

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting **25 March 2009**

Present:

Jack Marshall
Nigel Smith
Katelin Bull
Dipti Manchanda
Annelise Havill
Terefe Ejigu
Stevenson Pule
Tapiwa Bururu
Yulia Gaiduch
Essen Vicente
Elesha Edmonds
Zoe Doole
Rebecca Bullen
Katja Heesterman
Intisar Muketar
Ben Ogilvie
Duncan Armstrong

Waylon Edwards
Councillor Wain
Mark Farrar
Rose Barker
Georgina Rhoades

Apologies

Nurul Sultan; Deni Tipene; Samantha Taylor, Sheela Shanmugam

Welcome

Elesha welcomed everyone to the meeting. Waylon introduced the guest speakers.

Presentation – The Spirit of Rangatahi

Paora explained a bit about his background in education and policy and said that he is currently working with the Maori Language Commission as well as the Ministry of Education.

Joan said that The Spirit of Rangatahi is a volunteer run project and is learning in a non classroom environment. Participants learn about different cultures and religions to get a sense of New Zealand to build communities. This is a fun programme for the school holidays. Participants are taken to a Mosque, the Buddist Temple in Stokes Valley, Hon Winnie Laban came along and talked to participants, they also went to a synagogue, church and Te Papa.

This school holidays the programme will try to use art as a driver for the whole week. They have had good feedback from participants. The programme is about learning commonalities and different religions, learning and having fun.

The next programme will be run from Newtown School and Ann from Vancouver will be facilitating this. They will also be repainting the wall at Newtown School. For information about this programme you can email them at spiritofrangatahi@ihug.co.nz.

Joan asked if anyone was interested in attending themselves then please get in contact with them. She also asked the Youth Council to let people and your schools know about this programme. They have a few sponsored positions and the age group for participants is 11-17.

Feedback – Dr Baker Tour, Child Friendly Cities

Elesha, Zoe and Ben went on a tour around Wellington with Dr Baker from Unicef. They found it interesting to hear what he thought about youth and said that he wanted youth to get out and about. They met up with Walkwise, went to Waitangi Park and talked about the skate park there. They heard that the skate park area had changed and now had a lot of graffiti and in some ways had gone backwards. Councillor Ahipene-Mercer joined them and talked about boys. They went to the Newtown Hall which they found the most interest part of the tour where a group from the Te Aroha Housing complex talked about how they wanted to improve the playground. The children have designed their own playground.

Elesha said that it would be interesting to know what he told Council. Mark Farrar said that Dr Baker visited Council on Monday to give his views. He said that Council should involve young people in the planning for the city and in the decision making. Mark said that Dr Baker travels around the world and gives his ideas on what Council's should and could be doing for youth in a city.

Waylon noted that Dr Baker was impressed about how far ahead Wellington is with involving youth but we still need to build on this. Dr Baker's main message is to get children's rights included in decision making. He said that this is a long process and will need to be worked through.

Essen asked what suggestions Dr Baker made. Waylon said that he was mainly selling a concept and did not make many suggestions just mainly high broad statements.

Year Ahead Planning

Waylon said he wanted Youth Council to think about the structure and how Youth Council should operate. What is the best way to communicate with members? The members agreed that the best way of communication is via email.

We need to look at the ways Youth Council operate – do you want to operate the same as last year? Were Youth Council productive? Some things were planned but were they achieved? Members said that a lot of the time last year was spent on the Terms of Reference and they would like to do more this year.

Were you engaged working in portfolios? Members said that they did not find this very sustainable throughout the year. Waylon asked how they would prefer to work. Ideas suggested included – share the workload better; have support meetings for portfolios in smaller groups; at each meeting have a different portfolio report back; make it clear about what portfolio you are in and who you should report to; maybe all be part of one portfolio group so there is less confusion; people should have an interest in their portfolio and portfolios should be more evenly spread.

The current portfolios in Council are:

- Economic Development (this includes events)
- Urban Development and Transport
- Social
- Governance
- Environment
- Climate Change/Engagement/Arts and Culture

The top three choices for portfolios were Urban Development; Social and Climate Change/Engagement/Arts and Culture.

Terefe asked what the role of Youth Council was – are we here to advise or are we supposed to be taking action? It was discussed that one of the main jobs of Youth Council was to find out what youth want and try to get this for them. Youth Council should be asking for ideas about what people want to see in Wellington. They are there to strengthen engagement between youth and the Council. They are the representatives of youth in Council. Youth Council are more of an advisory group than event managers. Events should be more designed to find out what youth want. Youth Council need to think about what types of events are held. Their role is not in organising events but helping with events and facilitating them and supporting them. Youth Council need to have a plan about what we get out of these for ourselves – things like information as Youth Council will then be thought of as a more legitimate group.

Waylon asked the group what sort of structure they want for their meetings. He said that they do not have to meet in the Committee Room in such a formal

structure if they do not want to. It was suggested that Youth Council visit places like Toi Poneke and Capital E as part of their meetings like last year.

Waylon asked if Youth Council wanted to be kept up dated on what is happening around Council like events, changes, etc. Members said that they would like more information about things like the indoor sports centre.

Events Calendar

Zoe said that she had an idea about putting together an events calendar of things that are happening around Wellington. This calendar would be available to the public and put on the website.

Waylon said that he was looking at getting more information put on the website as well.

Youth Forum

There will be a Youth Forum held on 1 May for the LTCCP. More information will be available on this nearer to the date.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Elesha asked if the meeting on 22 April could be changed to 29 April because of the school holidays. The members agreed to this change.

Duncan said that he would like Youth Council to be involved in an orchestra programme for music month. It was suggested that something could be done in the library in the Youth Section. It was suggested that Youth Council be involved in Youth Week events in the library. These events would be available to everyone. Youth Council could put out a questionnaire about music facilities for youth and gather information to see what youth would like.

Next Meeting – Waylon said that the main topic for the next meeting would be the LTCCP. Waylon will get the information out to members as soon as possible.

Waylon asked whether members wanted hard copies of the minutes provided at meetings. It was agreed that minutes would be emailed to members, a couple of hard copies available at meetings and a copy to be put on the screen for members to go through and agree on.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Nigel accepted the Minutes of the Previous Meeting as a true and correct record. Jack seconded this.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2009:

Nigel talked about the New Zealand Model United Nations 2009 event that he was organising. This is a conference where participants each represent a different country and look at current events and problems that affect the world. Countries are randomly allocated to attendees. This year's conference will be held on 4-7 July, is at a cost of \$269 and registrations close on 8 May. This conference is open to high school and university students.

The question was asked what membership to the organisation means. Membership gives you access to various resources, etc.

How do you apply for scholarships? Victoria University is offering 6-10 places. Embassies are also sponsoring some places. To get a scholarship from an embassy you need to write an essay about their country. These scholarships have not been finalised yet.

Nigel asked for members to take registration forms to their schools to promote this conference.

SADD

Annelise said that she recently attended a SADD meeting. These meetings need more school representatives and if anyone is interested could they please let her know.

EVENTS

Waylon handed out fliers for the upcoming Gambler Crew hip hop event and the Almost Amazing Race.

Next Meeting: 8 April 2009