

Record of Meeting: Youth Council

Venue Committee Room 2
When 4-5.15 pm, 7 December 2011

Present

Members: Katja Heesterman, Bing-Ying Lou, Stevenson Pule, Kieran Meredith, James Wall-Manning, Zared Wall-Manning, Emily Murphy, Ben Ogilvie, Zoe Doole, Susie Larken, Rebecca Christini and Jack Marshall.

Councillor: Cr Simon Marsh

Officers: Rekha Jatav and Graeme Shimmin

Observers: Brydon Sundgren and Erica Llorico

Minutes

1. Opening

Katja welcomed the group.

2. Apologies

Morgan Watkins, Simon Wright, Stevenson Pule (for leaving early), Ben Ogilvie (for leaving early), and James and Zared Wall-Manning (for arriving late)

3 What's on top

The year's end, Christmas shopping and functions, a tramping trip, getting jobs, studying again and holidays were 'on top' for most YC members.

4. Previous minutes and matters arising

Ben moved the minutes as true and correct. Susie seconded the motion and it was passed.

The action summary for the meeting of 23 November was reviewed. Simon has emailed the flyer for the free home assessment to all YC members so that they can distribute it to their networks. James has forwarded changes to the Youth Council application form to Simon so he can get the form updated. Katja has provided text for Bing's flyer. Simon has distributed the flyer to members so they can distribute it to their networks. Katja has posted the flyer to the YC Facebook page. Emily tried contacting her school Newlands College for recruitment for Youth Council but couldn't get through as it was end of year. Zoe attended the Wellington Accessibility Forum 2011 at Te Papa.

Katja requested that everyone send the YC Recruitment flyer for 2012 to friends and networks.

5. Portfolio report backs / Forward programme

Natural Environment

One YC member noted that a report on the Town Belt was going to Strategy and Policy Committee (SPC) this week (8 Dec. 2011).

Arts and culture

One YC member reported on Wellington Events Calendar, which lists all upcoming events, and the Courtenay Place light box exhibition 'Imaginary Geographies - New ways of interpreting our environments'. Artists from New Zealand, Australia, Mexico and Korea combine both real and imagined landscapes to encourage passers-by to take a fresh look at public space.

The Central Library will be celebrating its 20th anniversary on Saturday 10th December 2011. There will be lots of fun events and activities.

'Prospect: New Zealand Art Now' is open at the City Gallery from (26 November 2011–12 February 2012). Prospect is a well-known and highly anticipated fixture in New Zealand's contemporary art calendar.

Cafes are encouraging consumers to join the 'conscious consumer' movement by signing up online. Being a conscious consumer means thinking about how the purchases we make every day can affect other people and the planet.

One YC member reported talking with Councillor Ray Ahipene- Mercer about the international artists should also come to Wellington and not just Auckland.

Councillor Marsh mentioned that the Arts and Cultural Strategy is going to Strategy and Policy Committee this week (8 Dec. 2011). He suggested that in the New Year 2012, it would be good if someone picked up the responsibility of Economic portfolio.

Built Environment

One YC member mentioned the Earthquake on Saturday, 3 Dec. and noted that buildings on Cuba St. are red stickered and landlords don't have enough money for strengthening.

One member pointed out that the Newtown School is an earthquake prone building. The main building is not safe and is not being used for teaching anymore. A YC member asked about the Council's involvement in earthquake strengthening. It was suggested that earthquake strengthening be on the meeting agenda for next year. Councillor Marsh clarified that Central Government sets the standards around what is safe and unsafe, and that 80% of the hazards can be mitigated by spending small amounts of money.

Community engagement

One YC member attended an intergenerational session at a Forum for older persons. The session focussed on the importance of intergenerational opportunities and the conclusion was that communication is the key to successfully achieving goals for both young and old alike.

The group felt that they could meet with the other WCC advisory groups. The YC could collaborate and facilitate when required on any consultation that is of mutual interest. The group expressed interest in building relationships with other Advisory groups. There was general support for this idea that should be followed up next year. One YC member felt that individual voice shouldn't be lost as result of working together.

