

**Minutes for the meeting held 11 December 2013
(6.00pm – 8.45pm)**

Venue: Committee Room 2, Council offices, Wakefield Street
Present: Violet Ekenasio, Dan Kauraka, Anthony Leaupepe, Tina McNicholas (Chair)
Sainimili Pouvalu, Martha Samasoni, Maria Solouota, Fetu Tamapeau, Siofilisi
Taufo'ou, Manuila Tausi, Mailigi Hetutu, Councillor Paul Eagle, Councillor
Sarah Free

Council Officers: Joanne Maraki (Consultation and Engagement), Martin Rodgers (Manager,
Research, Planning, & Consultation)

Welcome: Tina McNicholas welcomed Cllr Sarah Free on behalf of PAG. PAG members introduced themselves collectively and individually to Cllr Free (round table). Cllr Free thanked and acknowledged the warmth and welcome and is looking forward to working closely with PAG.

Opening prayer – Sainimili Pouvalu

Apologies: Stacey Kokaua-Balfour (attended to wish everyone well and also introduce new baby– left at 6.15pm), Teloma Munro.

Minutes for last meeting

Minutes for the meeting held 13th November 2013 accepted as a true and correct record. (*Moved by Martha Samasoni. Seconded by Maria Solouota*)

Matters Arising

- Pacific Wardens – PAG will support the presentation to the Community, Sport and Recreation committee in 2014. PAG request Joanne draft a letter to Inspector Peter Stokes, Police Department acknowledging and supporting the proposal and also encouraging Police presence and support at the Pacific Festival. The letter will also seek feedback from the Police of the proposed model and also confirmation regarding the employment of a Pacific Liaison Officer with the Police for this district. Tina requests Joanne to draft and forward the letter to her (Tina) for final approval and distribution.
- Pasifika Festival – sub-committee feedback.
 - 1) There will be a good mix/blending of traditional and contemporary performers, and also stall holders organised for this event. The final and confirmed list will be distributed to PAG members.
 - 2) The application deadline for stall holders and performers has been extended to encourage flexibility and participation.
 - 3) VIP Night – Rather than hold a separate VIP prelaunch night as previously suggested (minutes 13th November) it has been suggested that this activity be incorporated with the Film Archives Film night – Pasifika movies and will include a slideshow presentation promoting PAG activities. The subcommittee is collating a VIP list and invites PAG members to contribute to this.
- Sponsorship – Plunket, Team NZ, and the Police alongside WCC are the main sponsors

for the event.

Siofilisi thanked and acknowledged the subcommittee for their continued hard work and contributions to this event on behalf of PAG. Tina also agrees and acknowledges this work.

Action Points:

- 1) Pacific Wardens. Joanne will draft the letter regarding the Pacific Warden proposal and forward this to Tina.
- 2) Pasifika Festival. The subcommittee will draft a VIP list for the VIP Film evening with contributions from PAG members. The subcommittee will distribute the list of performers and stall holders to PAG members.

Councillor Update

1. Cllr Free provided a background of her past and now present activities as a newly elected Cllr for the Eastern Ward. She is also a Member of the Green Party. Cllr Free is also on the social committee, the environmental committee, and also the board of capacity. She has a strong interest in public health; specifically the connection between health and wellbeing and housing including the 'Warrant of Fitness Housing' project. She is also a strong advocate for the Living Wage and supporting employment and education opportunities to progress long-term sustainable outcomes for individuals, families and communities. Cllr Free is very excited to be working with the Pacific Advisory Group and acknowledges common aims and objectives in respect to supporting Pacific communities.
2. Cllr's Sarah Free and Paul Eagle informed PAG that Council passed the Living Wage proposal today (11 December 2013) with a positive impact for approximately 450 Council staff. Wellington City Council is the first Council to adopt this in NZ. They also shared the complexities of this decision acknowledging the significant step for Council, council staff, and the city that is to be celebrated. Maria Solouota asked if this will have a direct impact on rates in coming years. Martin Rodgers confirmed that this is being absorbed into the current financial allocation with no increase as a result of this decision.
3. Cllr's Free and Eagle thanked PAG on behalf of all Councillors for the presentation and wonderful welcome from PAG at the Meet and Greet event held on Wednesday 4th December 2013. This was enjoyed and appreciated.
4. Cllr Paul Eagle offered warm pacific greetings and wishes everyone a merry christmas and happy new year. He shared and acknowledged that it has been a very busy year for all councillors, advisory groups and also council staff who have collectively worked over and above to progress the city's aims and aspirations. The new term has brought in a new Council and also changes to the way we work. It is an exciting time. Things will be done differently in some areas and this is an adjustment and takes getting use to but is also a positive step towards improving our effectiveness as we work forward in the new triennium. *Tina acknowledged Cllr Eagles contributions and support for the past 3 years and looks forward to a continued positive relationship.*
5. Cllr Paul Eagle informed PAG that \$40,000 committed to explore the feasibility of the Newtown Community Centre has been brought forward. This is a positive opportunity for the broader community in Newtown to explore potential, need, and options.

Review of Forums

Anthony expressed his concerns regarding the review of the forums, purpose and approach. Joanne reaffirmed that the review is intended as a positive exercise to add value. The evaluator has been engaged and stakeholders including PAG members have been informed of the process and also are welcomed and invited to attend and contribute on behalf of their communities. A focus group specifically inviting contributions regarding the Pacific forum will be held on the 19th December. PAG members are invited to attend. (3 members confirmed attendance to Joanne that they will attend).

Anthony requested that the evaluator hold the focus group in consultation with his representative community. Maria suggested that the focus group continued to be held at Council to ensure a good mix/broad representation and ensure it is neutral.

