

Minutes for the meeting held 8 October 2014

(6.pm – 8. pm)

Venue: Committee Room 2, Council offices, Wakefield Street

Present: Sai Lealea (Fiji & Chairperson), Anthony Leaupepe (Samoa), Kimi Higginson (Cook Islands), Merio Marsters (Cook Islands), Nicole Rex (Niue), Meremine Taiaopo Auelua (Samoa), Sharon Samasoni (Tokelau), Siofilisi Taifo'ou (Tonga), Alapeta Faletau (Tonga), Councillor Sarah Free and Councillor Eagle

Officers: Martin Rodgers (Manager, Research, Planning, & Consultation), Jenny Rains (Manager, Community Services), Donna Wilson (Team Leader, Neighbourhood & Community Networks), Rachel Rogers (Team Leader, City Safety), Daphne Pilaar (Customer & Community Partnerships Specialist, Parks Sport & Recreation) and Suzanne Tamaki (Events Co-ordinator)

Apologies: Ledua Taucilagi (Fiji), Alvin Mitikulena (Niue), Herbert Bartley (Tokelau) and Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Samoa)

Welcome and opening prayer:

Alapeta Faletau gave the opening prayer.

Minutes for last meeting:

Two corrections were identified by participants in the meeting. Firstly, the Councillor update was given by Councillor Free not Eagle. Secondly, the programme at Wellington High School in the Samoan community update is called Up2 not Atu. Martin said he would make these changes.

Moved: Sai. Passed

Matters arising:

Martin updated members on the by-election for the vacant places on PAG. One nomination was received for the two Tuvalu positions. None were received for the Melanesian and Micronesian positions. From discussions with people from those communities, it seems that most of the active members live in the areas surrounding Wellington City and so did not qualify to stand. Martin suggested that representatives from those communities could be invited to attend and participate in PAG meetings but not have formal voting rights. The meeting agreed that this sounded like a good option. The Chair suggested that the new member from Tuvalu be welcomed at the next meeting and that a decision about the participation of the other communities be decided then.

Councillor Update:

Councillor Eagle acknowledged the General Election and the movement of Pacific candidates including Hon. Peseta Sam Lotu-liga who is now Minister of Corrections, Ethnic Communities, Pacific Peoples and Associate Minister of Health. He noted that Council is working on the Urban Growth Plan and that Housing was an important issue for both central government and the Council. He said that the team working on Council's Housing Policy will come to the next meeting. He noted that

Council currently charges 70% of market rents and that this was being reviewed, not with the intention of raising rents, but to look at the long-term sustainability of its social housing given that council housing does not qualify for government subsidies.

Councillor Free spoke about the positive benefits that had resulted from Council's parking wardens coming in-house and being paid the Living Wage. She said the Living Wage Network would like to attend a future meeting of the Group. She also noted that business confidence and employment rates were up in Wellington, which was positive.

Pasifika Action Plan and PAG Work Programme:

Martin introduced the session noting that legislation steered councils away from working in the areas of health and education. However, the Council has relationships and can connect PAG with other agencies to progress some of the projects members have proposed. This does not mean there is an expectation that PAG will run the projects, which is not its role. Nor can Council units pick them up and run them. The way forward would be for PAG members to identify people within their communities that are willing to help make the projects happen and then for Council units to offer whatever connections and support they can. As agreed, representatives from key Council units were here to discuss how they can assist with the projects PAG has identified and to highlight projects they are working on that they would like PAG involved in.

Community Services:

Jenny emphasised that they have connections with central government agencies. She also said that they fund a number of community organisations and can tag funding to ensure they deliver certain outcomes to certain communities. She also spoke about the place-based planning that they were undertaking in Newtown and that that would include an audit of community facilities and safety. She introduced Rachel as the new Manager of City Safety.

Donna spoke about a number of projects that they were leading that PAG could get involved in.

Pacific Wardens /Guardians: the idea is that these will operate alongside community patrols. Sharon reported that she had spoken to Constable Hunt and that she would come to a future meeting of PAG.

Neighbourhoods Day: This year's theme is 'intergenerational' with a focus on connecting young people with older people. \$500 is available for groups to undertake activities, with funding applications due by the end of October. Martin said he would circulate information about the funding.

