

## WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 18 November 2009

#### **Present:**

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Chairperson - Samoa)  
Kolovula Murphy (Deputy – Tonga)  
Pisa Alaifea (Deputy – Samoa)  
Mailigi Hetutu (Niue)  
Brenda Cottingham (Niue)  
Malakai Jiko (Fiji)  
Martha Ahmed (Tokelau)  
Danny Kauraka (Cook Islands)  
Tina McNicholas (Fiji)  
Avia Liai (Tuvalu)

Marie Retimanu-Pule  
Bessie Fepulea'i  
Phoebe Velova'a  
Trudy Jenkins

#### **Welcome:**

- Warm pacific greetings and welcome from the Chairperson who thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

#### **Opening Prayer:**

- Brenda Cottingham

#### **Apologies:**

- Mafi Katoa; Lopati Tefoto; Ana To'o; Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon, Councillor Leonie Gill

#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- The Minutes from the previous meeting were moved as a correct record by Malakai Jiko and seconded by Martha Ahmed.

#### **Statement from Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon**

- Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon thanked the PAG members for understanding his clash of meetings and for not being able to attend for the whole of the meeting. He mentioned the recent disasters in the Pacific Region and thanked officers of the Council, PAG members as

leaders in their communities and other leaders of the Pacific Communities for their help in organising fundraising events. He noted that he had a lot of respect for everyone in the way things were handled. Mr McKinnon said that with the Pasifika Festival arrangements well underway now anyone is welcome to get in touch with him if there are any problems. He noted that Council are currently looking at the forums that are held and whether these are the best way to engage with people. Council wants to hear from the community about the most suitable format in which to engage with people.

- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako acknowledged Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon's address on behalf of the PAG and thanked him for his appreciation.

### **PRESENTATION – Steve Bill, Senior Advisor – Council Pacific Forum Survey**

- Council are trying to find the best way to engage with communities and are asking for feedback and ideas about how we can do this better. The current forum format uses a lot of Council officers' time and Council money and may not be effective. There is also an entrenched way of thinking in that this is the way we have always done things. The deadline for this feedback is 30 November 2009.

#### **Feedback, Suggestions & Comments:**

- There is a sense of frustration with the current format.
- Lack of members of the community attending.
- View streaming of live forum for youth to give feedback.
- Live feed on the radio for seniors.
- The Te Papa venue is not easily accessed by community people.
- Martha Ahmed said that she is meeting with her community and will take this survey to them for feedback.
- Use church groups.
- The aim or purpose of the forum is not known.
- What are the benefits to the community of having the forum – this message should be taken out to the community possibly via the radio as there needs to be more awareness of why Council are having the forum.
- Reconsider moving the venue if this is not working.
- Themes of forums.
- Parking is an issue at Te Papa.
- Performances need to be shared between the different communities.
- Need to go out to the community to a community setting.
- Diversity of approaches.
- Find out where community groups are located.
- Break down and work out what the benefits are – do not raise the expectations of the community – say what Council are going to deliver and leave it at that.
- Too much information – this is a universal problem for all communities.

- The theme should be something that is important to them to encourage the community to attend.
- Invite the whole family to attend as some people find it hard to get babysitters.
- It may be good to run the programme for the forum past the PAG for their input.
- Steve Bill said that he noted the issue around consultation fatigue; the point about why should I come along and the need to know what do you want to talk about. He will include these points as part of his survey.
- It was agreed that Steve Bill should be invited to come along to the March PAG meeting to run through the programme for the next Pacific Forum.

### **PASIFIKA FORUM – Kit O’Connor, Community Events Manager**

- Kit O’Connor explained the new layout of the park. The layout of the park will be different from last year and this has been changed because of feedback that was received. Other things to note include:
  - There will be only one stage and a youth activity area will replace the youth stage. The youth activity area will be down near the play area.
  - Access to carparking still needs to be resolved.
  - The stage will be bigger and higher than last year.
  - Accessible toilets and baby changing areas will be provided.
  - Council are looking at new ways to brand events and how we can distinguish one event from the other. We are looking at providing different roof structures for the food stalls that could have an overlay, eg, flags or designs.
  - Council have noted the original idea about making tents look like huts or making actual huts but we need to put a dollar figure to this.
  - At the moment Council are doing costings for the tent structures and comparing this with having the tents up for 10 days or actually owning the tents.

