

## Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 20 May 2020

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**Time** 6:04 pm – 7:49 pm

**Venue** Zoom

### Members present

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**Chair** Jocelyn Kua

**Members** Anthony Carter (Deputy Chair), Mino Cleverley, Natalia Fareti, Sunia Foliaki, Kira Hundleby, Ofania Ikiua, Sai Lealea, Merio Marsters, Alvin Mitikulena, Lisa Pouvalu

**Councillors** Councillor Teri O'Neill

**Staff** Baz Kaufmann (Manager Policy and Research), Sean Johnson (Democracy Advisor)

### Minutes

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#### 1. Meeting Procedures 6:04 pm

1.1. Sai lead the group in the opening prayer.

1.2. Apologies were received from the following members:

- Alvin, Anthony – for lateness;
- Aseri – for absence.

Resolved That the Pacific Advisory Group accepts the given apologies.

Jocelyn Kua (Chair) / Sunia Foliaki

**CARRIED**

1.3. This item was deferred until the next meeting.

1.4. No announcements were made.

#### 2. Discussion 6:08 pm

2.1. WCC Draft Annual Plan 2020/21

Baz Kaufmann (Manager Strategy and Research) spoke to the group regarding the WCC Draft Annual Plan 2020/21.

He highlighted the challenges that were faced in having to create two annual plans, one pre-COVID and one post-COVID. The post-COVID version of the plan had to factor in a lower appetite for rates increase and significant lost revenue.

He noted that the post-COVID plan had to be a plan that balanced the rates impact with the need to continue to deliver existing services and invest in the city.

Two possible rates rises are being consulted on, a 5.1% rates rise, and a 2.3% rates rise.

Topics of discussion included:

- Changing demographics in the city.
- Central Government funding available to councils.
- The Civil Defence and Welfare response to COVID-19.
- The rates differential between commercial and individual rates (Baz indicated that under the draft annual plan the differential was set at roughly 3.25:1).
- Parking charges.
- Proposed pop-up cycleways.
- Shovel ready projects.
- Specific difficulties faced by the homeless community during COVID-19 lockdown.

#### Action points

- Members to encourage their communities to fill out the consultation form available on the WCC website.

(Anthony joined at 6:24 pm)

(Alvin joined at 6:36 pm)

(Kira left at 6:59 pm, before Kira left Natalia announced that Kira was featured in a National Council for Women video on the suffragettes, Natalia will also feature in a video by the National Council of Women.)

(Ofania joined at 7:00 pm)

### 2.2. PAG Annual Report 2020

Sean informed the group that the PAG Annual Report was due by the 27<sup>th</sup> of May for inclusion in the Strategy and Policy Committee agenda for the meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> of June.

It was noted that the COVID-19 lockdown meant that the time available to work on the report had been reduced.

(Secretarial note: after the meeting the paper was moved to the Strategy and Policy meeting of 18 June and the PAG Annual Report will be taken to the PAG report on 10 June for approval.)

A working group of Jocelyn, Anthony, and Natalia was created to work on the Annual Report and submit to PAG for peer review. Other members of PAG offered to help on specific sections of the report if needed.

#### Actions

- Annual Report Working Group to prepare draft of the PAG Annual Report.

## 3. Councillors Update

7:08 pm

3.1. Cr O'Neill updated the group on the work that she had been doing during lockdown, the following were particularly noted:

- Her work as portfolio leader on housing our homeless community during lockdown.

- Collaboration with the Student Army, calling people over 65 during lockdown to see what they needed help with.
- Looking into job creation post-COVID and how we can get people to retrain. Specifically looking (as portfolio leader) at how people with a connection to the natural environment can work in that sector given the governments green jobs package.
- The 1.5 million dollars of Grants available as part of the Councils COVID Recovery Package.
- Her role in helping to get an amendment to the Annual Plan consultation passed to added implementation of Tipu Toa: Build Back Better.
  - Tipu Toa: Build Back Better is a whole of Council approach to building a stronger Wellington to meet current and future challenges. Initiatives include a commitment to a business case for a resource recovery centre, funding to improve the energy performance of Wellington houses, a commitment to a green infrastructure demonstration project and investment into the arts and our earthquake resilience.
  - Note: the above wording was taken from the passed amendment referred to.

#### 4. Other Matters

7:14 pm

##### 4.1. Pacific Advisory Group members discussed other matters.

- Sean noted that Democracy Services is going to delay the PAG Election until after the review of the Advisory Groups had been completed, in September. This is to ensure that PAG does not recruit people to a group that could have it's purpose changed in the review and to allow the current PAG to see one its important projects through to completion. Sean noted that the Advisory Groups Review is scheduled to be debated at the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September.
- Sai enquired about the Pasifika Festival Review. Sean said that he would follow up on this.
- Ofania asked Cr O'Neill if there were any ongoing projects at WCC that would impact pacific communities over the coming year. Cr O'Neill noted that a priority was keeping services going at current levels.
- Natalia noted that Samoan Language Week was starting the following Sunday and enquired as to what WCC was doing to celebrate this. Cr O'Neill, Jocelyn, and Sean said that they would reach out through their channels to see what was being done and if more could happen.
- It was noted that the Electoral Commission was looking for a Pacific Engagement Advisor. Members were asked to share this opening with their communities. Sean had sent an email out about this previously.
- Sunia offered to present to community groups on palliative care and asked members to let him know if that had a group that would like to hear the presentation.

- Alvin spoke about his experiences as a doctor during the COVID-19 lockdown.

## **5. Closing Prayer**

5.1. Merio lead the group in a closing prayer.

(The meeting closed at 7:49 pm)

At the conclusion of the meeting members recorded a short video promoting Samoan Language Week. The video was subsequently shared on Wellington City Council's Social Media/