

Record of Meeting: Youth Council

Venue: Mezzanine Community Room, Central Library, Victoria St, Wellington

When: 4.00 - 5.30 pm, 24 June 2015

Present

Members: Anya Bukholt-Payne, Brittany Hogan, Daisy Lutyens, Erin Lockhart, Jack Comer-Hudson, Jack Marshall, Justina Koh, Morgan Watkins, Niamh Hyde, Oliver Michie, Petelo Leaupepe, Sean Johnson, Sebastian Klinkum, Siobhan Davies, Timothy Rutherford

Councillor: Simon Woolf

Officers: Simon Wright and Moana Mackey (Policy & Reporting)

Guests: Eunice Gueco, Rosemary Mwipiko, Teri Oneill, Ben van den Eykel, Sonya Giles, Cameron Wright, Yasmin Yumul, Sophie Reedy-Young, Aaron Conwell, Zahra Mohamed, Melissa Gibson

Minutes

1. Opening

Siobhan welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Bing-Ying Lou, Eva McGauley, Grace Nunn, Damon Rusden, Brad Olsen and Tom Petit for being unable to attend. Cr Woolf and Sonya Giles apologised for arriving late. Petelo apologised for leaving early.

3. What's on top

This agenda item was skipped to make time for the climate change workshop.

4. Conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5. Previous minutes and matters arising

Ollie moved that the minutes for the previous meeting were true and correct. Jack M seconded the motion and it was passed.

6. Forward Programme

This agenda item was skipped to make time for the climate change workshop.

7. General Business

Climate Change Action Plan review workshop

Moana set the context for the climate change workshop and the upcoming review of the WCC's Climate Change Action Plan 2013 (CCAP), noting that global inaction had created the crisis but that some impacts can still be mitigated or even reserved. She gave an overview of global governance initiatives and their limitations, and some of

the key issues (e.g. inequalities between developed and developing nations, and impacts of competitiveness). Some national initiatives were noted, including the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme. Finally, she noted that cities, which are responsible for 70% of emissions, need to respond. The next iteration of the WCC's CCAP needs to connected targets and actions.

Participants formed small groups and worked through the following questions:

1. What do you think is Wellington city's biggest challenge in achieving our emissions reduction targets?
2. Do you think the emissions reduction target is ambitious enough and do you think it is achievable? If not, what should the target be? Please justify your target.
3. How do you see the role of cities in combatting climate change?
4. What, if anything, is missing from the climate change action plan that needs to be addressed?
5. What would you do to better engage young people in Wellington on Council climate change policy?

The following points and ideas were raised in a plenary session after the small group work:

- WCC should promote easy actions that will reduce emissions (e.g. a light bulb trade-in scheme)
- There needs to be a hub for community initiatives
- The WCC needs to involve young people through education, through people who young people consider trustworthy and influential, and through social media
- Climate change is not an awareness but an action problem. Incentivise action. Don't defer action for someone else or to the future
- Young people are knowledgeable about climate change issues and have the time to engage. Education needs to focus not just on the issues but on how to live sustainably. This needs to be part of the school syllabus
- Encourage micro generation, especially for businesses
- Systemic change is necessary. For example, district plan rules encourage dispersed neighbourhoods and the provision of parking when both these things are bad from an emissions perspective.

YC communications and participation

It was noted that a small number of members were doing most of the work and that insufficient votes had been cast on Loomio to ratify a number of recent submissions. The following comments were made after some small group discussions:

- Members were clear that all members should be able to 'see' all Loomio discussions even if they are not part of a working group
- Members should tailor Loomio notifications to meet their needs
- 'Loud' should be turned on for urgent decisions. Members should be alerted by text as well
- The next release of Loomio should have better notification features and the new app will be very helpful.

A political life

Having just had a session on climate change with a former Member of Parliament,

Siobhan thought there would be interest in hearing about Moana's life in politics. After giving a brief précis of her life, she answered the following questions:

- **How important are relationships and networks?**
Absolutely essential to treat everyone with respect even though there will be disagreements. Need good working relationships to be able to address issues.
- **What are the reasons for the Emissions Trading Scheme?**
While the ETS is much more complex than a carbon tax, it is politically more sustainable as those with carbon credits (e.g. foresters and iwi) would have to be compensated if the ETS was dismantled.
- **What's the best way to deal with mistakes?**
Own them and learn from them.

Questions from applicants

Applicants were given an opportunity to ask questions.

- **How many vacancies are there?**
We expect to appoint between 4 and 6 new Youth Councillors
- **Was the Climate Change workshop part of the selection process?**
Yes, it will be used to help shortlist applicants for an interview.

Applicants left the meeting at 5.35pm. Most members stayed on for the remainder of the meeting.

Working group updates

Jack M flagged that amendments to the YC Manual would be made on Loomio. Amendments are likely to be made to the sections on the Annual Report, the election of YC officers and the administration of the YC's social media channels. There was also a request for some model submissions to be added to the Manual.

Support for online voting

Jack M moved that a draft letter supporting the WCC's participation in the online voting pilot for the 2016 local body elections be ratified with minor grammatical amendments. Ollie seconded the motion and it was passed.

Visit by Nelson Youth Council

Simon confirmed that 3 members of the Nelson Youth Council would be visiting on 22 July to find out about the role of Wellington YC members and how the Wellington YC operates. Wellington YC may want to ask about the experience of Nelson YC members regarding seats at NCC Council and committee meetings.

Lower North Island hui for youth councils

Suggestions for a hui by the Ministry of Youth Development were considered. Members recommended that the hui be organised for the August school holidays and that the venue be in Waikanae as this is more easily accessible by public transport than Levin.

MYD grant application (Jack)

This item was deferred.

Youth Week review

This item was deferred.

8. Closing

The meeting closed at 6.00pm. The next YC meeting is due to start at 4.00pm, 8 July 2015 in Community Room on the mezzanine floor of the Central Library.

Action and decision summary

1. Youth Council Manual working group to finalise its revision of the Manual
2. Jack M to submit letter supporting the WCC's participation in the online voting pilot for the 2016 local body elections
3. Simon to provide the YC advice regarding the Lower North Island youth council hui to the Ministry of Youth Development.