Joanne explained that the methodology has been negotiated and agreed within fiscal constraints to include 3 x targeted focus groups seeking feedback from previous participants/stakeholders of all 3 forums (Accessibility, Ethnic, and Pacific).

Action Point: Anthony requests that his suggestion/invitation be forwarded to the evaluator. Joanne will ensure that the invitation is extended and will inform Anthony of her response.

Community Updates

Niue

- Niue Language Levels 1 & 2 this year has just completed their 1st Graduation. This is a milestone event and has proven successful. 7 new enrolments have been received for 2014. The youngest is 12 years old.

Tuvalu

- Tuvalu youth received the Prime Ministers Pacific Youth Award in acknowledgement of the commitment to positive transformation and turning his/her life around. This was a very positive and special event and acknowledgement for the youth, and also their families and communities.

Samoa

- All Samoan churches are coming together for Christmas Carols on Sunday 15th December. The Pacific Presbyterian Church (Newtown) has organised a two day event leading up to the Christmas period.

Tonga

- The Tongan Language and Homework Centre will close over summer until the new term begins in 2014. A fun night has been planned for the children and their families to acknowledge their achievements in Monday 9th December 2013. PAG members are invited to attend and participate. Also, any small gifts to provide to the children will be welcomed and appreciated.
- Tongan Leaders Council held their AGM in November. A significant focus is how the Tongan Council engages and where possible works in partnership with Government departments to strengthen the relationships.
- Siofilisi once again wishes everyone a Happy and safe Xmas and New Year to all PAG members and their families and looks forward to seeing everyone next year.
- Sainimili informed PAG that Siofilisi is going to Tonga to be ordained as a Deacon. This is

great news. PAG acknowledged Siofilisi's achievement and wished him well in his travels and return.

Cultural Responsiveness Guide/Action Plan

Tina requested Joanne explain to PAG the purpose of a cultural responsiveness guide/action plan and what this means. Joanne explained that a responsiveness guide would articulate Councils actions/responsibilities and responsiveness to Pacific communities that is culturally appropriate i.e. engagement, communication. This is in response to PAG contributions regarding needed improvements including feedback from PAG that advice and contributions have not been sustained and they have to start again. PAG are invited to contribute to Council feedback of appropriate ways to do this.

Tina shared that in her understanding this was proposed as an alternative to a Pacific Strategy and that a cultural responsiveness guide in this regard is not what was requested or agreed. Fetu questioned the use of the term cultural responsiveness and shared that she finds the term insulting and offensive to Pacific people. Cllr Paul Eagle acknowledged her open and frank feedback and assured that it is a common term used by public service that it is not intended to offend.

Tina asked Martin for his thoughts/perspective that PAG would prefer to develop a Pacific Action Plan/Strategy. Martin agreed that he is happy to ensure the feedback and contributions from PAG are given genuine consideration into this work.

Tina shared that it has been proposed in consultation with Joanne and Martin to employ a facilitator to hold two ½ day workshops in January and February to specifically focus on the development of a Pacific Action Plan/Strategy. Anthony expressed concern that he had sent an email to Joanne requesting this but had not received a response. Tina asked Martin if it could be approved to go ahead with this. Martin affirmed that Council are happy and agreeable to support this activity however, is mindful that PAG forego meetings at this time of year to contribute to planning for the Pasifika festival and the Pacific Forum. Martin also affirmed that other Reference and Advisory groups would not receive extra meeting allowances for participating in these types of activities as well as the ½ day workshops. PAG acknowledged this feedback and affirmed that these activities are over and above to support extra activities but were not intended to permanently replace meetings, they are more than happy to continue with scheduled meetings to accommodate this work. Tina also affirmed that it is not vital that a Pacific facilitator be engaged as long as the person is skilled and PAG members agreed.

Action Point: It is agreed that PAG will hold meetings in January and February 2014 to develop a Pacific Action Plan/Strategy. These will be scheduled as normal meetings (i.e. on Wednesday evenings for 2 hours) with the first to be held after the Pacific Festival. Efforts will be made to engage an external facilitator for these sessions.

PAG begun the initial development work for this as follows:

Vision/Outcome Statement (Strategic Direction 2014-2024) to encompass:

- Strengthening Pacific
- Improved Access/Resources
- Increased Pacific at Council level (Councillors)
- Enhancing Pacific Lifestyle

- Positive participation
- PAG enabling/visionary

The development of the plan will articulate 6 key areas.

1) Strong Governance

- PAG representation/composition (elected – does this bring specific skills to the group i.e. governance, community voice)
- Improving responsiveness at Council level
- Preparation for local government reform e.g. Community Board representation/makeup (how would PAG like to be structured and engaged with pending amalgamation? Perhaps a phased approach?)

2) Workforce Development

- Living Wage
- Employment opportunities in Wellington City
- Employment of a Pacific Liaison worker in Council
- Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment
- Youth Employment and training opportunities

3) Communication Strategies

- Forum engagement
- Consultation
- Resources into Pacific Island languages
- Greater support for Pacific radio
- Emergency Preparedness

4) Arts and Culture

- Pasifika Festival
- Language
- Setting up data base of Pacific performers
- Grants (how are these decisions made? What engagement activities are initiated to ensure Pacific people apply? What types of grants are available?)

5) Health and Wellbeing

- Public Health
- Mental Health
- Older people/aging communities (accessibility, housing, health care)
- Urban Planning
- Restrictions on licensing for tobacco, alcohol, fast food, and gambling outlets
- Emergency Preparedness
- Council Housing

6) Education

- Library Services (more responsive to Pacific learning needs)
- Increased priority for grants on homework centres

- Free WiFi in low decile areas (access to internet is a major barrier for Pacific communities)
- Local governance literacy including elections and voting

Closing and final prayer

Manuila

Next PAG Meeting: to be advised (January)

Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Wakefield Street