Community Facilities

One YC member informed the group about the Johnsonville Library Expansion consultation which is open from 6 December 2011 - 16 February 2012.

One member mentioned that the Westpac Trust wants to build a music facility next to the Westpac Stadium. It is likely that there would be a cover over the stadium. The idea is in its early stages only.

6. General Business

Recruitment

Katja encouraged YC members to circulate the recruitment flyer so that the YC could recruit 6 new members at the beginning of 2012. The YC should get the applications in as soon as possible before the closing date of 31 January 2012.

Accessible Wellington Forum 2011 (Emily/Zoe)

Zoe attended the Accessible Wellington Forum 2011 at Te Papa. Two things that struck her were that the Forum was not only about people with disabilities and that it also focussed on access to resources, information, etc. Zoe informed the group that the Forum had conversations around five themed tables – Governance, Social and Recreation, Ease of travel across and around Wellington City, Arts and Culture, Built Environment and Open Spaces and Economic Development. The conversations were interesting and varied. Zoe suggested that the YC should definitely do a submission on the Draft Accessible Wellington Action Plan (Consultation period 6 Dec. 2011- 29 Feb. 2012).

The following YC members volunteered to work on the following issues over the summer:

- Draft Accessible Wellington Action Plan - Bing and Jack.
- Green Paper on Vulnerable Children - Zoe, Kieran, Stevenson, Emily, Bing, Susie and Ben.

As Katja is not standing for YC in 2012, Emily will be the sole chair over the summer. The working groups are to develop ideas and have a draft ready for the next YC meeting in February 2012.

Johnsonville Library

Graeme Shimmin from the Consultation & Engagement team gave a presentation on Johnsonville Library Expansion consultation. He informed YC members that the consultation period was from 6 Dec. 2011- 16 Feb. 2012 and distributed copies of the consultation brochures.

The presentation included some Scandinavian examples and touched on how technology could change things and explained WCC's preference for creating integrated community hubs.

The YC members were asked to write down on sticky notes their views on the following aspects of library– What does the library mean to you? What would it look like? What could it offer? The group shared their ideas briefly. The sticky notes comments and

ideas were summarised.

Two YC members living in Johnsonville and an observer from Johnsonville thought it would be useful to make a submission on the Johnsonville Library Expansion consultation.

Self review of Youth Council's work in 2011

The YC members noted that they had not worked on an Annual report in previous years. The group had a look at the draft Annual report for 2011 which was circulated prior to the meeting.

Katja opened the discussion about how the YC had been during 2011. The key points included:

- Portfolios – the group felt that the portfolio system was starting to work well and that it would be better next year.
- More independent – the group felt that they are more independent this year compared with previous years. Council officers observe and YC members do more. YC members really like this approach where they are listened to and take decisions.
- Engagement at an early stage – YC members felt satisfied that Council officers come to the Youth Council group at early stages of consultation for their advice and not towards the end of a consultation.
- Youth Council growth – the group felt that they have grown a lot and should keep it up. The Youth Council Facebook page has 460 likes.
- Youth Forum – Youth Council members expressed interest in running a Youth Forum similar to Accessible Wellington Forum.
- BGI link – some of the YC members felt that the BGI link has been lost since the change of direction at WCC.
- Beneficial experience - being a Youth Council member has been a beneficial experience, an eye opener and provides opportunities to represent youth.
- Youth Council should continue to be reflective and do more environmental scanning.
- Youth Council newsletter – email YC newsletter for more engagement.

Secret Santa

The Youth Council members exchanged their Secret Santa presents.

7. Closing

The meeting formally closed at 5:15 pm.

The first meeting for 2012 is on 8 February.

Action Summary

1. **Youth Council** members will work over summer holiday on a submission on Draft Accessibility Action Plan Consultation and the Green paper on Vulnerable Children. They will report back to YC at the next meeting.