

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting

1 July 2009

Present:

Jack Marshall
Elesha Edmonds
Ben Ogilvie
Katja Heesterman
Duncan Armstrong
Rebecca Bullen
Katelin Bull
Intisar Muketar
Nurul Sultan
Essen Vicente
Dipti Manchanda
Tapiwa Bururu

Waylon Edwards
Georgina Rhoades

Apologies:

- Annelise Havill; Zoe Doole

Welcome:

- Elesha welcomed everyone to the meeting. Congratulations were extended to Katelin on the success of her band at the recent Rock Quest.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- The Minutes of the previous meeting were moved as correct by Jack and seconded by Intisar.
- There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Presentation – Barbara Lambourn, Unicef:

- Unicef stands for United Nations Children's Fund and is particularly concerned about the welfare of children. There was a mandate

presented to the United Nations regarding the rights of children that every nation signed up to in 1989 that ensured that children had basic rights and to make sure these were provided for children. There was only one country, The United States, that did not sign this mandate. In New Zealand their job is as a domestic advocate to make sure the Government complies with this Treaty. They also raise funds for Unicef in other countries to provide immunisation, bikes, pumps, etc in African villages. Children are defined as 0-18 in this mandate.

- The reason that Barbara asked to attend the Youth Council meeting is to get help on the questions for a survey they are developing with regard to the upcoming referendum on the anti smacking legislation. She asked for Youth Council help with the survey and for members to survey around 10-15 people as Unicef want to know what young people think about this legislation. Barbara then read out the questions they are proposing to put forward and asked whether members thought the questions were clear and made sense.

- *Feedback on the questions:*

Some people may not regard smacking as an assault.

Suggest physical discipline.

Include a question about whether you think the current law is working.

Barbara noted that there is no new offence being created and the amendment has been made to remove the defence that people could use for hurting children.

Barbara asked whether members knew what a referendum was. A referendum is created when a group of people are unhappy with the way a law has been enacted. Any citizen can raise a petition against a particular law and the petition needs 10% of the electorate to have signed to get the law looked at again. This referendum raises the question "Should a smack as part of good parental discipline be a criminal offence in New Zealand".

It was noted that some people may know of this law but not what it consists of. Maybe the question should be changed to "Do you know the meaning of the Child Discipline Law".

Question 2 could be changed to "Do you know that a vote will be held?"

Barbara was asked what Unicef will be using the information for. Barbara said that they need a sample of about 150 young people's views on this legislation as it affects young people.

Barbara asked the question "Do you think children should have the same legal protection as everyone else?" The law says protection from assault and does not have a lot to do with the bill regarding smacking for discipline. This bill is designed to help draw the line between good parenting discipline and assault.

Barbara said that if the members had any other ideas they could email her at Barbara@unicef.org.nz.

It was suggested that a question be added to ask whether you think the law gives children the same protection as everyone else.

Barbara said that she would send out the working questions to Georgie to email out to the Youth Council so members could go out and survey people. The survey questions can be completed either on the web or on paper. Barbara will come back with the survey results by the end of July.

It was suggested that the interviewee's age be added to the survey questions.

General Business:

- **Couch Update** – Waylon has been talking to the Marketing Team at Council. Youth Council need a communications and marketing team to discuss ideas further. Jack, Essen, Nurul, Rebecca, Ben, Katja and Tapiwa agreed to be part of this team.
- **Recruitment Process** – Applications have now closed and there have been about 5 or 6 applications received. Currently there are 3 places with possibly about 4-5 places in the end so we may possibly accept all candidates. Georgie then asked for suggestions about how Youth Council wanted the recruitment process to be run. Suggestions and feedback included:

Last time a letter was sent out inviting candidates to attend a meeting. This was quite nerve wracking though. It would be good to conduct the interviews in Committee Room 2 though a smaller room may be better.

How do you want Youth Council to look? It should not be intimidating.

Do you consider yourselves a more formal group? The members agreed that they are more of a semi formal group.

Georgie said that it is up to Youth Council how these interviews are run and asked whether questions needed to be asked.

There should be a list of previous questions asked somewhere. The interviews need to be run to a strict structure with questions that can be asked.

Have a small group for the interview.

Candidates should be asked to attend a Youth Council meeting at which time interviews will be held.

Send letters out to candidates and give two dates. It was noted that the next Youth Council meeting is in the second week of the school holidays so this may be a good time to invite candidates along.

The TOR state that candidates must attend a Youth Council meeting. It was suggested that candidates be invited to attend the Youth Council meeting on 15 July and then have the interviews after this. Only have two Youth Council members on the interview panel with one Council Officer. Jack and Elesha will be on the interview panel.

Questions to ask at interview (including 5 questions with 2 key and 1 random question).

How do you think you can help represent youth in Wellington?

Why do you want to be on the Youth Council?

Do you have any questions about the TOR?

What is something you want to achieve while on Youth Council?

Who is your favourite super hero – what is your favourite cheese?

- **Councillor Breakfast** – This is to be held on 16 July at 8.00am at the Occidental. Councillors have been phoned about attending this breakfast but have been hard to get hold of. It was suggested that another meeting time be arranged with Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon as he is unavailable to attend this breakfast. We need to know final numbers by 8 July. Youth Council members available to attend include Jack, Elesha, Katja, Duncan, Rebecca, Katelin, Intisar, Nurul, Essen, Dipti and Tapiwa.

This breakfast is totally informal and is up to Youth Council how it is run. Georgie suggested that there is an ice breaker and that the idea of having the breakfast is about forming a relationship with Councillors. She suggested that members try and find out about some of the current Council issues that can be talked about with the Councillors. By next meeting members need to decide on something that they can talk about that can also include issues that are not being met by Council.

- **Planning – Youth Council Forward Plan** - Waylon said that the only upcoming issue that may interest Youth Council is the Golden Mile.

Youth Council need to have a forward plan that reflects what is going on in Council and give a youth input on these issues. Youth Council need to look at the Council Forward Plan and what may be of interest to the Youth Council.

- It was noted that Youth Council are not allowed to fundraise. This is because Youth Council is an advisory group. Ben asked how Youth Council can advise on issues if no one comes along to the meetings to get a youth input. Waylon said that this is what Youth Council need to work on in conjunction with the Council's Forward Plan.

Waylon suggested areas of interest may include the Golden Mile and the Kilbirnie Town Centre Plan. Waylon will work with Jack and Elesha on this.

- **National Youth Forum** – Georgie asked who was interested in attending this forum. Everyone at this meeting showed an interest in attending. Georgie will find out how many places are available.

Next Meeting: 15 July 2009 – Ben put in his apologies in advance for this meeting.