SKIP meeting. SKIP sits with MSD and they had a guest speaker that gave out interesting information that we were not aware of. There is a referendum that is coming up in June/July about whether smacking should be considered part of a criminal conviction. This information has not gone out to communities and the Pacific community have not had the opportunity to discuss this. You still have the opportunity to have discussions with your own community groups and Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she is happy to liaise with groups so that Pacific people can make informed decisions regarding this.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that she had attended a meeting with MSD and noted that it is hard disseminating all the information available to take back to people. It is also hard to get people to understand how we define disciplining children. In terms of the PAG members Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako suggested that members take this information out to their communities for discussion.

- Marie Retimanu-Pule said that SKIP have a lot of resources available and have funding for parenting programmes. There is the opportunity to run some kind of programme around supporting families and parents with children with challenging behaviours. The question needs to be asked what strategies you have got for disciplining your children. She also noted that no Pacific provider has applied for this funding. Mailigi Hetutu said that the Niuean community have applied for this funding before and run programmes and parenting courses. Marie Retimanu-Pule suggested that maybe SKIP come along and talk to the community about what resources and information they have available.
- Vula Murphy noted that groups have problems when applying for funding because they are not GST registered and this presents a difficulty this also includes applying for grants funding from Council. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that if a group is under a church and do not need to be their own entity then this is the best way to go about getting funding. It was suggested that Marie Retimanu-Pule and Bessie Fepulea'i look into this.
- Brenda Cottingham said that there should also be a form that sets out what you have spent the funding on so that groups are accountable. She also asked whether this information had gone out on the radio. Mailigi Hetutu said that the Niuean and Cook Island communities have received information from the MSD that has gone out on the radio.

## **PASIFIKA FESTIVAL**

- It was decided to defer this item till the next meeting when Marie Retimanu-Pule will bring along the forward plan.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako mentioned that she was approached at the forum and asked if the festival could not be run on the day of the 7's. She said that she had asked for a letter to be submitted to the PAG about this but as yet this has not been received. Bessie Fepulea'i said that this was not talking about the International 7's but the Community 7's.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako went through her report. She noted that it would be a good idea to invite Mr Leti Tiatia to present Pacific statistical information at a PAG meeting. Members should think about what information they would like to know.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako moved that her report be accepted and Councillor Gill seconded this.

## COMMUNITY REPORTS

- **Martha Ahmed** – said their community are currently working with Te Papa on having a Tokelauan Day in either August or September that will include performances, education, etc.
- **Lopati Tefoto** – said their community are working on organising places of trust and obtaining funding. He said with regard to the statistics meeting that the information received at the meeting was for Porirua only and it would be good to get statistics for Wellington and the Hutt Valley.
- **Pisa Alaifea** – said that their Senior Father was retiring and that their community had been suffering from ill health and funerals.
- **Vula Murphy** – said that their community are continuing to have their monthly meetings. They have sent out a hard copy of the email received about the festival and questionnaire. This has been a busy month for the Tongan community for families. Have had a visit from the Tongan Prime Minister and would like to settle a Tongan High Commissioner in Wellington. They are applying for funding from the City Council for a performance group for the next Festival.
- **Brenda Cottingham** – said the Wellington community have been busy fundraising. The Niue trip was very successful with 38 people going and they will be organising another trip. They currently have a temporary pastor and the community came together and had a very successful Mothers Day.
- **Mailigi Hetutu** – said that the NKWR would be reapplying for SKIP funding for their programmes. She noted that the Niue trip woke up the New Zealand born people to the Niuean culture and they will be having workshops from language to health.
- **Titia Vaerua** – said they had a visit from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs last month with a good turn out. They talked about the different types of information they had for Pacific Island people. They propose to come back and talk about benefits for Pacific people and also give a radio broadcast to let people know what is happening in housing, education and ways of finding employment.
- **Tina McNicholas** – said that their community were running a HEHA programme through the Ministry of Pacific Health. They attended the youth forum in Hataitai and performed on the night. They have also been updating their community about the LTCCP at their monthly meetings.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- Bessie Fepulea'i noted that it is Samoan language week next week and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs has organised a speaker. Bessie Fepulea'i will send out information about events that are happening for this week.
- Pisa Alaifea suggested that the PAG should link with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Advisory Group and he noted that that they were unaware of the Pacific Forum. Bessie Fepulea'i said that they had been invited to attend this forum.

Marie Retimanu-Pule said that this advisory group have a more formal process but the PAG need to connect with them and we should look at how the two reference groups could work more collaboratively together. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that the TOR are very different for Government Departments. Tina McNicholas said that this advisory group work at a very high level giving advice to the Minister but it would be timely for us to look at this again.

It was decided that Marie Retimanu-Pule and Bessie Fepulea'i invite them to attend a PAG meeting.

- **Council Rates** – Phoebe Velova'a said that rates were due for payment on 1 July. If people are in arrears or find that they cannot afford their rates then they should ring the Accounts Receivable Unit in Council to make arrangements for payment.
- Pisa Alaifea asked about the rates rebate for the elderly. Phoebe Velova'a said that not many people apply for this rebate but there are probably a lot of people that would be eligible for this rebate. Pisa Alaifea said that the PAG members should encourage their people to apply for this rebate. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako suggested that this information be put in church notices. Phoebe Velova'a said that the last day for people to get their forms in to apply for this rebate for this financial year was on 30 June.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that it would be good to get radio time to talk about issues like the rates rebate, community services card and the child discipline referendum.
- Danny Kauraka noted that Rarotonga are currently preparing for the Under 19 World Netball South Pacific Mini Games.
- **Pacific Social Service Provider** – Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she had recently attended a Strengthening Families meeting and one of the topics discussed was that there was no Pacific social service provider in Wellington. In terms of the forward programme for PAG this is one of the areas that is really key for Pacific people. This has been identified by CYF as well as they do not know who they should be referring people to. We need to take this task on board and have

further discussions on where to from here and take this back to the community. This needs to be a robust set up as it is a gap that has been identified for the Wellington area. Tina McNicholas asked whether we could host a forum for people to come along and discuss this issue. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that we could.

- Billie Tait-Jones said that there was also no Pacific representative on the Care and Protection Resource Panel and suggested that it would be a good idea if the PAG could put a name forward of someone who should be on this panel. This panel meet once a fortnight as advisors on cases of abuse that are brought forward. This panel do not tell people how to do their job but they listen to the plan of action and give advice on this. They follow a very strict process. It was agreed that PAG members would get back to Bessie Fepulea'i by the next meeting with names of people who could go on this panel.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule tabled a media release on a new fund to support critical services during the recession.
- Bessie Fepulea'i said that the Housing and Building Department can give advice about services available to Pacific people in the community who are in rental property who are having problems with landlords or property troubles. If you want further details about this then please contact Bessie Fepulea'i. It was noted that they are no the radio programmes as well.
- Pisa Alaifea asked how the Council housing redevelopment was going. Bessie Fepulea'i said that Council have started to move tenants out into other housing complexes so properties can be done up. Council are also calling for people to rent in the housing complexes for a short term at reasonable rates. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that she has not heard any complaints. Bessie Fepulea'i said that Council are still doing a lot of consultation to make sure that people are comfortable before moving them out.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that the most important point is for the PAG to get some radio time to get messages out to people.

## **COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS**

- Councillor Pannett asked whether the rates rebate not being applied for was more of a connection issue and asked whether this information had been translated into another language. She suggested that it may be a good idea to translate this information and put it in the APW or rates notices.

**Closing Prayer:**

- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako

**Next Meeting:** 17 June 2009

**Meeting Closed:** 7:45pm