### **Questions & Comments:**

- What are the benefits of shifting the stage? *The biggest advantage is in the opportunities for the youth area activities, ie, storytelling and the youth area will be closer to the play area and basketball area.*
- It was noted that the stage is the main focus of the Pasifika Festival.
- Another possibility being considered is using the area in Herd Street as changing facilities. This will make it easier for performers to come straight to the stage in the new layout.
- The Kaumatua tent is too far away from the main stage. *This tent looks the same way towards the stage as last year but could be shifted closer and swapped with arts stalls.*
- The way the stage faces in this proposed layout will be looking directly into the sun.

- Council may be looking at getting sponsorship for visors and sunscreen.
- Can the stage be put into the middle of the park to make it more central for everyone to see? **Action:** Kit will go and look at the park again and get back to Bessie. She will also come along to the next PAG meeting.
- When will this plan be finalised? **Action:** Kit to come back to the PAG about this. She will also look at the stage at Frank Kitts Park with regard to the height.
- It was suggested that it may be a good idea to provide a platform that could fit about 40 people in front of the stage to perform on.
- It was suggested that we use the same size stage as last year and ask people to reduce the number of performers.
- We need a lower stage for the audience to be able to see the performers.
- How many performance groups will each Island Nation have? *This still needs to be confirmed but at this stage there will only be one because the youth will be performing on the same stage. This will be confirmed by the next meeting.* **Action:** Bessie will confirm this via email.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Possible ideas/feedback for a Wellington NiuFM session:
  - PAG talk show for an hour.
  - Be good to have community slots for Wellington for regional issues.
  - Interview the elderly – how they came to Wellington, their story and have these recorded.
  - Two slots for each Island per week.

Martha Ahmed will put these ideas into a proposal and send this out via email to PAG members for approval before sending to NiuFM.

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako reported back on the Samoan community meeting. Discussion at this meeting was mainly on the Pasifika Festival. Feedback included: the need for parking for the food stall holders; will tables and chairs be supplied. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako asked for a consensus from the PAG members whether the Samoan community could have another food stall. It was suggested that Samoa share their stall between different community groups like the Niuean community did last year. It was agreed to wait till all the applications have been received to see whether there are any available stalls.

It was pointed out that community groups need to be clear about what food they are selling when filling out the application forms.

## COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS

- **Tokelau** – Tokelau Day will be held at Te Papa next week on 28 November from 10.00 to 4.00.

- **Niue** – the community have been working on ways of maintaining the Niuean language and have attended a recent conference in Niue. The youth group performed at St James Church using the Niuean language in church. The community have received a grant from Creative New Zealand for resources for maintaining the Niue language.
- **Fiji** – will be holding a youth forum on 5 December that is being organised and driven by youth. The theme for the forum will be celebrating achievements and leadership and will be held at Victoria University. She also mentioned the free exercise classes that are held in the Taranaki Street Church Hall from 6.00 to 7.00 and at Linden from 6.00 to 7.00. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- **Tonga** – Kolovula Murphy presented the report from the Tongan community. They would like to confirm the bus tour for the community similar to the orientation tour the PAG members went on. This would need to be during the day during the week possibly in December on a Friday. **Action:** Bessie to look into this.
- **Samoa** - Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako mentioned that Reverend Ete will be retiring after 35 years of work in Newtown. His farewell will be held on 26 December. Council will be putting out a media release to acknowledge his time in the city and work in the community.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- Phoebe Velova'a handed out brochures about the biodegradable packaging that needs to be used by food stall holders at the festival. She noted that this packaging is not any more expensive than plastic packaging and the food tastes better. The PAG members asked if they could see samples of this packaging. **Action:** Phoebe Velova'a will ask for samples so that PAG members can take these out to their community meetings.
- The question was raised whether the main act for the festival had been confirmed yet. *Council are still working on this. It was also noted that the headline act will perform during the middle of the day this year and not at the end of the festival.*
- At the next PAG meeting the programme for the day will be available for PAG members to look at.

## Closing Prayer:

- Tina McNicholas

**Next Meeting:** 16 December 2009

**Meeting Closed:** 8:05pm