

# Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Mezzanine Floor, Central Library, Victoria St, Wellington

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 4:00pm-6:30pm

**Members In Attendance:** Anya Bukholt-Payne, Jack Comer-Hudson, Jack Marshall, Niamh Hyde, Oliver Michie, Petelo Leaupepe, Sean Johnson, Sebastian Klinkum, Siobhan Davies (Chair), Timothy Rutherford, Teri Oneill, Damon Rusden, Cameron Wright, Melissa Gibson (Deputy-Chair)

**Staff:** James Mather, Clare Sullivan, