

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting **17 February 2010**

Present:

Elesha Edmonds
Katja Heesterman
James Butchers
Duncan Armstrong
Nigel Smith
Zoe Doole
Jack Marshall
Tapiwa Bururu
Katelin Bull
Dipti Manchanda
Stevenson Pule
Ruth Corkill

Waylon Edwards
Georgina Rhoades

Apologies:

- There were no apologies received for this meeting.

Welcome:

- Elesha welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- There were no previous minutes to approve.

Plan for the Coming Year:

- Ben Irving from On the Edge Trust discussed the plan for the coming year for Youth Council and the recently held leadership training day. Members need to look at key priorities, expectations of Youth Council and try to set a 100 day plan for the year ahead. He asked what members would like to see Youth Council achieving this year. Ideas included:

- With this being an election year members would like to see youth related issues discussed.
- Youth Council could be a go between for youth and Councillors.
- Bring awareness to youth who are not registered to vote.
- Youth Council need to do something concrete.
- Have an involvement in Sister Cities – have someone come and talk to Youth Council.
- Are we just an advisory group? Limit to what Youth Council can do – members would like to start things themselves with youth.
- Develop a relationship between Council and Youth Council.
- Members would like to know the reasons why Youth Council was formed in the beginning.
- Start with a small project first.
- Members would like to know why they are being consulted on projects – who listens to Youth Council – how much influence does Youth Council have?
- Members would like to attend Council meetings to listen to other ideas and put forward ideas from Youth Council. Youth Council members did question whether their ideas were taken aboard.
- Go out and consult with youth and bring their ideas to Council.
- Look at another more effective way to have a relationship with Councillors.

Meeting Frequency

Youth Council usually meet fortnightly till September then monthly thereafter. It was discussed that this is confusing and that maybe members need to meet weekly as they will get more achieved. It was noted that if members chose to meet weekly they will only get paid for the scheduled meetings. It was suggested that members have one formal and one informal meeting when Youth Council are working on events or something specific.

It was agreed that the best method of communication is via email as this is working effectively.

Looking at the structure of Youth Council members were asked whether they wanted to have an executive team. The purpose of this was questioned. It was agreed to stay with the status quo but have project leaders for certain projects/events. Projects to look at for the year ahead include:

- Terms of Reference
- Election
- Sister City
- Councillor relationship
- Youth voters.

When members attend Council meetings there should be a report back. A roster will be put together by James Butchers with members attending two meetings in a row for follow up. It was agreed that it

would be good to have background information first before attending meetings.

Ben Irving noted the upcoming On the Edge Conference to be held on 30 April to 2 May with the focus for this conference on leadership. The cost for this is \$80 per person.

General Business:

- Georgie will look at the history of Youth Council and she will be taking a lead on Youth Council this year. The focus will be looking at the way forward for Youth Council; consultation at schools on youth needs and stronger links with other youth councils in the area.
- **Council Meetings** – The full Council meetings are held in the Mayor's Chamber on the last Wednesday of every month. The agenda is on the internet. Georgie will check whether members of the public have speaking rights at these meetings.
- Members should consider whether they would like to attend other Reference Group meetings like the Pacific Advisory Group, Environmental Reference Group or the Disability Reference Group. Members were also asked whether they were interested in attending the SPC meetings. These meetings cover the policy that drives the work of the Councillors and they are open to the public. Georgie will send the dates of these meetings out to Youth Council.
- **Peace Foundation** – Anna from the Peace Foundation, Youth Programmes Co-ordinator attended the meeting. She tabled a paper on the Inter-Parliamentary Union draft resolution on youth for feedback from Youth Council. She noted that she is willing to come out to groups and talk about the Foundation.
- **Speakers at Meetings** – it was agreed that members would like some background information on what people want to talk to them about before attending meetings.

It was agreed that the breakfast get together with Councillors should be held again. This time a more formal invitation should be sent out. It was suggested that this be held during Youth Week in May.

Youthline would like to run a workshop with Youth Council members. They are conducting research about how youth access GPs. They want to know the way youth access GPs and how they access them through schools. It was suggested that Youthline talk to Youth Council on one of the off week meetings.

The Transport Group within Council would like to come and talk to Youth Council as well.

- **Almost Amazing Race** – this will be held on 16 April. We need help on the day to run this – Zoe, Jack and Tapiwa said that they could help. Georgie asked for Youth Council members to promote this through their schools.
- **Recruitment** – Five applications have been received for members to join Youth Council. These applicants will be invited to attend the next meeting. It was agreed that all Youth Council members should have a look at the applications and have a say on whether these applicants should be part of Youth Council. Elesha will follow up via email with Youth Council members not attending this meeting whether they still want to be members of the Youth Council.

Next Meeting: 3 March 2010