

Minutes for the meeting held 10 September 2014

(6.pm – 8. pm)

Venue: Committee Room 2, Council offices, Wakefield Street

Present: Sai Lealea (Fiji & Chairperson), Ledua Taucilagi (Fiji), Alvin Mitikulena (Niue), Anthony Leaupepe (Samoa), Herbert Bartley (Tokelau), Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Samoa), Kimi Higginson (Cook Islands), Merio Marsters (Cook Islands), Nicole Rex (Niue), Meremine Taiaopo Auelua (Samoa), Sharon Samasoni (Tokelau), Siofilisi Taifo'ou (Tonga) and Councillor Sarah Free.

Officers: Martin Rodgers (Manager, Research, Planning, & Consultation)

Apologies: Alapeta Faletau (Tonga) and Councillor Eagle

Welcome and opening prayer:

Ida took the Chair as Sai was delayed in travelling to the meeting.

Siofilisi Taifo'ou gave the opening prayer.

Minutes for last meeting:

The minutes were updated with the Island of origin noted for each PAG member.

Motion: That the minutes of the last meeting be adopted. Put: Meremine. Seconded: Kimi. Passed

Matters arising:

Martin informed the group that there is a session on the LTP scheduled for 1 October, hosted by the Youth Council, that members are invited to attend. Details will be sent to the members. It is optional to attend.

Martin also updated members of the by-election for the vacant places on PAG. Nominations will open on 22 September and close on 8 October at 12 noon. If an election is necessary, it will take place on 15 October. Further information will be emailed to all members.

Councillor Update:

Councillor Free informed the PAG that the development of the Long-term Plan was in progress. She also asked the members to encourage their communities to vote in the upcoming General Election.

Obesity Research Project:

Anthony welcomed Dr Tupa'ilevaililigi Riz Firestone and Hana Tuisano from the Massey University Centre for Public Health Research. Everyone present at the meeting introduced themselves.

Riz introduced the project. PAG members asked questions and provided feedback. Key points from the discussion included:

The project involves getting together a group of young adults and training them to be researchers and come up with responses to the issues. The idea was to create a 'movement' for change within communities.

The team was working with youth in Auckland and Wellington. A goal of the project was to build the capability of Pacific Youth and more young people are welcome to get involved. The interventions have not been decided yet but the idea was to develop an Action Plan.

PAG agreed to endorse the project. It would look at how it could get involved once the findings of the preliminary research become available.

Councillor Free said that she would email other Councillors to let them know about the discussion.

Further down the track, a meeting with relevant Council staff would be facilitated.

The contact details for Riz are:

Riz Firestone

Pacific Health Research Fellow

Phone: +64 4 801 4987 or 0800 246 326

Email: r.t.firestone@massey.ac.nz

Pasifika Action Plan and PAG Work Programme:

Sai took up the Chair at this point in the meeting. He expressed condolences on behalf of the Group to Alapeta.

Martin reinforced the link between the Action Plan and PAG's Work Programme. He said that the intension is for Council to endorse the final Action Plan. However, that would not commit the Council to implementing all the actions and aspirations within it. Rather, key projects would be identified each year that Council would undertake, with the involvement of PAG where appropriate. The PAG's input into the projects and policies would be captured in the Work Programme which was now due to be agreed.

Following some questions to clarify the process, Martin proposed a work programme based on the discussions that have been had on the Action Plan. The key components of it are:

September 2014 to February 2015:

Governance:

- Promote Council-related board opportunities to potential Pacific candidates
- PAG identifies candidates and encourages them to apply for opportunities

Communications:

- Build a database of key contact people and organisations within the Pacific community
- Promote Council entitlements (e.g. Leisure Card, rates rebates etc) to the database

Arts & Culture:

- Work with officers to develop the Pasifika Festival
- Provide input into other events in terms of Pacific performers
- Scope the concept of a Pacific fale for Wellington

Community well-being:

- Input into Council's Housing Policy review
- Work on a programme of activities with the Parks, Sport & Recreation team

March 2015 to August 2015

Governance:

- Increase understanding & participation in Council decision-making

Workforce development:

- Develop a placement / internship opportunity within Council

Education:

- Develop a programme of activities for the series of language weeks

Communication:

- Increase Council's understanding and practice of Pasifika etiquette

Community well-being:

- Continue programme of activities with the Parks, Sport & Recreation team

Feedback from PAG members included support for the programme overall. However, Ida expressed a concern that it was too flimsy. Others expressed a desire for the group to come together again to progress the programme collectively rather than working in separate subgroups. People also expressed a desire to get moving.

Groups were asked to send through specific actions to Martin by 19 September so that he can flesh out the programme.

It was also noted that as a standing item on the programme, any projects or policies relevant to PAG should be brought to the Group early for their input.

It was agreed that to get the work programme underway, Council officers from Recreation, Community Services and Events would be invited along to clarify and finalise the work PAG would do with Council in those areas.

Community updates:

Niue:

- A Wellington Heritage Project is underway, profiling early migrants
- Celebrations for the 40th Anniversary of the Constitution are coming up

Fiji:

- Young people from the community helped with the Wellington Downtown Community Mission book fair at the TSB Arena
- A Fijian secondary schools Under 18 rugby team is visiting with a service on 27 September

- Fiji Language Week is on from 6 to 12 October. There will be a Bula night which information will be circulated about. There will also be workshops with Government agencies and potentially the Council to coincide with the week.
- There are also upcoming elections in Fiji

Tokelau:

- Noura Msahli-Samasoni and Shahnell Ngahere received Safety in the City Awards for performing first aid on a woman hit by a bus in Manners Mall then reassured the traumatised bus driver in February this year.
- Tokelau Language Week is taking place in mid-October

Samoa:

- The community is looking for mentors to take study sessions with Level 2 NCEA students
- The Up2 programme at Wellington High School is on from 4 to 8pm and open to all.
- The Tu Tangata Festival is taking place at the Opera House on 25 September.
- Ida has communicated the Council's response to the Up&Go proposal back to the co-ordinator, who has asked to be considered for future contracts in Council facilities
- Anthony is concerned about the cost increases being experienced by some City Housing tenants whose incomes have increased. He is disappointed with Council and has called a community meeting to discuss it this Friday and will circulate details.

Cook Islands

- There is a Cooks Islands Day in Porirua at the end of the month
- 16 people are regularly participating in the language classes

Tonga:

- The Language Week events last week were successful
- The homework centre is running smoothly

Sai thanked everyone for their input into the meeting. The meeting closed with a prayer from Sofi at 8.30pm

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Wednesday 8 October 2014.