

Minutes for the meeting held 13 August 2014

(6.pm – 8. pm)

Venue: Committee Room 2, Council offices, Wakefield Street

Present: Sai Lealea (Fiji & Chairperson), 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), Sharon Samasoni (Tokelau), Siofilisi Taifo'ou (Tonga), Councillor Sarah Free and Councillor Eagle.

Officers: Martin Rodgers (Manager, Research, Planning, & Consultation), Suzanne Tamaki (Events Co-ordinator), Anusha Guler (Manager, Democratic Services), Fran McEwen (Health & Wellbeing Partnership Leader), Lynlee Baily (Governance Team Leader) and Anna Harley (Senior Urban Designer).

Apologies: Ledua Taucilagi (Fiji)

Welcome and opening prayer:

Sai as Chair welcome everyone to the meeting.

Siofilisi Taifo'ou gave the opening prayer.

Minutes for last meeting

It was noted that the discussion regarding the approach by Avondale College to participate in the Pasifika Festival had been left out of the minutes. Martin apologised for this and will add this to the final minutes along with community updates.

Meremine gave the meeting an update on the Avondale College issue to the meeting. She confirmed that the request did relate to the Pasifika Festival not Tu Tangata. They were advised that the Council would not be able to cover the costs of the group to participate as we prioritised our funding towards local groups. The College replied saying that they would look at fundraising to cover their own costs. The Group agreed that, even if they did raise the funds to attend, we would be reluctant to have them participate as the festival should focus on showcasing and supporting local talent. If and when it comes time to make a decision on the College's participation, PAG will be involved in the discussion.

During the discussion, it was clarified that local schools are welcome to participate in the festival but do not tend to because it takes place during the summer school holidays. Also, it was agreed that a discussion on whether to form a PAG subcommittee for the festival will be carried over to a future meeting.

Councillor Update:

Because Councillor Eagle needed to leave the meeting, the Chair invited the Councillors to provide their update at this point in the agenda.

Issues covered in the update and subsequent questions from members included:

The proposal to combined water services across the region under one entity. Concern was expressed about whether this was a step towards privatisation. Councillors clarified that this was not the intention and that each council retained ownership of their assets with the company essentially being contracted to maintain them.

Members were asked to encourage people in their communities to register and vote in this year's General Election. Toni or Raewyn from the Electoral Office would be happy to attend meetings or events where they could help people enrol.

Work underway on the long-term plan which a chance to have a say on what Council should focus on over the next 10 years. Extending the 'living wage' to Council Controlled Organisations and contractors will be considered in this process. Economic development was coming through as the focus with the 'Big 8 Ideas' being prioritised. Members felt that the Pacific Fale should be a priority for the plan and should be considered as one of the Council's big ideas. Councillors responded that the proposed upgrade of the Newtown Community Centre may be an opportunity to meet the need for a fale.

Social Housing was also discussed with Councillors providing an update on the Arlington upgrade. Members expressed concern that the criteria for accessing Council housing and the way rents are set is negatively impacting on Pacific people. It was agreed that someone from City Housing would be invited to address these concerns at a future meeting.

One member asked about what assistance is available for church buildings that are earthquake prone. Councillors responded that Council does have a Built Heritage Assistance Fund that is focussed on helping people (including church groups) deal with earthquake strengthening issues.

Minutes for last meeting (continued)

Martin said that the by-election process for the vacant positions on PAG will get underway soon.

Pasifika Action Plan:

Sai welcomed the Council staff in attendance for the discussion on the Action Plan. Martin informed the group that apologies were received from staff in the areas of Arts, Economic Development and community services. Martin noted with regards to economic development that Council's own focus was on the 'Big 8 Ideas' and that a new regional economic development agency was in the process of being formed, which may be better placed to work with smaller businesses or sectors of the economy.

PAG members reformed the groups that they were in at the last meeting and discussed their areas of focus with the relevant officers. The groups then reported back as follows to the meeting as a whole:

Health and well-being: the group had a productive discussion with Fran and can see that there would be a programme of activities that could be delivered through the year. However, some issues such as suicide and abuse prevention would not be covered by this programme. Following a discussion it was agreed that such issues could be progressed through working with the City Communities team at Council and other external agencies.

Governance: the group felt there were a number of difficult issues to address before the goal of having a Pacific councillor could be achieved. The key was to galvanise Pacific communities together.

Workforce development: the group felt the three priorities were clear.

Education: the focus was on homework centres.

Arts & culture: the focus was on the Pasifika Festival, language weeks (although this may be next year due to the timing of when they take place) and the idea of a Pacific Fale.

It was put to the meeting that the above be the priorities for PAG's work programme for the coming year. Moved: Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako. Seconded: Anthony Leaupepe. It was supported by the members.

Sai and Martin clarified the process from here. Sai requested that the final notes from each group, with priorities highlighted, be circulated to members. A list of priorities will be compiled. This will then be taken to a meeting with Council officers at the end of August to agree the work programme. Following that meeting, a letter proposing the final work programme will be tabled at a PAG meeting for the group to consider.

Community updates:

It was agreed that members would circulate their community updates by email outside the meeting. The updates subsequently received are below.

Urban Growth Plan:

Anna Harley gave a brief presentation on the Council's draft Urban Growth Plan. It highlighted Council's approach to accommodating the projected growth in Wellington's population. This was focussed on encouraging growth where there was already good water and transport networks (i.e. in Johnsonville, the central city and Kilbirnie). There were a number of transport and urban design projects proposed to encourage growth in those areas (e.g. putting in parks and upgrading Victoria Street). It was agreed that Anna's presentation and contact details would be circulated to the group.

Martin noted that the Urban Growth Plan along with the Big 8 Ideas would be the focus of the Council's long-term plan. He informed the meeting that there would be presentations taking place in the community in September on the plan and that if groups would like to have a session on the plan, this can be arranged by contacting him.

Sai thank the officers for attending the meeting. The meeting closed with a prayer from Anthony Leaupepe at 8.15pm

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Wednesday 10 September 2014.

Community updates received outside the meeting:

Cook Islands:

Api'i te reo Maori Kuki Airani (Cook Island Maori Language class) are being held every Tuesday at Newtown School from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. This is our fourth week (Tuesday 19th August) and as each week goes by we are increasing with more attendees, which is fabulous. We are sourcing appropriate funding for resources and koha for the use of photocopying and class at Newtown School.

The Cook Islands Society's 50th anniversary celebrations was held at the Pines on Saturday night 2 August 2014 with a dine and dance. This celebration was held to honour and remember those who have passed on and who have worked vigorously to ensure the Cook Islands people have a hall here in Wellington.

The Cook Islands Language week commenced on Sunday 3 August with a church service held in Porirua. The theme for 2014 language week was called "Te rakei O toku iti tangata" which means "Our language and culture are the foundation of who we are". Various activities were held all around Wellington during the language week.

This was also celebrated by the Te Punanga o te Reo Kuki Airani early childhood center in Berhampore on Friday 8 August 2014. Their theme was also "Te rakei o toku iti tangata" which they translated as "The adornment and beauty of my people".

Samoa:

Anthony Leaupepe extended an invitation to the Living Wage event to all PAG members. The Mayor extended her apologies because she was overseas.

Desmond Avia Uili approached PAG members about the 'Talk it, Walk it, Live it' proposal to raise awareness around tackling youth obesity, increasing the importance of nutrition, physical activity and educating youth on health and social issues. This has been presented to Council officers who are to meet with Desmond and Ida.

Ida and Anthony attended a public meeting in Berhampore where the local community expressed concerns about the potential renewal of a liquor off-licence in the area.