

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group meeting, 8 February 2012.

Time & Venue	6.00 to 8.00 pm, Portico Meeting Room, Level 4, Council Offices, Wakefield St.
Present	PAG Tina McNicholas (Chair), Anthony Leaupepe, Siofilisi Taufu'ou, Mailigi Hetutu, Dan Kauraka, Violet Ekenasio, Malakai Jiko, Martha Samasoni, , Council Officers - Janette Wallace Gedge, Ross Blyth Councillors – Ian McKinnon, Paul Eagle
Apologies	Sainimili Pouvalu, Fetu ole Moana Tamapeau, Maria Solouota, Cllr Leonie Gill

Welcome	Tina McNicholas
Opening Prayer	Anthony Leaupepe
Councillor update	<p>Councillor McKinnon gave an update on Council business. Now in Long Term Plan process, Financial Constraints mean there will have to be trade offs over the next several years. The Council has some big ticket items including Earthquake strengthening and we don't want our debt level to climb while maintaining a vibrant city. Cllr McKinnon reported he came in for the Festival and that it went extremely well and had a lovely tone. It is attracting everyone and shows how easy it is to integrate people. He thanked the PAG members on behalf of the City and personally for all the work put into it.</p> <p>Cllr Eagle thanked the PAG members for all their efforts and apologised he couldn't be there. He had heard only great things about the festival. Had heard it said that every year things get better.</p> <p>There is talk again about some kind of super council and processes. PAG might start to think about how to get a representative Pacific voice if we have a super city and have some thoughts about how to respond to a proposal.</p> <p>Tina McNicholas responded with thanks for the positive feedback, good to hear.</p> <p>Anthony Leaupepe: Question for Cllr Eagle about the proposal for a Pacific Fale. Regarding Newtown Community and Cultural Centre – if that money is tagged would Council look at having a centre representative of cultures in Newtown?</p> <p>Cllr Eagle responded: Wendy Walker is coming back to Cllr Eagle about the status.</p> <p>Siofilisi Taufu'ou queried if Cllr Eagle had seen the submission from the Tongan Community about 2 years ago. He believed it was annual Plan submission. Janette to try to find a copy of that submission.</p>

<p>Vacancies for members and by-election</p>	<p>Tina McNicholas introduced Ross Blyth, Electoral Officer for the Council to talk about the process for filling the vacancies. Dan Kauraka confirmed there is a vacancy for a second Cook Island representative. Tina McNicholas has had discussions with Tuvaluan leaders about the council finding it difficult to find anyone to represent their community. It was suggested we consider having one rep from Tuvalu and one from Kiribati. There are an increasing number of people from other islands coming into the city, e.g. Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands. We must be conscious of the changing demographics and composition of the groups.</p> <p>Cllr McKinnon commented: This is a very special group who can deliberate on the changes and advise. Increasing Melanesian and Micronesian presence, part of a growing number of ratepayers and active in PI politics. How do we ensure their voices are heard?</p> <p>Tina McNicholas: raised a query about the current representation on PAG. Should we consider changing it?</p> <p>Anthony Leaupepe: mentioned that he had not known about PAG, there seems to be a lack of publicity and promotion would like to see a proper advertisement and asked if there was an opportunity to look at representation by population ratio. Mailigi Hetutu: said she knows someone that maybe could fill a place and she will approach them. Violet Ekenasio: suggested we continue to talk and review the work of PAG, put more effort into finding representatives and use our vehicles to promote PAG.</p> <p>Cllr McKinnon commented: PAG could deliberate on their structure over the ext 18 months and make a recommendation to council at beginning of 2013.</p> <p>Janette and Ross suggested we run an information session for potential candidates so that they would feel confident and have an understanding about what was required and an understanding of roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>All agreed to identify and approach candidates by next meeting with a view to proceeding to by-election once sufficient candidates had been identified and nominated.</p>
<p>Minutes of last meeting</p>	<p>Proposed as an accurate record by Malakai Jiko and seconded by Martha Samasoni</p>
<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p>	<p>Anthony Leaupepe: noted that the Samoan group who performed at the Pacific Forum has not yet been paid. Janette to follow up and report back to Anthony about the delay.</p> <p>Summary of feedback received at Pacific Forum had been circulated to all PAG members. Janette suggested that a</p>

	newsletter of the feedback could be made and that PAG members could distribute it to their networks as very few people had registered for the Pacific Forum and there are only a few email addresses that have been able to be verified. PAG members to respond with any changes to the newsletter by 10 days before next meeting to enable it to be produced.
Positively Pasifika Festival debrief	Considerable time was spent debriefing about things that went well and the things that didn't go well about the Festival organisation. It was agreed this would be produced as a separate report for circulation.
Next meeting	14 March 2012, 6pm Venue: Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Wakefield Street
Closing Prayer	Tina McNicholas closed the meeting and Siofilisi Taupo'u gave the closing prayer
Action Points:	PAG Members Pacific Forum feedback: Comments and amendments to Janette by 2 March Identifying and talking to candidates for PAG vacancies: Tuvalu, Tokelau, Cook Islands Comment on Positively Pasifika debrief at next meeting. Janette: To try to find copy of Tongan Community Submission on Pacific Fale from two years ago and send to Siofilisi Taupo'u. Circulate notes on Positively Pasifika debrief for comment.