

Takatāpui Rainbow Advisory Council

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 15 June 2022

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Venue: Ngake (16.09), Level 16 Tahiwi, 113 The Terrace, Wellington, and 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:	Tyler Dunkel (Co-Chair), Natalie Piesse (Co-Chair)
Members:	Maggie Shippam, Rākau Buchannan, Ashley Edge, Mani Mitchell, Brodie Fraser, Sam Low
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Fleur Fitzsimons (Alternate)
WCC Staff:	Karepa Wall (Chief Māori Officer), Vondy Thornton (Community and Neighbourhood Advisor), Leteicha Lowry (Democracy Advisor), Stan Thomas (Hāpai Ake), Jennifer Parker (Democracy Services Manager), Sean Johnson (Democracy Services Team Leader), Fiona Bailey (Principal Comms & Engagement Advisor), Andy Lowe (City Arts Manager), Matt Lane (Service Designer), Lucy Lang (Te Matapihi and Future Experiences Manager)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 6:02pm.

1. Apologies were received from Connor for absence.

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

NP/TD minutes carried.

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.
3. Members shared what was on top with them for this week.

Items

4. ELT/Councillor Updates

Cr Fitzsimons shared the following updates with the group:

- We are moving into the pre-election period and Councillors are thinking about which issues need resolving now vs. by the new Council.
- Currently, focus on is on the setting of the Annual Plan and setting of rates.
- Council is excited about Matariki and embracing this in culturally appropriate ways.
- There is interesting work in climate change, including investigating the impacts of climate change on coastal communities.
- The District Plan is coming to Council next week.
- Rainbow event is taking place at Wellington Zoo – Tyler is willing to attend.
- Suggested it may be worth scheduling a presentation on Pōneke Promise for a future meeting.
- Discussed the golden mile transformation (LGWM) to make a focus on buses and pedestrians in the Lambton Quay/Willis Street/Manners Street/Courtney Place area. There has been a lot of business opposition because of uncertainty and worry.
- Member commented on business in the central city, noting there was an absence of local businesses (tends to be more chains). They felt that the vibe had changed and there are a lot of empty shop fronts.
- Karepa provided statistics on the economic status of the city, noting that car use has returned to pre-covid usage, bus use is at 75% of what it was pre-covid, and shop vacancy is currently 4%.

Karepa shared the following updates with the group:

- Council has adopted a talent acquisition strategy (internal) with the goals being to reflect in the organisation what the community is made up of, be an employer of choice, and raise our capability in terms of recruitment.

- Suggested a future presentation to TRAC on the talent acquisition strategy.

5. Recruitment Update

Vondy updated the group on the current round of recruitment. Interviews have been conducted and we have found three brilliant people to fill the vacant seats on TRAC – they will be introduced at the next hui. Vondy thanked Ty for their assistance in recruitment, especially as someone who can give their perspective as a member of TRAC. We have recruited three members as Stan has stepped down as a member of TRAC to become a liaison officer for the group. Of the three seats filled during this recruitment round, two are takatāpui seats and one is to fill the seat vacated by Stan. Leteicha will send out a formal invitation to the induction evening on the 30th of June.

6. Proposal for Rainbow Role – *Presented by TRAC*

Minor amendments to the proposal have been made by the group, and the proposal has been sent to Council. This will be an agenda item each month to continue momentum. Karepa will provide updates moving forward. In the previous meeting, co-signing of the proposal was discussed with Queer at Council (QAC) (WCC staff network), but the document was signed by TRAC alone. Members suggested QAC may provide feedback moving forward.

7. Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui (Central Library) – *Presented by Lucy Lang, Andy Lowe & Matt Lane*

Officers presented to the group the plans for the Central Library, Te Matapihi. A number of years ago, the building had to be closed. A consultation process occurred and there was a decision to remediate and reopen the building, and bring it into 21st century. It is expected to open in the first quarter of 2026. The new library will be the front face of the city archives and of the Council service centre, and will be the home of Capital E. There will be a variety of different spaces for different needs within Te Matapihi. All bathrooms will be unisex/gender neutral.

Members comments:

- Appreciated how the design has considered the community, and cultural aspects.
- Asked whether bike parks outside the library could double up as trolley parks for people who are homeless, or could there be cubbies for people to securely leave their belongings.
- Asked whether people who are homeless had been engaged with – noted many people use a library as a place to upskill.
- Asked whether there will be free computer/internet access for those who cannot afford to pay – officers responded that Te Matapihi is about providing equal access and they want to make sure people have access moving forward.

- Open hours are important to ensure enough access to public space.
- The old library design created pockets of private areas, but had negative safety impacts.
- Asked whether spaces will be available in the library to be used for free or at a low cost (as was provided in the previous library) – officers responded that, yes, community spaces will be incorporated in Te Matapihi.
- Wanted visual agreement between the new library and Te Ngākau Civic Square eg. red brick.
- Would like to see security used to give an introduction and to set the space.
- Suggested fluid space, such as shelves on wheels, may help with competing needs eg. between space for people and space for the library's collection.
- Would like to see the return of beehives with the new library.

8. Elections Update – *Presented by Sean Johnson, Fiona Bailey & Jennifer Parker*

Sean presented to the group on the local election that will take place later this year. Key dates are as follows:

- Nomination period - 15 July to 12 August
- Voting (via post, ballot box, or special vote) - 16 September to 8 October **at noon**

Elections are based on wards. For the first time ever, WCC will have a Māori ward in 2022, so there will be dedicated Māori representation on Council. The Māori ward councillor will be elected by voters on the Māori roll.

There will not be a DHB election as the central government is disestablishing DHBs.

An election hub will be located at Te Pokapū Hapori during the voting period for special voting purposes and general election enquiries. Additional ballot boxes will be located around the city to make voting more accessible.

Fiona presented the comms strategy for the election to the group. This has three phases - enrol, stand & vote. A primary aim is to increase voter turnout, which is currently around 40%. The lowest voter turnout by age group is among 20–26-year-olds. The comms strategy has a strong focus on youth messaging for this reason including memes and TikTok content. The comms strategy has a focus on social norms and inclusion within its messaging, as it has been shown such messaging promotes civic engagement. There will also be a comms focus in the 'stand' phase for the Māori ward. Other councils in the region are using consistent imaging – this is useful as it allows use of Metlink buses and trains for advertising.

As a Council advisory group, TRAC must be politically neutral in their official capacity, but do not need to be politically neutral in an individual capacity (eg. can volunteer for candidates etc.).

9. TRAC Housing submission & abstract for journal article – *Presented by Brodie*

Brodie updated the group that they and Tyler gave an oral submission regarding social housing to Council. Brodie is also working on an abstract for a paper about what it's like being on an advisory panel. If accepted, Brodie will put together a brief set of questions for group members to respond to, if they don't have time to otherwise participate.

10. Workplan & Report – *Presented by Leteicha Lowry*

Leteicha advised the group that, in the near future, they will need to begin work on their 2022/2023 workplan. This is required by the [Terms of Reference](#), and should be completed within the first four months of the financial year. The workplan will be reported to the meeting of Pūroro Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee on the 1st of September 2022.

11. Task Updates ('Task Master') – *Presented by Maggie*

- Tasks assigned at last meeting have been completed.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Information

Next meeting date: 20/07/2022

Actions from this meeting:

- Induction evening invitation to be sent to existing and new TRAC members.
- Liaison officers to ensure a break is incorporated into future meeting agendas.