

Minutes for the meeting held 9 July 2014

(6.pm – 8.pm)

Venue: Committee Room 2, Council offices, Wakefield Street

Present: Sai Lealea (Fiji & Chairperson elect), Alapeta Faletau (Tonga), Alvin Mitikulena (Niue), Anthony Leaupepe (Samoa), Herbert Bartley (Tokelau), Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Samoa), Kimi Higginson (Cook Islands), Merio Marsters (Cook Islands), Nicole Rex (Niue), Meremine Taiaopo Auelua (Samoa) and Siofilisi Taifo'ou (Tonga).

Officers: Martin Rodgers (Manager, Research, Planning, & Consultation) and Jenny Rains (Manager City Communities)

Apologies: Councillor Sarah Free, Ledua Taucilagi (Fiji) and Sharon Samasoni (Tokelau)

Welcome and opening prayer:

Sai as Chair welcome everyone to the meeting.

Siofilisi Taifo'ou gave the opening prayer.

Minutes for last meeting

Martin informed the meeting that the review of the advisory group has been completed. In terms of the input that PAG gave through its last meeting:

- The suggested change in text around the required skill-mix has been included
- The recommendation not to proceed with the idea of paying attendance fees in two bulk payments in advance, was accepted (i.e. it will not happen)
- The suggestion to increase meeting fees by 10% was not supported.

The Group should now operate under the new terms of reference.

Martin raised the appointment process for the Tulvalu, Melanesian and Micronesian place on the Group. Martin said he has had discussions with members of these communities and they have asked whether nominees can be from the wider region rather than just Wellington City. Following a discussion, the Group confirmed that nominees do need to live in Wellington City to be eligible for the Group. They also confirmed that the by-election process should be run for the current vacancies.

Councillor Update:

Both Councillors were absent from the meeting. Members of the Group reinforced the importance and value of having Councillors attend. Martin noted that in his experience this is the first time a Councillor had not attended a meeting. He contacted Councillor Eagle who confirmed that he had intended to be at the meeting but was delayed.

Ida introduced a proposal that resulted from a meeting with Ken Ah Koi, President of the Samoan Rugby Union. It involves:

- Council having Up & Go vending machines in its Parks, Gyms, Recreational Centres, Public facilities and OTHER outlets where Council is the landlord/Vendor
- The resulting funds would be channelled to Pacific initiatives such as the PASIFIKA Festival
- There would be Health benefits not only for Pacific peoples but the wider population from using vending machines that are not full of 'fiz& gas'

Martin undertook to present the proposal to the responsible business unit.

Pasifika Festival:

Martin conveyed a request from Suzanne Tamaki, the Council Events Co-ordinator for Pasifika, following an approach by Simon Matafai at Avondale College in Auckland. He is wanting us to formally invite their group to perform at Pasifika. They are not looking for a fee but will need support with accommodation and travel.

The meeting discussed this request and the main points of the discussion were:

There is a question around whether the request related to the Tu Tangata young people's festival here in Wellington rather than the Pasifika Festival. Meremine in PAG is involved with organising Tu Tangata and says they have been approached by this group before. She thinks this question should be clarified with Simon Matafai. She is happy to facilitate contact with Tu Tangata if necessary. Bessie in City Communities is Council's contact for that event.

The group did not think it was appropriate for Council to fund the group's travel, accommodation or other costs – agreeing that funding for local groups should come first.

Some members felt that an invitation could be issued to the group if they could find funding to meet their own costs. Others questioned why we would invite this group over others. Another member noted that past approaches to the ASB Polyfest about a Wellington group participating in their festival have been rejected.

Martin was asked to communicate the above to Suzanne and it was agreed that Meremine would be the contact person for PASG on the matter at this stage.

Pasifika Action Plan:

The rest of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing the Pasifika Action Plan. The background to the plan was shared and then members agreed that the headings in the plan broadly covered the key areas. Members then broke into groups to review different sections of the plan.

The groups then came back together and their initial responses were shared. Individuals agreed to write up their notes from the discussion. It was agreed that Martin would invite relevant officers to the next meeting so that a discussion could be had on how to progress the priority actions in each area.

Community Updates:

Tonga:

Sofi provided an update on the sending of relief supplies to assist Tongan communities following Cyclone Ian in January.

Cook Islands

Cook Island language class started in the second week of the school terms. They are on Tuesdays from 4.30 to 5.30pm at Newtown School.

Fiji:

Sai shared information on a Youth Workshop on the wise use of alcohol in a project by the Wellington Fiji Social Services Trust. The project was funded by Health Promotion Agency (HPA) with Fijian Ads run on the Fijian Programme on Niu FM.

The meeting closed with a prayer from Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako at 8.20pm

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Wednesday 13 August 2014.