Youth activities: Bessie as the Youth advisor was working on the Mayor's Taskforce for jobs, career expos and community days.

Urban agriculture: They were also working to facilitate community garden and orchard projects.

The PAG group that had been looking at the area of education said that they were keen to focus on Pacific Language Weeks and were keen to use Council venues and involve libraries. They would like to develop a template for how different Pacific communities could work with Council around their language week.

Parks, Sport & Recreation:

Daphne introduced herself and the work of the team. This included information on:

The Push Play trailer and programmes: which were available free to communities.

Get Set Go & Spread the Word: workshops on events management and promotion, which can be run for groups on demand

Ki o Rahi Poneke: a sports programme that can be run within communities, whose strength is that it can be played by people of all ages and abilities

Passport to Leisure Card: a discount card and programmes associated with Council (and other) facilities, which is being reviewed to see if it can be made easier for people to sign up for.

Daphne noted that there were groups within the community running programmes connected with some of the things PAG would like to see happen including the Le Penina Pasifika sports events, health screening and boot camp activities. There are a number of such programmes out there that Council can connect PAG with.

The PAG group looking at well-being talked about some of the ideas they had had and some opportunities such as access to the hydrotherapy pool in Kilbirnie. It was agreed that the group would think about a priority need and work with Council to develop up a proposal to pursue it.

Pasifika Festival:

Suzanne informed the meeting that the website was live and up to date. She discussed the stallholder applications, with the closing date being 3 November but only one application had been received.

She raised the question of whether it would be OK for the Labour Party to have a stall given that it would be political in nature. They would pay the normal stall fee. The group thought that this would be OK and the festival would be open to other such stalls.

There was a discussion around promoting the opportunity to have stalls and it was agreed that Suzanne would develop a poster that could be circulated and look at promotion through radio and other media.

There was also a discussion around developing some other activities to extend the Pasifika Festival such as a joint-church service. Suzanne said she was keen to see these happen but want these to be led by PAG and the communities.

Community updates:

Samoa:

- Discussion on the Living wage are taking place with the Porirua City Council
- There was a community meeting about concerns with the rents being charged for City Housing properties
- Walk the Talk boot camp is being supported by the Council. It takes place at PIC at 5.45pm. There are currently 50 participants. Anyone can participate at anytime.
- Power Up takes place from 6pm on Wednesdays at St Pats College. Members are asked to encourage more participants.

Cook Islands

- The Cooks Islands Day in Porirua went well and was well-attended
- The national handball team is coming to Wellington in December
- There are free health checks at Berhampore School
- Language classes are now starting at 6pm and 20 people are now attending

Tokelau:

- A MoU has been signed between the Police and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs (MPIA) to strengthen the relationship and pave the way for closer cooperation
- Pre-language week events are being held in Wellington ahead of the main activities which are taking place elsewhere in the region
- Makarita Urale is inviting members to attend the Creative New Zealand Arts Pasifika Awards which take place on 5 November

Niue:

- Alvin is in Niue for the celebration of the constitution. Local celebrations will take place on 18 October in Linden
- MPIA is hosting a lunch from 13 to 1.30pm for those who would like to attend
- There is a community meeting being hosted by the National Pacific Radio Trust on 18 October from 10am to 12 noon at PIC for those that would like to attend

Tonga:

- The homework centre is in need of a venue
- Sofi expressed disappointment in the Council's response for assistance with relief efforts for Tonga. It has not supported the shipping of containers of donated supplies and it had recently turned down a request to support Sofi's travel to Tonga to assist with the distribution of relief supplies.
- Members of PAG expressed support for the Tongan community and their request for Council assistance
- Councillors Eagle and Free said that they would follow up on potential avenues for support

Fiji:

- Fiji Language Week is underway. It was launched with a church service and the Bula night is taking place on Friday. There is also a programme on at the National Library on 9 October and a sports day, run by the Fiji Students' Association at St Pats school on Saturday

Sai thanked everyone for their input into the meeting. The meeting closed with a prayer from Sofi at 8.25pm

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Wednesday 12 November 2014.