

## Minutes for the meeting held 15 April 2015

(6.00pm – 8. 00pm)

**Venue:** Committee Room 2, Council offices, Wakefield Street

**Present:** Sai Lealea (Fiji & Chairperson),  
Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Samoa),  
Alapeta Faletau (Tonga),  
Kimi Higginson (Cook Islands),  
Ledua Taucilagi (Fiji),  
Anthony Leaupepe (Samoa),  
Meremine Taiaopo Auelua (Samoa)  
Merio Marsters (Cook Islands),  
Herbert Bartley (Tokelau),  
Alvin Mitikulena (Niue),  
Siofilisi Taufou'ou (Tonga),  
Nicole Rex (Niue),  
Councillor Free,  
Councillor Eagle, and  
Leina Isno (Vanuatu).

**Officers:** Sophie Rapson (Policy Advisor)

**Apologies:** Sharon Samasoni (Tokelau),  
Silika Kofe-Pouofenua (Tuvalu)

For lateness: Councillor Eagle  
Merio Marsters (Cook Islands)

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### Welcome and opening prayer:

Sai welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Kimi gave the opening prayer.

The Chair and PAG members welcomed Sophie Rapson and she introduced herself to the group.

### Minutes for last meeting:

The minutes as circulated were agreed with the following amendments:

- Delete the word "new" on page 4.

- Added Alvin, Nicole, Meremine and Ida to the Pasifika Festival Subcommittee on page 3.

### **Matters arising:**

#### *Long-term Plan Submission*

Anthony gave an update to PAG about the Long-term Plan submission that he wrote on behalf of PAG.

Anthony suggested that PAG should make an oral submission to Councillors and that they should organise a big group similar to other Living Wage submissions.

Ida agreed, she urged all of PAG to come along to the submission and make a statement to Councillors.

Meremine moved, seconded by Nicole that PAG acknowledges the work that Anthony put into the PAG submission.

#### *New Zealand Flag Consideration Project*

Ida gave PAG an overview of the presentation she attended on behalf of PAG regarding the New Zealand Flag Consideration Project.

Ida then informed the members about the presentation she gave to the panel, which focussed on symbolism. Her presentation was unique and well received.

Leina thanked Ida for representing PAG at this meeting and providing information to the group on this project.

Action: Sai and Ida to write on behalf of PAG to the New Zealand Flag Consideration Body to indicate the ongoing interest in this process and to state that PAG is available to help engage their communities in this process.

### **Annual Report**

PAG had a general discussion around the content of their Annual Report and highlights of the year that has been.

Meremine suggested that PAG should look at the previous minutes of PAG meetings to help identify what should be included in the Annual Report.

Anthony suggested that PAG needs to build a stronger relationship with the Council CEO – Kevin Lavery. PAG needs to have a relationship with the executive level of Council management.

A discussion was had about the need to have an Executive Leader Team (ELT) member at PAG meetings, not just Councillors.

Alvin noted that to have any real influence there needs to be a Pasifika Councillor.

Action: Sai and Sophie agreed to meet the following week to discuss the production of the Annual Report and its content.

### **Pacific Language Week Discussion**

Nicole provided PAG with the dates of Pacific Language weeks in New Zealand. She suggested that PAG could run some sort of activity for each of the language weeks.

There is a possibility the Council could provide venue subsidies or free venues for PAG to run these events or activities. Sophie will talk to Jenny Rains in the Community Networks team to clarify to what extent Council can provide support to PAG for these language weeks.

Leina suggested that PAG should also include Melanesian languages in this project.

It was also suggested that the group should get an official from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs to talk about the funding and coordination of the language weeks.

Action: Nicole and Meremine to come up with a proposal on potential events or activities to present to the next PAG meeting.

### **Councillor Update:**

Councillor Free apologised for her lateness to the meeting and proceeded to give PAG her update.

She gave an update on the Long-term Plan process and encouraged the group to make their own individual submissions.

Councillor Free was pleased to learn that Ida had the opportunity to represent PAG at the Flag Consideration meeting and put forward the Pasifika perspective.

She also gave an update on the Local Government Regional Governance process that the Local Government Commission is leading.

### **Community updates:**

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

*Merio Marsters* advised that the Cook Island language classes have had an increase in 7 people, 3 adults and 4 children. WWI commemoration events are coming up as well.

*Kimi Higginson* noted that the Cook Island radio is between 8-10pm Tuesdays on Niu FM. The Queens Representative from Rarotonga will be attending the commemoration events and there will be white crosses on Parliament grounds.

*Ledua Taucilagi* noted that there is a Fijian Language Week Committee has started its planning.

*Alapeta Faletau* discussed the Pacific Future Funds. They are hiring support officer and have just advertised that position.

*Nicole Rex* attended the Niue Arts and Culture Festival. Niu FM has been advertising it and a lot of tourists are attending. She let the group know about the Creativity Challenge Conference at Taita College, she has delegate packs available if any members would like to attend.

*Alvin Mitikulena* noted that Niue currently has an elephant in quarantine before it heads to Auckland, which is a big talking point on the island at the moment. Alvin also advised that Margaret Pointer launching a book on 200 years history of Niue.

*Herbert Bartley* noted that he is busy with Matariki planning and events. He advised the group of upcoming events such as Black 7 – Tokelauan Stage Stories.

*Siofilisi Taufo'ou* noted that Easter is an important time of year for the Tongan community and so that has been a recent focus. He advised that the homework centre funding is coming to an end, so they are currently looking for alternative funding sources. Siofilisi also noted that the Tongan government has recently signed onto the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

*Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako* noted that she attended the Flag Consideration meeting, the Southern Ward Long-term Plan forum and the Vanuatu Relief Event. She advised PAG that on 30 May there will be a health expo and she will send out the details of the event to the group.

*Meremine Taitaopo Auelua* had no update to give this meeting.

*Leina Isno* would like to thank PAG for all their prayers and thoughts regarding the devastating cyclone and also to those who attended the Vanuatu Relief Event. The local Vanuatu community managed to raise \$50,000 in a short amount of time.

*Sai Lealea* noted that the Fijian radio programme has been extended from 6pm-12am Saturday on Niu FM, he said there is a desire to have a Wellington focus.

### **Councillor Update (continued):**

Councillor Eagle gave his apologies for lateness and also for not following up on his tasks from the previous meeting.

He advised PAG of the passing of Brian Hannah, the Director of Strategy and External Relations. Councillor Eagle acknowledged the massive contribution Brian had made to the Council and the city.

He also suggested that he could add to the PAG Long-term Plan submission with the content that PAG had produced in the Pasifika Action Plan. He has requested an extension to get this work done in time.

Councillor Eagle also provided PAG with an update about the Social Strategy that is in its initial scoping phase.

Ida asked Councillor Eagle about the article in the Wellingtonian which advised Councillor Eagle would be running as Councillor Nicola Young's Deputy Mayor. Councillor Eagle advised the group that the article was misleading and that he was running for Labour in the Southern ward and is not on a ticket with Councillor Young.

The meeting closed with a prayer from Alvin Mitikulena.

**Next meeting:**

The next meeting will be Wednesday 13 May 2015.