



Rainbow Communities Advisory Group

Minutes


Date: Wednesday, 15 September 2021
Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Venue: Zoom

Purpose

- Assist and advise the City Council on how to help grow a great City where diverse rainbow people and communities thrive and contribute to the city’s priorities.
- Bring knowledge and insight to Council to ensure rainbow inclusion in our City.
- It is recognised that members come from and remain connected to their communities and share their expertise and individual lived experience in this advisory role.

Attendance

Chairperson:	Elected at end of meeting
Members:	Tyler Dunkel, Ashley Edge, Brodie Fraser, Connor McLeod, Mani Mitchell, Broden Packer, Natalie Piesse, Maggie Shippam, Stan Thomas, Sam Low,
WCC Staff:	Karepa Wall (Head of Māori Strategic Relations), Vondy Thornton(Community and Neighbourhood Advisor), Sean Johnson (Senior Democracy Advisor), Claire Barlow (Democracy Advisor), Jared Corston (Community Liaison - Newtown), Ariel McLean-Robinson(Community and Neighbourhood Advisor)
Councillors:	Cr Teri O’Neill and Cr Fleur Fitzsimons



Meeting Procedures

Cr O'Neill opened the meeting with a karakia at 6:06pm

1. Apologies were received from the following members:
 - Rosina Buchannan and Ashley Edge – for absence.
2. No conflicts of interest were declared.
3. What's on Top – Cr O'Neill explained how this icebreaker works and then started off the round of updates.

Items

4. **Youth Hub**, *Presented by Vondy Thornton, Jared Corston and Ariel McLean-Robinson*

Officers led the group through their presentation about the Central City Youth Hub. Community Services have been tasked with delivering this project and they wanted to get feedback from the group. At the end of the presentation members were asked questions about where they felt safe, growing up, and what specific needs Rainbow young people might have from a Youth Hub?

Feedback included the following:

- Safe places experienced by members were the Internet, a local marae, the Nelson Youth Hub (Q Youth), volunteer organisations, Reading Cinema, Manners Mall and Cuba Street. Open spaces where other Rainbow members congregated felt safer.
- Some specific needs that they felt would be helpful were: Rainbow flags or posters, quiet spaces as well as communal spaces, sexual health services, phone charging, murals/art, cool social workers to converse with, a craft table, animal drop-in sessions, wrap around services that leveraged off existing services – a place to de-mystify and connect the dots for young people. It was important that there were public spaces that provided shelter and warmth that were also free.

5. **RCAG Workplan**, *Presented by Vondy Thornton*.

Vondy introduced members to the *Miro* app and facilitated discussion around the key areas of importance for the group. Members can continue to add their ideas until COB Wednesday 22 September. Once a draft document has been formulated it will be distributed to members and then a representative from the group will present it to Council at their meeting on 4 November.

6. **Election of RCAG Leadership**, *Presented by Sean Johnson*

Sean outlined the process for elections and members voted unanimously for the Co-chair model.

Tyler Dunkel and Natalie Piesse nominated themselves and spoke briefly about what they could bring to the role. Both were elected unopposed.

7. Updates

Karepa shared his excitement about the next steps for the group and encouraged members to get involved in the Representation Review by making submissions and/or attending hearings. He also encouraged the group to look at the Forward Programme of agendas and see what is coming up that they may be interested in providing input on. He indicated that he would bring a draft Plan for Maori in the City later in the year and extended an offer for group members to come in to WCC if they were interested in seeing how Council works.

Vondy advised the group that her main priority for the next few months is the establishment of the Youth Hub and invited any members who wanted to help with the Rainbow Focus Group to contact her. She also agreed to send reading material for members from the LGBTQI hui and the Rainbow Advisory Group hui.

Sean indicated that the plan for October was to have a combined meeting with the other Advisory Groups, where they could hear about the numerous WCC consultations coming up. He also suggested that members attend a Council or Committee meeting, or watch it on YouTube, to understand how Council decisions are made.

Cr O'Neill updated members about her work on the *Ending Conversion Therapy Bill* and the increase in pressure on her role with the Wellington City Mission due to Covid-19. She outlined some of the papers that were coming to Council. Of particular interest to her were the Sustainability of Social Housing and the Economic Wellbeing Strategy papers.

The meeting concluded with a karakia at 8:08pm.

Actions:

- **Vondy to send notes on hui.**
- **Vondy to send draft Workplan document to group members**
- **Sean to provide information on upcoming agendas**
- **Karepa to bring the draft plan for Maori in the City to the group later in the year.**

Information

Next meeting date: To be advised.