

Minutes for the meeting held 11 February 2015

(6.pm – 8. pm)

Venue: Committee Room 2, Council offices, Wakefield Street

Present: Sai Lealea (Fiji & Chairperson), Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Samoa), Siofilisi Taufu'ou (Tonga), Alapeta Faletau (Tonga), Meremine Taiaopo Auelua (Samoa), Sharon Samasoni (Tokelau), Silika Kofe-Pouofenua (Tuvalu), Herbert Bartley (Tokelau), Kimi Higginson (Cook Islands), Nicole Rex (Niue), Councillor Sarah Free and Councillor Eagle.

Leina Isno was in attendance from the Vanuatu community.

Officers: Bryan Smith (Manager, Policy and Reporting). Officers presenting to PAG were: Baz Kaufman; Pip Aldridge, and Vicki McLaren

Apologies: Anthony Leaupepe (Samoa), Ledua Taucilagi (Fiji), Merio Marsters (Cook Islands), , and Alvin Mitikulena (Niue)

Welcome and opening prayer:

Sai welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ida gave the opening prayer.

The Chair and PAG members thanked Martin Rogers for the support he had provided to the group and wished him well in his new role at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Councillors also expressed their thanks. Martin responded that he had learned a great deal and had been privileged to work with PAG. He also provided PAG with a summary of the 2-stage referendum process that will be run to decide if New Zealand will change its flag (Martin is managing this process in the Prime Minister's Department).

Minutes for last meeting and matters arising:

The minutes as circulated were agreed.

Councillor Update:

In the interests of time, Councillors provided updates, information and comments during each agenda item, rather than as a separate item.

Living Wage Update:

Lyndy McIntyre and other representatives of the Living Wage Wellington Network presented to PAG on progress with the Living Wage initiative. Two council employees who had benefited from the council's policy on paying the living wage – they had moved from employment with a contractor providing services to the council to direct employment with the council - provided their personal stories about what this had meant for them and their families. They provided heart-felt, moving and compelling stories about how moving to the living wage had transformed their lives and restored their confidence and allow them to become a better father and family member. Another presenter told his story of how he worked as a cleaner of the council's public toilet facilities via a contractor and was paid the minimum wage. He needed to work 6 or 7 days per week and very long hours to try to provide for his family.

The Living Wage delegation expressed its support for WCC paying the living wage to employees, but advised PAG that this initiative must be extended to all CCOs and workers employed by third-party contractors. The delegation challenged the council to become New Zealand's first true living wage council.

PAG expressed its deep gratitude to those who had shared their very personal stories with the Group.

PAG expressed its strong support for the living wage initiative.

PAG agreed that the Chair would prepare a submission to Council, expressing PAG's strong support for the living wage and asking the council (as part of the 2015-25 LTP) to extend the living wage policy to all workers undertaking work on behalf of the council, including those working for CCOs and employed with third party contractors.

Councillor Free also expressed her thanks to the living wage delegation and speakers and noted her support for council extending its living wage policy.

Regional Amalgamation

Baz Kaufman (Manager, Strategy and Research, WCC) gave a presentation on the Local Government Commission's draft proposal for amalgamation of local government councils in the Wellington Region. Baz outlined the Commission's proposed structure and scenarios for how the process might progress. In particular, submissions on the Commission's draft proposal close 2 March 2015. Following this the Commission will need to decide whether to amend its draft proposal and issue a final proposal for amalgamation(s) across the region.

It is likely that there will be a binding referendum to decide whether any final proposal issued by the Commission will be adopted.

PAG commented that the timeframe for submissions was short and the process & proposed changes were generally not well understood by Pasifika communities. PAG also commented that it would be helpful to understand councillors' collective view of the Commission's proposal and any alternative proposals.

PAG asked that Baz's presentation be circulated to all members. PAG members also noted that they would need support from council officers to fully understand the Commission's proposal and its implications so they could communicate this to their communities.

Pasifika Festival:

Suzanne Tamaki was scheduled to present an initial debrief on this year's festival, but was not available. Nonetheless, the PAG members had a good discussion about the festival.

In general PAG considered the festival was very successful, despite early challenges with the weather.

Some members noted that the role / tasks they had been assigned on the day were changed without their prior knowledge, which was the source of some frustration. There were also some decisions made that did not reflect a Pasifika cultural perspective. PAG noted that it was important that members' roles were clearly defined in future and that those roles were not changed without their involvement.

At a more general level, PAG members expressed concern that aspects of the festival were becoming too commercialised and were not properly reflecting Pasifika values and culture. They were also concerned that the role and influence of PAG (and Pasifika cultural interests) was being lost somewhat, and that the festival was at risk of becoming 'just another event organised and delivered by the council'.

PAG members, supported by Councillors Eagle and Free, agreed that a subcommittee (which should include council officers) be formed to take a challenging look at the festival as it is now and consider how it should evolve in future. It was agreed that this should happen with some urgency so that any decisions / changes in approach could be reflected in the next festival. Issues to do with media coverage of the event would also be discussed.

Nicole clarified that Niu FM had provided a copy of the proposal put to the council, which was for \$7,500 not the \$30,000 suggested earlier.

Social Housing Service Policy Review:

Pip Aldridge and Vicki McLaren provided an updated on the social housing policy review. It was noted that a focus group for Pasifika tenants would be held on 24

February at the Newton Park complex. There was also a forum with tenants on 12 March. Submissions close on 27 March. Ida indicated that she should attend with Pasifika tenants as she had assisted many of them with housing issues in the past and understood the issues well.

Pip was asked if the PAG's input to the housing review (which was developed at the last meeting) was well understood by officers. Pip said that it was, but noted that some issues, such as the quality of council units, were beyond the scope of the review. She also encouraged PAG to refine its messages so that, rather than focusing on Pasifika peoples specifically, it was more in the context of the particular needs and vulnerabilities of people that the council should target with its housing policy toward.

PAG agreed to look at its messages and 'tidy this up' if need be.

Community updates:

The Chair asked members to briefly provide an update on any significant issues from their communities.

Siofilisi noted that they were still looking for a premises for the homework centre.

Leina noted that it was the first time Vanuatu had taken part in the Pasifika festival and it had gone very well. Participants would be evaluating the day. She also noted that Papua New Guinea had a really good day at the festival also.

Silika noted that last week Tuvalu open its High Commission on The Terrace. She also advised that Tuvalu wanted to get the second PAG place for Tuvalu filled and had a candidate had come forward (Bryan undertook to investigate the process for this).

Kimi advised that the Cook Islands World War One commemoration is on 17 April. The Prime Minister will open the event. The Cook Island Society will be hosting an event at the Pines. Contact Danny.Kauraka@qv.co.nz for details. The Society will also be hosting a youth group of around 30 people between 31 March and 2 April.

Herbert noted that *Brave* was opening in Wellington next week and he would like to see as many Pasifika people as possible there. He also noted that the Pacific Business Network was holding an event at Te Wharewaka on 19 February. More information is available [here](#).

Nicole noted that tragically, a 23 year old woman had died in Niue after having contracted a disease in Samoa that health officials in Niue were unaware of. The High Commissioner wants to initiate a process whereby information about serious health risks can be shared between Pacific Island nations.

Sai advised that it had been a bad start to the year with the deaths of three prominent Fijians early in the year. He also advised that the Fijian language festival would be hosted in Masterton next month.

The meeting closed with a prayer from Siofilisi.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Wednesday 18 March 2015.

DRAFT