

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting 30 June 2010

Present:

1. James Butchers
2. Jack Marshall
3. Duncan Armstrong
4. Mikaela Bull
5. Helen Yu
6. Stevenson Pule
7. Ben Ogilvie
8. Essen Vicente
9. Susanna Larken
10. Zoe Doole
11. Katja Heesterman
12. Elesha Edmonds

13. Georgina Rhoades
14. Waylon Edwards

Apologies:

- Paul Meuli, Emily Murphy, Harriett Westrate

Welcome:

- James welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

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

Jacinda Arden, Labour MP

- Jacinda Arden explained her role in Parliament. She said that she sends out letter to Youth Councils for their ideas on issues that relate to youth and anything that impacts on youth or the youth justice system to present to Speakers on behalf of the Labour Party. She talks to people who work in the youth sector and covers things like youth health

including pregnancies and the high rate of STIs of which New Zealand has the worst rate in the world. Youth unemployment is a current issue with youth unemployment being at a high record especially for the 15-19 year olds with nothing being done for this group of youth. There are not enough jobs out there for youth. Another issue that they are looking at is youth justice boot camps. These boot camps work on the principle that giving young people hard discipline will make them right. Jacinda Arden said that she does not think this will work without influencing families first, providing employment and education for these youth offenders and she noted that some of these offenders have learning disorders that need to be dealt with. She said that she represents the youth voice in Parliament. Jacinda Arden then asked Youth Council members for their thoughts/ideas about the alcohol age limit, views on environmental issues, education and superannuation.

Questions & Comments:

- With raising the age limit to buy alcohol to 20 what are Parliament trying to achieve? *If this moves to 20 then the easiest way for youth to get alcohol will be to ask someone older and most youth do not know anyone in this age range. Will this just change the age of the binge drinker? Parliament are looking at having a split drinking age with regard to the purchasing of alcohol. Jacinda Arden noted that over half the people who drink get alcohol from their parents and the difficulty is how you shift culture.*
- One of the ideas discussed at the recent youth training weekend was to provide a dry zone in Wellington where people can sober up.
- It was suggested that there should be a non legal solution to the problem of drinking as people have contempt for the law.
- Jacinda Arden noted that an idea has been floated in Parliament about charging for police time when they pick up drunken people and have to take them home or to a medical centre. Government are also looking at raising the price of alcohol especially RTDs, advertising the price of alcohol and changing how late places can stay open to sell alcohol. Another idea Government are looking at is the opening hours of clubs. In Christchurch there is a “one way door” programme that states people can only go into one place at 2.00am and if you leave then you cannot enter another club and the clubs have to close at 4.00am.
- Youth Council members said that the clubs in Wellington have good security and identification is checked at every club. Jacinda Arden said that security guards now have strict guidelines that they must act under and they also need to register to be a security guard.
- Jacinda Arden said that the public get to have their say on Bills at Select Committees. Youth Council members are able to have their say on any Bills that are coming up before Parliament and maybe they would be interested in making a submission to the alcohol bill. MPs are

also available on Facebook if anyone wants to get in touch with them on certain issues. If Youth Council would like to have one of their meetings at Parliament then Jacinda Arden said she would be able to arrange this.

General Business:

- **Youth Parliament** – there are public sessions on 6-7 July if any Youth Council members would like to attend. **Action:** Georgie will send out the agenda. Ben, Jack and Susie said that they were interested in attending.
- **Night at the Zoo Debrief** – this was a successful event and included a night tour of the zoo, meet and greet and movie watching on the Friday evening. The Saturday included a morning tour of the zoo, a discussion on setting up a youth council for Youthline, Alac workshop, YPG and Youth Council talked about what they did. Heidi from MYD ran workshops that were good interactive sessions. Youth Council thanked Georgie for the work that she did in organising a successful training weekend.
- **Regional Youth Hui** – there will be a meetings held on 9 July and 12 July to organise the presentation from Youth Council. Jack, Helen, Susie, Stevenson and James said that they would attend the meeting on Friday, 9 July. Jack, James and Elesha said that they would like to be MCs for the Youth Hui.
- **Alcohol Submission** – Council have voted on the new liquor ban policy and have agreed to extend the liquor ban to the suburbs of Mt Cook and Newtown. Youth Council members agreed that they would like to make a submission to Parliament on the new alcohol bill. This time they would like to carry out a survey to back their submission.

Next Meeting: 14 July 2010