

Record of Meeting: Youth Council

Venue Committee Room 2
 When 4-5.15 pm, 23 November 2011

Present

Members: Katja Heesterman, Duncan Armstrong, Bing-Ying Lou, Stevenson Pule, Kieran Meredith, James Wall-Manning, Emily Murphy, Ben Ogilvie, Zoe Doole, Susie Larken
 Councillor: Cr Simon Marsh
 Officers: Simon Wright
 Guest: Rebecca Blaikie (Office of the Children's Commissioner)

Minutes

1. Opening

Katja welcomed the group and informed the group that Ricki Lambert had resigned due to work commitments.

2. Apologies

Morgan Watkins, Rebecca Christini, Ana Yabakivou, Zared Wall-Manning (for arriving late and leaving early)

3 What's on top

The end of exams, summer papers, getting jobs, studying again and the election were 'on top' for most YC members.

4. Previous minutes and matters arising

It was noted that Susie was present at the last meeting. James moved that the minutes be amended accordingly and ratified as true and correct. Susie seconded the motion and it was passed.

The action summary for the meetings of 26 October and 9 November were reviewed. Katja has updated the YC's early feedback on the Long Term Plan. A workshop on the draft accessibility plan is on the agenda. Emily asked Katja to organise the governance meeting with Cr McKinnon. Simon has arranged for a presentation on the vulnerable children green paper. The GWRC transport consultation has closed so this cannot go on the YC Facebook. YC members have signalled their intentions for 2012. The application form to become a YC member has been reviewed. Notes on youth road safety have been sent to Traffic Safety. The Climate Change Action Plan and the home assessment flyer have been circulated to members.

No other matters were raised.

5. Portfolio reportbacks / Forward programme

Arts and culture

One YC member reported talking with Cr Ahipene-Mercer about youth opportunities in the Arts and Culture area. Cr Ahipene-Mercer would like more youth participation and would like to hear from YC members about any barriers to, or opportunities for, improvement.

One YC member noted how good the free summer concerts and events in the Botanical Gardens are.

Community engagement

Two members described being recruited for, and taking part in, focus group research on WCC's consultation and engagement processes. Issues with WCC's processes included logistical issues with oral submissions, submitters not being given enough guidance prior to making oral submissions and not receiving enough feedback afterwards. Not being informed about final decisions or how submissions were taken into account leads to cynicism.

Following on from the discussion at the last meeting about parking in Miramar, one member noted that she had made a submission as an individual and had got her church to make a submission as well. She highlighted her satisfaction with the feedback she had received: not only had her submission been acknowledged, specific details of it had been referred to.

On the topic of focus groups, one member noted that he was involved in the Victoria University of Wellington research on youth suicide and will report progress to Youth Council over the course of the project.

There was a discussion about the voting process on the 'Wellywood' sign as an example of community engagement. High levels of voting (participation) was seen as positive sign that people care however problems included a system that allowed people to vote multiple times. One member like the campaign that encouraged voters to strategically vote for the Taniwha option as this would require a resource consent, which would give those opposed to having a sign at all an opportunity to stop or delay the project.

Emergency Management

Reviewing the Annual Report, it was noted that WCC supported 3,000 Christchurch people as part of its earthquake response.

Finance

Zared will report back to YC at the next meeting about his investigation into WCC's debt levels, deficit and interest payments.

Governance

It was noted that the Annual Report still uses the old portfolio structure and that while the financial summary is good, it reads too much as a 'list of achievements' to be interesting to members of the public.

Transport

YC members were informed about a petition to Greater Wellington Regional Council called 'Give Wellington tertiary students half fares on public transport'. A link to this has been put on the YC Facebook page.

6. General Business

Feedback on Climate Change Action Plan free home assessments initiative

Reflecting on the presentation at the last meeting on the free home energy audits initiative, two YC members noted that their families had had audits. The audits had provided practical and actionable advice. In one case, this had led to a new heat pump being installed. A key message is that this scheme could be beneficial to people in rental properties. **Simon** is to email a pdf of the initiative's flyer to all YC members so that they can distribute it to their networks.

Recruitment plan for new members in 2012 including wording of notice and application form

With 3 current vacancies, the resignation of Ricki Lambert, and Rebecca Christini and Katja Heesterman standing down at the end of the 2011 year, YC should look to recruit 6 new members at the beginning of 2012.

The draft recruitment plan and the application form were reviewed and it was decided that:

- the expressions of interest would remain open until the end of January 2012
- interested persons would be invited to the first YC meeting in February 2012
- those still interested in joining YC would be interviewed in the week after the first meeting. The current co-chairs, Katja and Emily, and a Council officer, will conduct the interviews
- New members should be appointed in time for the second YC meeting of 2012
- **James** will forward changes to the application form to Simon so he can get the form updated
- **Katja** will provide text for Bing's flyer. **Simon** is to distribute the flyer to members so they can distribute it to their networks. **Katja** is to post the flyer to the YC Facebook page
- A number of YC members [who was going to do this?] will organise to recruit at schools with no current representation

Accessible Wellington Action Plan

The flyer for the Accessible Wellington Forum 2011 was tabled. Zoe said she could probably attend and, if she did, would report back at the next meeting to gauge interest in developing a submission over the summer. It was decided to post details to the YC Facebook page.

Secret Santa

It was agreed that YC members would each bring 'Secret Santa' gift to the next meeting.

7. Closing

The meeting formally closed at 5:15 pm however a number of members stayed on to

discuss the Green Paper for Vulnerable Children with Rebecca Blaikie from the Office for the Children's Commissioner, who provided interested members with additional information and offered to assist members develop a submission by linking them with other organisations and providing further information.

The next meeting is on 7 December 2011. The first meeting for 2012 is 8 February.

Actions summary

1. **Zared** will report back to YC at the next meeting about his investigation into WCC's debt levels, deficit and interest payments.
2. **Simon** is to email the flyer for the free home assessment to all YC members so that they can distribute it to their networks.
3. **James** will forward changes to the Youth Council application form to Simon so he can get the form updated
4. **Katja** will provide text for Bing's flyer. **Simon** is to distribute the flyer to members so they can distribute it to their networks. **Katja** is to post the flyer to the YC Facebook page
5. A number of YC members [who was going to do this?] will organise to recruit at schools with no current representation
6. If she manages to attend, **Zoe** to report back at the next meeting on the Accessibility Forum and opportunities for developing a submission over the summer.