

# Minutes for the meeting held 12 November 2014

(6.pm – 8. pm)

**Venue:** Committee Room 2, Council offices, Wakefield Street

**Present:** Sai Lealea (Fiji & Chairperson), Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Samoa), Anthony Leaupepe (Samoa), Siofilisi Taufou'ou (Tonga), Alapeta Faletau (Tonga), Ledua Taucilagi (Fiji), Alvin Mitikulena (Niue), Herbert Bartley (Tokelau), Silika Kofe-Pouofenua (Tuvalu), Merio Marsters (Cook Islands), Nicole Rex (Niue), Meremine Taiaopo Auelua (Samoa) and Sharon Samasoni (Tokelau).

**Officers:** Martin Rodgers (Project Support Advisor), Phillipa Aldridge (Senior Policy Advisor) and Vicki McLaren (Manager, City Housing)

**Apologies:** Councillor Sarah Free, Councillor Eagle and Kimi Higginson (Cook Islands)

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## Welcome and opening prayer:

Ledua Taucilagi gave the opening prayer.

## Minutes for last meeting:

The tabled version of the minutes included corrections made after feedback before the meeting from Meremine.

## Councillor Update:

No update was presented due to the absence of both Councillors. It is noted that the Mayor did attend the meeting briefly around 7pm.

## Social Housing Rental Policy Review:

Phillipa Aldridge introduced the review with the following key points:

- There are two phases to the review and PAG is invited to give input at both stages.
- Phase 1 will see a discussion document released which provides information and asks a series of questions relating to the policy and future needs of communities.
- This phase will involve focus groups with tenants and all stakeholders are welcome.
- Feedback on this phase will be sought through until April 2015.
- Phase 2 will involve the consultation on the new draft policy based on people's input and the work of Council.
- PAG and the wider community will also have the opportunity to respond to that draft.
- This consultation is due to take place around September 2015.
- In response to a question, Phillipa emphasised that the review was not about the Council no longer providing social housing to the community. The Council is committed through its partnership with the Crown to maintain its involvement for at least the next 30 years.

Members of PAG provided the following responses:

- Statistics on Pacific Island tenants in Council's housing was requested
- There was a motion that PAG insist that Pacific Islanders be added to the Policy as a 'priority group' within the straight away. It was explained that this change could not be made at this stage of the review but could form part of PAG's input into the review.
- It was agreed that the review would be discussed at the next PAG meeting in December and that members could discuss it with their communities after that.

### **Volunteer Wellington Pasifika Community Patrol:**

Tauili'ili Nari Auelua introduced Loletta Hunt-Tevaga from the New Zealand Police, highlighting her personal commitment and effort in progressing this initiative.

Loletta made a presentation on progress with a Volunteer Wellington Pasifika Community Patrol in Wellington City. She outlined the need for the patrol and how it would operate. She explained that the community patrol model had been identified as the best way forward because of the enthusiasm of Community Patrols New Zealand and the support that they could provide. She invited PAG members to get involved and spread the word around their communities. She informed the group that there would be a public meeting for interested people to get involved on Wednesday 26 November 2014 from 6pm at Te Papa.

In response, several PAG members congratulated Loletta on her passionate for and presentation on the initiative. They expressed their strong support and willingness to get involved. There was a discussion about what could be done in terms of prevention within the Pacific community to work alongside this initiative. It was explained that patrol members will act as the 'eyes and ears' of the Police and would not be expected to intervene in any situation as they would not be equipped or have the authority to do so. It was also clarified that the police checks undertaken on people that want to be part of the patrol would not include minor offences (such as parking and speeding fines) or those subject to the Clean Slate Act. It was noted that participation in the patrol could be a stepping stone for Pacific people to become Local Hosts or train for the Police.

### **Outcomes of the PAG by-election:**

Silika Kofe-Pouofenua was warmly welcomed as the new member of PAG from the Tuvalu community.

There was a discussion around the lack of any nominations from the Micronesian and Melanesian communities in the recent by-election for the places on PAG. It was agreed that representatives of those communities be invited to attend all PAG meetings as observers where they will be invited to give updates from their communities. PAG wants to keep them informed about the work of the group and keep the invitation to participate open.

### **Letter of the forward work programme:**

Martin introduced the letter, which had been circulated to all members previously. He noted that it was a combination of Council's priorities and those areas of focus identified by PAG. It does not preclude other matters coming to PAG.

Members of PAG agreed to the letter and use it as the basis to achieve positive action.

### **Pasifika Festival:**

It was expected that Suzanne Tamaki from Council's Events team would be present for this agenda item. A discussion was had about finalising the performance programme with the following agreed:

- PAG delegated to the members from each Island group, the task of finalising which groups would perform from their community, if more applications had been received than performance slots available.
- Meremine would liaise with Suzanne over the groups to perform as the main acts. It was noted that Meremine had proposed a dance group from Auckland and Nicole had proposed the music group *Tomorrow People*.

### **Community updates:**

#### Tuvalu

- Silika noted that they were a small community with most members living in Porirua.
- They do have lots of gatherings, mainly through the church communities.
- In October, there were a number of events around Independence Day.

#### Tonga:

- The community went ahead with sending the container to Tonga despite a lack of support from this Council, and it went well.
- Sofi tried to, but couldn't find out what had happened on the ground in Tonga with the money raised by Council. Martin said that he would follow up within Council and report back.
- The homework centre was continuing to operate.
- Their groups were practicing for Pasifika
- The AGM of the Tongan Council of Leaders is taking place next week.

#### Samoa:

- Emergency Preparedness have been taking place within the community.
- There has been a community meeting on housing as it is a big issue within the community at the moment.
- Members are asked to encourage participation in Power Up – including from parents
- Wellington East College has one of the highest pass rates for NCEA amongst Pasific girls.
- The Arts Pasifika Awards event held by Creative New Zealand was great.
- The Conch is staging an initial showing of *White Guitar*, a performance work that has connections with Samoan and Fijian communities.

#### Tokelau:

- Herbert reported that he had been approached by the organisers of *Out in The Park* to nominate a Pacific person for the new Out in the Park community awards. He has suggested Fuimaono Karl Pulotu-Endemann.
- Members had attended recent language week events.

- There are some good initiatives coming up at Te Papa.

#### Cook Islands

- Members of the community are keeping an eye on elders at this time.
- There will be rest home visits by the Pacific women's group in December.
- The language classes have expanded with beginners classes running at Newtown School from 4.30 to 6.00pm. These are followed by advanced classes.

#### Niue:

- Celebrated 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence Day and it was a great event.
- St Giles hosted a fundraiser with the money raised going to a village in Niue.
- Members attended the session with Riz Firestone on the third phase of her obesity project. There are some interesting results which are due out soon.

#### Fiji:

- Thanks were expressed to everyone that attended Bula Night.
- Members have supported the Wellington Fijian Rugby team recently.
- Sai attended a Pacific Business Trust meeting.

There was a discussion about how invitations are responded to and on what occasions members attend as representatives of PAG or as individuals. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Sai thanked everyone for their participation in a productive meeting. The meeting closed with a prayer from Siofilisi.

#### **Next meeting:**

The next meeting will be Wednesday 10 December 2014.