

Minutes for the meeting held 19 March 2014

(6.04pm – 8.35pm)

Venue: Committee Room 2, Council offices, Wakefield Street

Present: Tina McNicholas (Chair), Anthony Leaupepe, Stacey Kokaua-Balfour, Mailigi Hetutu, Siofilisi Taifo'ou, Violet Ekenasio, Sainimili Pouvalu, Martha Samasoni, Dan Kauraka, and Councillor Paul Eagle.

Officers: Martin Rodgers (Manager, Research, Planning, & Consultation), Mark Jones (Senior Policy Advisor) and Lisa Scott (Customer Services Representative)

Apologies: Maria Solouota, Manuila Tausi and Fetu Ole Moana Teuila Tamapeau

Welcome and opening prayer:

Tina opened the meeting at 6.04pm.

Mailigi Hetutu shared the opening prayer and particularly asked for blessings on Maria who is recovering from illness.

Tina acknowledged Tala Cleverly (as a past Wellington City Councillor) as well as Va'a Potoi from the Samoan Community and the Melanesian community representatives in attendance.

Minutes for last meeting

Minutes for the meeting held 12 February 2014 were accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved by Violet Ekenasio and seconded by Mailigi Hetutu

Matters arising:

It was noted that the document Martin circulated outlining the process to develop the action plan should list all the names of the PAG members involved in developing the plan. Similarly the names of those who developed the action plan should be acknowledged at the beginning of the Pasifika Action Plan as part of its introductory section. For consistency, it was agreed that the minutes should record the current title of the Pasifika Action Plan rather than Cultural Responsiveness Guide.

Councillor Update:

Councillor Eagle acknowledged and expressed thanks to all members. He passed on a message from the former Deputy Mayor, Ian McKinnon. He felt that the Pasifika Action Plan has been a highlight of the group's work. He noted that the Draft Annual Plan was underway at the moment. He can see the Action Plan feeding into the development of the next Long-term Plan. Paul acknowledged Tala Cleverly and Tina McNicholas for their work and service.

Tala Cleverly commented that she felt the group could be wasting their time unless members of the Pacific Community were inside Council. She encouraged members to stand for Council and 'the Pacific community will be behind you'.

Pacific Advisory Group Elections:

Lisa Scott outlined the election process including key dates. Tala asked that it is promoted through Pacific radio programmes.

Advisory Group Reviews:

Mark Jones introduced himself and asked members to share their views on potential changes to the group's terms of reference.

Members asked him to check minutes from PAG meetings for the views shared previously.

There was a discussion about increasing the number of positions on the Group. There was a suggestion that there should be a dedicated position for a youth representative. Some members felt this need could be catered for by having a dedicated Pacific position on the Youth Council. There was also a discussion about widening the number of Island nations represented on the Group to recognise the changing ethnic profile of Pacific people in the city, and enable Island nations who participated regularly in the city's events to be represented on the Group. There was a view expressed about some of the ongoing challenges associated with the lack of regular participation and meeting attendance by representatives from the Tuvaluan community, who mostly lived outside of the city. This had been an ongoing issue for the last two PAG terms and it was mooted that the number of seats allocated to the Tuvaluan community could be reduced to one seat in light of these challenges. It was felt that this was a matter that should be raised with the Tuvaluan community before any changes were made to the number of seats allocated to them.

There was also a discussion around section 7 of the terms of reference. In particular, members questioned the requirement that 'no member will be allowed to sit on the group for more than two consecutive terms'. It was felt that this was inconsistent with the elected nature of the Group in that if an Island nation wanted a person to continue in the role, that community should be able to re-elect them for as many terms as they see fit. It was felt that there should be no restrictions on the number of terms.

A number of motions were then put to the vote as follows:

Motion: That the number of places on the Pacific Advisory Group should number 20

Result: Passed with a majority.

Motion: That one position should be established for a representative from each of the following Island nations – Kiribati, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands

Result: Passed with a majority

Motion: That there is a Youth representative on the Pacific Advisory Group.

Result: Failed

Motion: That the number of seats for Samoa representatives be increased from three to four.

Result: Failed

Motion: That there be one contestable seat that the whole community could vote for

Result: Failed

Motion: That there be two additional meetings of the Pacific Advisory Group each year

Result: Passed with a majority

Mark Jones was given a draft of the amended Terms of Reference, which contained collated feedback and suggested changes. Mark undertook to take the information and recommended changes into account as part of the Terms of Reference review. A final version of the document was to be circulated to the Group before it was sent to Council for approval.

It was noted that a couple of documents were being prepared to accompany the revised Terms of Reference as appendices. This included a Code of Conduct for all advisory groups which has been drafted by Council officers.

Pasifika Action Plan:

Tina introduced the updated version of the Pasifika Action Plan. She noted that it would be a living document that the next Advisory Group would have the opportunity to endorse at its first meeting. The document was intended to be aspirational and future focussed, hence it may need to be updated to better align with any changes to Council's strategic direction and functions in the future.

Martin said that Council officers would identify proposed measures and agencies responsible for different actions as a next step. The updated version could then be circulated back to the current members of this group for final feedback. This was agreed by the meeting.

Motion: That the Pacific Advisory Group endorses the current version of the Pasifika Action Plan

Result: Passed unanimously

Final words from Members:

Each member shared their feelings and memories about their time on the Group. They acknowledged each other, Tina's role as Chair and the role Councillors and Council officers had played in relation to the Group.

The meeting closed with a prayer from Sofi at 8.35pm

Next meeting:

The next meeting date has yet to be confirmed