

Record of Meeting: Youth Council

Venue: Mezzanine Community Room, Victoria Street, Wellington

When: 4.00 - 5.30 pm, 10 December 2014

Present

Members: Anya Bukholt-Payne, Aornanshe Shamoon, Bing-Ying Lou, Brittany Hogan, Daisy Lutyens, Erin Lockhart, Grace Nunn, Jack Comer-Hudson, Jack Marshall, Morgan Watkins, Niamh Hyde, Oliver Michie, Petelo Leaupepe, Sean Johnson, Sebastian Klinkum, Siobhan Davies, Timothy Rutherford

Officers: Simon Wright (Consultation and Engagement), David Daniella (City Events)

Guests: Cr Chris Laidlaw (GWRC), Katie (Tawa College)

Minutes

1. Opening

Jack welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Eva McGauley, Julie Hillel, Justina Koh and Cr Woolf. Bing and Brittany respectively apologised for arriving late and leaving early.

3. What's on top

Everyone shared at least one important thing going on in their life.

4. Conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5. Previous minutes and matters arising

Tim moved that the minutes for the previous meeting, with a minor amendment, be accepted as true and correct. Aornanshe seconded the motion and it was passed.

6. General Business

Regional youth council/civics

Chris Laidlaw spoke about the Citizenship Education Trust and its goals of developing a programme of citizenship education for young people and providing low-cost accommodation for school groups visiting the capital. He asked the YC to support efforts to secure the WCC's support for the Trust's vision.

Chris also talked about visiting Auckland and finding out about the Auckland Council's new regional Youth Council. The GWRC would like to create something similar as it needs broader perspectives to effectively deal with major issues such as climate change. He said that he was very impressed by the work of youth networks such as Generation Zero and optimistic that today's young people would drive effective responses to today's major issues. Chris agreed that GWRC should invite young people from across the Wellington Region to a meeting to discuss a range of environmental issues as well as the creation of a regional youth council.

Chris talked about difficulties of trying to provide cost-effective regional infrastructure (e.g. for the 3 waters and waste management) in the Wellington region under current governance arrangements. In his view, the behaviour of local politicians has repeatedly stopped regional approaches to large-scale issues, which is why he supports local government reform in the region. He encouraged the YC to read the Local Government Commission's proposal for reform and to get involved in what is likely to be a hard-fought decision process.

Chris was asked if recent shared service initiatives in Wellington were sufficient. He explained why he thought that the Wellington Water and the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency models were both sub-optimal.

When asked about international trends regarding amalgamation, Chris said that there were examples of successful amalgamation, for example, for the delivery of water in Scotland.

Chris did not think that the Government was likely to force amalgamation in the Wellington region as it had in Auckland.

Super city proposal

Members discussed whether they would make a submission to the Local Government Commission on its regional governance proposal after Chris had left the meeting. Jack M, Jack C-H, Sebastian, Siobhan, Tim, Ollie, Morgan and Sean formed a working group to develop a YC submission. The group will meet on Wednesday 7 January. Simon will book a meeting room.

Organising street events, David Daniela (30 min)

David Daniela shared some project/event management templates that he has found useful for planning successful events. The most important part of the planning process is deciding what you want to do and why? A common reason for events not going well is that the 'what' and 'the why' have not been defined well. A rational process, including questions for the planning group and those that will be involved, is needed to help decide the 'what'.

Other prerequisites for successful events include leadership, brave honesty and considerations about time, scope and quality. Every project needs someone who has a great deal of belief in the event and who is prepared to do whatever it takes to make it successful. Members of the organising group need to be bravely honest: if a member has any doubts, these must be shared with the group and worked through. An event should not proceed if anyone has doubt.

Members discussed the proposed major event that the YC may plan and run. A distinction needs to be made between buskers and concert performers and competitors in a talent contest: the norms, practices and requirements for these types of performers are very different.

The event working group decided to meet after the YC meeting.

Submissions update

Sebastian and Jack C-H did an excellent oral submission on the Island Bay Seawall proposal.

The Suburban Reserves working group met and decided not to develop a YC submission.

Members discussed a draft submission on options for a WCC psychoactive substances policy. Morgan moved that the draft submission with amendments be ratified. Bing seconded the motion and it was passed.

Siobhan, Jack C-H, Morgan, Petelo, Sean and Anya formed a working group to develop a YC submission on the WCC's draft Social Housing Policy. The group will work on the submission on 7 January.

Jack M, Sean, Petelo, Sebastian, Ollie and Anya formed a working group to help develop a youth engagement plan for the WCC's Long-term Plan consultation. This group will meet on 7 January.

Safe and Sustainable Transport Forum

Morgan has stepped down from the WCC's Safe and Sustainable Transport Forum (SASTF). Tim was nominated as the YC's new representative. Simon will notify the SASTF's liaison officer.

End-of-year word from the Chair

Members were congratulated on an excellent year. Jack announced that he would be stepping down from the Chair role in February/March 2015. Members were invited to consider whether they wished to stand for a role as Chair, Deputy Chair or a Co-Chair. The election is likely to take place in March 2015.

Ollie moved that the YC formally thank Jack for his outstanding contribution to the YC as Chair. Siobhan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

7. Closing

The meeting closed at 5.30pm. The next YC meeting is due to start at 4.00pm, 18 February 2015 in Mezzanine Community Room in the Central Library.

Decision and Action Summary

1. Simon to book a room for the Regional Governance working group meeting on 7 January. Jack M, Jack C-H, Sebastian, Siobhan, Tim, Ollie, Morgan and Sean to develop a YC regional governance submission
2. The event working group to meet after the YC meeting
3. Siobhan, Jack C-H, Morgan, Petelo, Sean and Anya to develop a YC submission on the WCC's draft Social Housing Policy. The group will work on the submission on 7 January.
4. Jack M, Sean, Petelo, Sebastian, Ollie and Anya formed a working group to help develop a youth engagement plan for the WCC's Long-term Plan consultation. This group will meet on 7 January.
5. Tim will be the YC's new representative on SASTF. Simon to notify the SASTF's liaison officer
6. Members to consider standing for a role as Chair, Deputy Chair or a Co-Chair. The election will take place in March 2015.