

Pacific Advisory Group

Minutes for the meeting held 9 September 2015

(6pm – 8pm)

Venue: Committee Room 2, Council offices, Wakefield Street

Present: Sai Lealea (Fiji & Chairperson), Ledua Taucilagi (Fiji), Meremine Taiaopo Auelua (Samoa), Sharon Samasoni (Tokelau), Herbert Bartley (Tokelau), Kimi Higginson (Cook Islands), Anthony Leaupepe (Samoa), Merio Marsters (Cook Islands), Alvin Mitikulena (Niue), Leina Isno (Vanuatu), Alapeta Faletau (Tonga), Siofilisi Taifo'ou (Tonga), Nicole Rex (Niue) and Silika Kofe (Tuvalu), Councillor Free and Councillor Eagle.

Guest: Heker Robertson, Pasifika Futures

Officers: Gunther Wild (Manager, Policy and Reporting)

Apology: Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Samoa)

Pacific Forum Meeting with Council Staff:

Prior to the main PAG meeting, from 5.30pm – 6pm, WCC staff attended a meeting with members of PAG to meet each other and discuss the upcoming forum

Opening prayer:

Nicole said grace and gave the opening prayer.

Welcome:

Sai welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes for last meeting and matters arising:

The minutes as circulated were agreed with a minor amendment.

Pasifika Futures presentation:

Heker introduced himself to PAG, discussed his role at Pasifika Futures and relationship with the Wellington Central Pacific Collective and ran through a presentation that he offered to send to the PAG members.

PAG members discussed with Heker what work is being specifically undertaken in the Wellington central area and what the criteria is to join the Collective. At the previous PAG meeting Desmond Tupangaia from the Central Pacific Collective noted that they would be happy to speak to anyone who would like to find out more about the Collective.

Action:

- *Sai to organise time for PAG members to meet with Heker at his office to discuss developing links with the Collective*

Pacific Festival Sub-Committee:

The Festival Sub-Committee reported that there is a possibility that PAG could take over running the festival. The sub-committee is meeting with Suzanne from Council to discuss the opportunity further. The sub-committee is also providing the WCC event organisers with feedback for the upcoming Festival, including:

- The theme is outdated
- The layout needs improving
- PAG should be involved in the decision on the lead act
- PAG should be involved in advertising decisions
- Pacific business owners should be invited to have a stall at the festival
- The content of the festival needs to be open to all Pacific nations – e.g. a cuisine from each country
- Budget for a lead up church service

Cllr Eagle noted that the City Growth & Partnerships Directorate at WCC was happy to meet and discuss a potential solution.

PAG discussed the pros and cons of taking a governance role vs. operational role with the event as there is a significant amount of time required with organising such a large event.

Action:

- *PAG agreed that the Sub-committee continue to be involved in helping shape next year's event while also planning for what PAGs long-term involvement will be.*

Pacific Advisory Group Forum Planning:

The PAG discussed and finalised the final arrangements for next week's forum.

Actions:

- *Gunther to organise data projector*
- *Gunther to organise name tags to be available*
- *Gunther to send copy of Pasifika Action Plan to each PAG member and each WCC staff member attending*
- *Gunther to organise leis for dignitaries*
- *PAG members to wear traditional clothing*
- *Gunther to send WCC staff details to the MCs and facilitators*
- *Gunther to print extra copies of the invitation flier to leave at WCC reception for anyone to pick up extra copies*
- *PAG to have a look at a potential feedback tool.*

Community updates:

The Chair asked members to briefly provide an update on any significant highlights from their communities:

Ledua: There have been a series of workshops as part of language week. The launch will be at Wesley Church on 4 October, with a Bula Mai Night on Friday 9th October. On 10th October is 45th Fijian Independence Day with sports and cultural celebration, including a band coming from Fiji.

Herbert: Is finishing up at Te Papa and becoming a consultant.

Anthony: Been discussing housing and rent with Council. Would like to see PAG member at citizenship ceremonies especially when there are Pasifika peoples receiving their citizenship

Cllr Free: Working with community centres, including Strathmore.

Kimi: Cook Islands Day celebration will be held at the Cook Islands Hall in Cannons Creek, Porirua on Saturday 26 September 2015, starting at 10am.

Leina: The meeting with the Minister for Peoples regarding allowing other Pacific Island groups to be part of the Pacific Language Week was cancelled by the Minister. Another time for the meeting is to be arranged. Travelling to Vanuatu to represent UN Women on behalf of Aoteraroa regarding the cyclone devastation.

Silika: Tuvalu Independence Day is in the first week of October.

Cllr Eagle: Gambling venues policy coming up to CSR Committee shortly and rental policy for social housing prior to Christmas.

Meremine: Attending extended family housing workshops around culture. Starting 8 week programme catering for Samoans.

Merio: Recently lay to rest Papa Mata Arai QSM.

Sharon: Everything is going well.

Alvin: Niue language week, including free health checks coming up in October. 19 October is Niue Constitution Day.

Siofilisi: Had the best language week yet. The Minister for Pacific Peoples launched language week on Monday in Parliament.

Sai: Finalising the Fijian Language Week Programme for 5th – 11th October. Have tickets available for Bula Mai Night on Friday 9th October. There is a Youth camp, Pacific Business night with MBIE coming to talk about the Pacific Economic Development Strategy, sports and language and cultural workshops among the activities in the programme.

Closing Prayer

The meeting closed with a prayer from Sofi.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Wednesday 14 October 2015.