

Record of Meeting: Youth Council

Venue Committee Room 2, 101 Wakefield Street, Wellington

When 4-5.30 pm, 22 August 2012

Present

Members: Ben Ogilvie, Cameron Oldfield, Duncan Armstrong, Jack Marshall, Lily Simmons-Donaldson, Brittany Trilford, James Wall-Manning and Zoe Doole.

Councillor: Cr Simon Marsh

Officers: Simon Wright, Rekha Jatav, Phillipa Bowron, Nelson Sheridan and Neville Brown.

Guests: Fati and David from Work and Income, Jack and Genevieve from Generation Zero.

Minutes

1. Opening

Zoe welcomed the group.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Zared Wall-Manning, Therese Kyne, Ruth Corkill, Edgardo Reyes, Stevenson Pule, Brydon Sundgren, Bing-Ying Lou and Roma Simmons-Donaldson. Cameron Oldfield and Cnr Simon Marsh apologised for arriving late.

3. What's on top

Members reported a diverse range of one-word 'what's on top' activities including exams, babysitting, driving, essays and fun.

4. Conflicts of interest

This item was deferred.

5. Previous minutes and matters arising

James moved that the minutes be accepted as true and correct. Ben seconded the motion.

6. Portfolios/Forward Programme

This item was deferred.

7. General Business

Fati and David, Work and Income NZ

Fati talked about the welfare reforms that started on 20 August (e.g. there is no independent youth benefit any longer), described the new youth transitions services that they are responsible for, and said that they were looking to build relationships with youth organisations, agencies and bodies. Fati confirmed that they had been in touch with the BGI. Zoe thanked Fati and David for their update.

Phillipa Bowron and Nelson Sheridan on Destination Wellington and other WCC economic development initiatives

Nelson gave a brief overview of the WCC's economic development strategy. Councillors had shown keen interest and wanted to proactively address economic development. The

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strategy aims to attract, retain and grow investment, business and talent, to create jobs, and to support economic growth in the city. The strategy has four key platforms: Destination Wellington; Smart Capital; Connected Capital; Open for Business.

Destination Wellington is about attracting business and activities to the city. The Council identified a gap in this area and is providing support as set out in the Long Term Plan. WCC funds Positively Wellington Tourism (PWT) and Grow Wellington (GW) to deliver this work.

YC members expressed concerned about youth unemployment in Wellington and that students and graduates are unable to get jobs because of employer demands for work experience. Nelson clarified that attracting people is not the only thing; WCC's strategy is also about retaining businesses and taking care of them.

Phillippa spoke about the WCC's Digital Strategy and its implementation. The aim of Digital strategy is to position Wellington as creative, digital capital. Member were interested in the regular 'meet ups' that characterise the digital sector. Philippa also talked about organisations such as Chiasma that attempt to inform graduates about work opportunities.

Philippa indicated that she was keen to work further with the YC on the digital strategy. Zoe thanked Philippa and Nelson for their presentations.

Action: Philippa to pass on information on Chiasma and the meetup groups to Simon. Simon to share this information with YC members.

Neville Brown, Programme Director of WCC's earthquake work

Neville gave a brief overview of people's perception and understanding about the earthquake risk in Wellington. He highlighted the following:

- People are sensitive about level of risk to earthquakes.
- People lack understanding about what Council has been doing over last 20 years.
- Building owners are clear about risks.
- A lot of discussion around heritage buildings. There is confusion between heritage and character.

Neville briefed members about WCC's work and role:

- Focusing on buildings that failed
- Dealing with large property owners
- WCC has done assessments and knows that there are earthquake prone buildings. The cost of strengthening of a building is very high.
- In commercial area, WCC is talking to banks about ways of helping building owners fund earthquake strengthening.

Neville asked YC members if they were interested or worried about earthquakes. Ben said that it is easy for youth to forget about earthquakes though it is important. Neville offered to come back after about a month to continue the dialogue. He expressed his interest in having a specific session with young people.

Neville informed members that there are series of earthquake briefing for Wellington residents at locations across the city from August.

Zoe thanked Neville for his presentation.

David and Genevieve, PowerShift conference

Brittany introduced Jack and Genevieve from Generation Zero. Generation Zero is an organisation focussing on climate change issues.

It was noted that globally there are PowerShift events in U.S., U.K, Canada and Australia. In NZ, 350 Aotearoa is a major youth voice in the area of climate change and is helping to organise a PowerShift in Auckland from 7- 9 December 2012 with Generation Zero. The PowerShift will feature a series of workshops for young people to develop their own stories and include talks from inspirational speakers. Jack asked YC members to spread the word about this event in their networks.

Zoe thanks Jack and Genevieve for their presentation.

9. Closing

The meeting formally closed at 5:40pm. The next meeting is on 5 September 2012 in Committee Room 2.

Action Summary

1. Simon to share information on Chiasma and digital Meetup groups with YC members.