

Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 18 November 2020

Time 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Venue Ngake – Room 16.09, Tahiwī, 113 The Terrace, Wellington

Members present

Chair Jocelyn Kua

Members Anthony Carter (Deputy Chair), Mino Cleverley (via audio-visual link), Sunia Foliaki, Kira Hundleby, Aseri Kua, Sai Lealea, Alvin Mitikulena

Councillors Councillor Teri O'Neill, Councillor Rebecca Matthews

Staff Sean Johnson (Democracy Advisor), Shona McCahon (Reserves Planner), Elizabeth Reddington (Cemeteries Manager), Carolyn Dick (Team Leader Strategy), Baz Kaufmann (Manager Strategy and Research)

Minutes

1. Meeting Procedures

6:11 pm

1.1. Sai lead the group in the opening prayer.

1.2. Apologies were received from the following members:

- Ofania, Merio, Natalia – for absence.

1.3. No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.

(Kira arrived at 6:16 pm)

2. Presentations

6:16 pm

2.1. Cemeteries Management Plan Review, *presented by Shona McCahon and Elizabeth Reddington*

Shona and Elizabeth presented about the ongoing consultation on the Cemeteries Management Plan Review which opened on 6 November 2020 and will close on 9 December 2020.

The Cemeteries Management Plan covers WCC's three operational cemeteries – Karori Cemetery, Makara Cemetery, and Tawa Cemetery. The management plan was last reviewed in 2004.

The review of the management plan is in response to several key factors:

- Current cemeteries are reaching capacity.
- A decision needs to be made about the extent to which Council protects and maintains heritage aspects of cemeteries.
- Resilience and sustainability factors, such as providing for natural burials or responding to emergency situations.

- Decisions need to be made about what sorts of recreational activities are permitted within cemeteries.

PAG members discussed the review. Key points of discussion included:

- The concern in the community that the proposal to re-use graves would apply to existing graves (Shona confirmed that any proposal to re-use graves would only apply to future graves where it was requested).
- The importance of cemetery spaces to Pasifika communities as being reflective contemplative spaces, not for recreation.
- Changing norms within Pasifika communities of being buried in New Zealand rather than in home islands.
- How the Pasifika section of the cemetery can allow for colourful creative Pasifika culture.
- Ways of engaging with Pasifika communities on this review.

Action points

- Members to let Sean know if there are any particular community groups that Council should consult with.

(Cr O'Neill arrived at 6:51 pm)

2.2. Advisory Groups Review, *presented by Carolyn Dick and Baz Kaufmann*

Carolyn and Baz presented to the group on the progress of the Advisory Groups Review. Specifically, they presented the recommendations from the independent report by Martin Jenkins.

The review will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee on 10 December 2020. The portion of SPC where it will be presented will be held in the late afternoon / early evening so that advisory group members can attend if they wish.

They noted that the review found that the current advisory groups model can work but isn't operating as intended. The report contained fourteen recommendations to amend the current advisory group model (these have been circulated to members). All these recommendations have been accepted by Council officers.

The report by Martin Jenkins identifies three key issues:

- Uncertainty about input into Council work
- Ambiguity about community connection
- The purpose as set out in the Terms of Reference is not widely understood

The recommendations address these issues and can be organised into four broad themes:

- Purpose
- Processes and set-up
- Work plans
- Practices

Of particular importance to PAG (as opposed to the other advisory groups) was a proposal to appoint members through a selection process, rather than an election process.

PAG discussed the proposed recommendations, topic of discussion included:

- Broad support for the proposals.
- Emphasis that understanding of the purpose of the group is important.
- Support for a selection process instead of an election process.
- Acknowledgement that as Pacific people PAG members are always engaging with their communities.
- How we can entice Pasifika youth to be interested in local government and take leadership positions in the city.

3. Councillors Update

7:56 pm

3.1. Cr O'Neill provided an update of current Council work:

- The Long-term Plan process is entering the trade-offs stage where different projects are considered as proposals for funding. This process has seen an initial proposal of a 23% rates rise, however Council is looking at reducing this.
- The Council agreed to a proposal to sell and lease land at Shelly Bay.
- Hearings are currently underway on the Draft Spatial Plan.
- Work is underway planning the Kilbirnie Christmas Parade.

4. Other Matters

time

4.1. Pacific Advisory Group members discussed other matters. Mino was acknowledged for presenting to the Strategy and Policy Committee on the Gambling Venues Policy.

5. Closing Prayer

5.1. Anthony lead the group in a closing prayer.

(The meeting closed at 8:02 pm)