



Takatāpui Rainbow Advisory Council

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 21 September 2022

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Venue: Ngake (16.09) Level 16 Tahiwī, 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)
Members:	Rākau Buchannan, Connor McLeod, Mani Mitchell, Maggie Shippam, Sam Low, Vinod Bal, Carew Paki
Liaison Councillors:	Cr Teri O'Neill
WCC Staff:	Karepa Wall (Tatai Heke Māori Chief Māori Officer), Vondy Thornton (Senior Resilience Advisor), Leteicha Lowry (Kaitohutohu Manapori Democracy Advisor), Emily Deans (Kaitohutohu Manapori Democracy Advisor)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 6:02pm.

1. Apologies were received from Ashley Edge, Natalie Piesse, and Brodie Fraser for absence.

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

CP/SL – 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

Karepa shared the following updates:

- Voting period has begun for local body elections. We will be receiving statistics approximately weekly on the number of votes received and from where – not any information on who people have voted for.
- Final Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Council hui is next week and will include valedictorian speeches.

Councillor O'Neill shared the following updates:

- Last week at Pūroro Āmua | Planning and Environment Committee hui a decision was made on the Newtown to City bike and bus improvements – traffic resolution approval.
- Congratulated group on the recent presentation of their Annual Report and Work Plan.

5. **Island Bay Town Centre Upgrade, Presented by Brennan Baxley**

Brennan presented on the plans for upgrades to the Island Bay Town Centre. Upgrades are primarily for the purpose of safety improvements and to increase accessibility, create identity and character, and assist in crime prevention through design within the Island Bay Town Centre. Officers said there has not been specific work with LGBTQIA+ people in the area on this project.

The group asked questions about safety and requested more information on this. Officers responded that lighting, surface treatments, and planting are components of the upgrades; Lighting will make the pedestrian laneway more inviting; Surface treatments will create a smooth and consistent surface to address current tripping hazards; Planting will occur at a height to minimise visibility impacts.

The projected timeline includes detailed design in the next couple of months, with implementation planned for next year.

Members' discussion included:

- Said local iwi have supported the annual rainbow youth hui, including in early days when others weren't always supportive, and Tapu te Ranga Marae has been an entryway into the Wellington and wider rainbow community. Members were supportive of this being recognised within the upgrades.
- Like the idea of honouring prominent members of the LGBTQIA+ community in place-making design elements.
- Noted Island Bay was a Māori community before it was an Italian or European community.
- Like the width of Island Bay streets and said this positively contributed to feelings of safety.
- Supported the bathrooms being gender neutral and asked about the process by which decisions re: gender neutral bathrooms are made.

6. Task Master, *Presented by Maggie*

- There were no tasks requiring action.
- Suggested this become a periodic agenda item, as necessary.
- Connor self-nominated to assist in case of Maggie's absence.

7. **Sexual Violence Prevention Action Plan**, *Presented by Jahla Lawrence*

Jahla presented to the group on their role, and the Sexual Violence Prevention action plan. This mahi sits within the Pōneke Promise, specifically under reducing harm, te whakaiti ake i te kino. The Pōneke Promise is geographically specific to a central area of Pōneke. Jahla is currently writing a strategy to accompany this mahi. Engagement with queer groups has occurred, and with disabled people, and youth. There is a particular gap in hearing from takatāpui, and those who experience multiple marginalisations. Jahla aims to begin consultation around the end of October.

Members' discussion included:

- Asked about sexual violence statistics relating to, and potential weaponisation of data against gender neutral bathrooms. Officers' responded that sexual violence is underreported, with ~6% of incidents reported to the police, and most data used is police data, which is unspecific. They were not concerned about data being weaponised against gender neutral bathrooms, and said there was significant data to indicate gender neutral bathrooms are valuable in sexual violence prevention.
- Would like to assist older takatāpui and rainbow people to be involved in conversations. Additionally noted older members of the community can become isolated.
- Noted transport is related to feelings of safety, and at all hours of the day and night.
- Noted an area of concern at the urinals located near the Peter Jackson statue.

The meeting concluded at 7:57pm.

Information

Next meeting date: 19/10/2022

Actions from this meeting:

Democracy Advisor to:

- Share contact details of presenters with TRAC.
- Ensure a break is included in each meeting.
- Schedule a Pride agenda item before the end of the year, and discussion on gender neutral bathrooms.

ELT liaison to:

- Consider/bring to ELT concept of a policy regarding gender neutral bathrooms.