

Minutes for the meeting held 20 May 2015

(6.00pm – 8. 00pm)

Venue: Committee Room 2, Council offices, Wakefield Street

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

Officers: Sophie Rapson (Policy Advisor)

Externals: Fuailalagi Samoa Saleupolu Heger from the Problem Gambling Foundation
Pesio Ah-Honi Siitia from the Problem Gambling Foundation
Vaioleti Lui from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs

Apologies: Silika Kofe-Pouofenua (Tuvalu),
Kimi Higginson (Cook Islands),
Siofilisi Taufo'ou (Tonga), and
Leina Isno (Vanuatu).

For lateness: Merio Marsters (Cook Islands)

Welcome and opening prayer:

Sai welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Ledua gave the opening prayer.

Minutes for last meeting:

The minutes as circulated were agreed without any amendments.

Councillor Update:

Councillor Free gave an update on the Long-term Plan and noted that the Council heard oral submissions last week. She was pleased that PAG made a submission on the Long-term Plan and advised that there is likely to be increased funding to the Living Wage. Councillor Free also advised that there could be more funding added for pools, community centres and that the oral submissions illustrated a lack of support for the Wellington Airport runway extension.

Councillor Eagle gave an update on the regional governance process. Still waiting to hear back from the Local Government Commission on their decision about the super city proposal. He also gave a run down on the Long-term Plan and the next steps in that process.

Gambling Venues Policy

Fuailalagi Samoa Saleupolu Heger and Pesio Ah-Honi Siitia from the Problem Gambling Foundation (PGF) attended PAG for this item. They gave a brief outline of the PGF and current context of gambling in New Zealand.

Pesio then went on to give PAG an understanding of what the current Wellington City Council Gambling Venues Policy does and advised PAG that PGF is advocating for a sinking lid policy. Pesio explained the sinking lid policy and the rationale behind the policy.

Pesio asked PAG to make a submission to the policy review. PAG proceeded to ask questions and discussed gambling in Wellington.

Sai thanked the Pesio and Fuailalagi for coming to present to PAG and agreed that PAG would make a submission to the policy review.

Ida and Sai agreed to work on the draft submission to the review, which is due Friday 22 May at 5pm.

Pacific Language Week Discussion

Vaioleti Lui from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs gave a presentation to PAG about the Pacific Language Week series. Vaioleti gave PAG context about the establishment of the language weeks and the work the Ministry does in regards to languages.

PAG asked questions of Vaioleti and had a discussion about their language weeks and potential activities.

PAG then had a broader discussion about developing a closer relationship with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and perhaps should have an MPIA representative at their meeting at least once a quarter. Vaioleti agreed that would be a good idea as

Wellington City Council is the only council in the Wellington Region with a Pacific Advisory Group. She said she would take that suggestion back to the Ministry.

LTP Submission

Sai noted that it was good that PAG made a submission and that Anthony went along to support that submission at the oral hearings last week.

PAG thanked Anthony for writing the submission and representing PAG at Council.

Annual Report

The draft Annual Report was circulated as well as Ida's suggested changes to the report and PAG discussed other items that should be captured by the Annual Report.

Sophie noted that all other additions or amendments to the Annual Report must be with her by 5pm Wednesday 27 May.

Pasifika Festival Subcommittee Update

Nothing to report.

Pacific Advisory Group Forum Planning

PAG had a discussion about the upcoming PAG forum. A subcommittee was set up so a smaller group can get together and do some more brainstorming and planning of the forum. The members of that group are: Ida, Herbert, Alvin, Anthony, Merio and Alapeta.

Councillor Free suggested some ideas for the agenda or them of the forum. Engaging pacific people in Council services like the library, making submissions – the governance structure of Council, Council facilities like swimming pools and gyms or perhaps a discussion on the Fale.

Alvin also suggested that they use the Pasifika Action Plan as a guide for the topic or focus of the forum. PAG agreed with this and the subcommittee will use the action plan to help guide their planning.

Venues for the forum were also discussed. It was suggested that members churches such as Wesley Church, Ioane Vito, Pacific Islanders Presbyterian Church (PIPC), or other venues such as the Wharewaka or the ASB Sports Centre.

Action: Sophie to check on the budget for the event and follow up with dates with the Mayor's office.

Action: Forum subcommittee to meet have a planning session before the next meeting.

Community updates:

The Chair asked members to briefly provide an update on any significant issues from their communities.

Ledua Taucilagi noted that the Pacific Theatre Company would like to come along to PAG in one of the upcoming meetings. She also noted that the DCM book fair is coming up and she will be volunteering for that if any other PAG members are interested in helping as well.

Merio Marsters advised that the Cook Island language week organising is underway. Merio also noted that the Principal of Newtown School, Mark Brown is happy to host language weeks at the school. He would be interested in having greetings in the Pacific languages to provide to teachers for in the classrooms during those language weeks. The Cook Island language class is 14 members strong. The teachers are currently working on a Cook Island Language workbook.

Alapeta Faletau advised PAG that they were carrying out interviews for the support officer for the Tongan community whanau ora programme.

Sharon Samasoni discussed the opening of the Siapo Cinema next Tuesday.

Herbert Bartley advised that he got married! PAG congratulated him. He also noted upcoming events and projects he's working on, in particular a project on Tokelau tattoo.

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako advised PAG of the Walk of Faith Event which is on 30 May. The event is kicked off by a walkathon and there will be music and stalls and she encouraged PAG to come along and take part. Ida said she would send out further details to PAG.

Anthony Leaupepe said he has been busy on the Living Wage campaign. Anthony advised PAG of a meeting he is attending with Wellington City Council City Housing regarding a series of evictions.

Meremine Taiaopo Auelua discussed the recent flooding in the previous week how people came together to support those who were affected and that couldn't get back to their homes that night. Meremine thanked Wellington City Council for providing the library as a place for those to stay.

Nicole Rex advised PAG about the Niue language week preparation. They are hoping to have Alvin do a health talk in Niuean. They attended the Margaret Pointer book launch about the history of Niue. Nicole also noted that the Niuean rugby league team beat the South African team recently and that there are cheap air fares to Niue at the moment so people should go support the local economy.

Alvin Mitikulena noted that there is a Pacific Collective meeting with the Ministry of Health next Thursday. So he will report back on that. It will be an opportunity for

Pasifika health providers to present the Wellington context. Alvin also advised that he attended the Margaret Pointer book launch, which was a special evening. He noted the book will be launched in Niue in a month's time.

Sai Lealea noted that he is still working on getting whanau ora funding here in Wellington, aiming to get a collective set up. Sai also noted that the Fijian language week committee is meeting to begin organising their language week.

General Business

Sai advised PAG that nominations are open for the Pacific Arts Awards. Ledua said she would email out the nomination forms to PAG.

Sharon noted the PAG Facebook page that is receiving many likes but would like help with the administration of the page from the other members or with Council.

Sophie agreed to get in contact with our communications and marketing team at Council to see if they could get support for the page.

Sophie also noted that this would be her last meeting with PAG as she is leaving Council. She advised that Nicci Wood would be supporting PAG for the following meeting and she would give Nicci a thorough hand over.

The meeting closed with a prayer from Alapeta.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be Wednesday 10 June 2015.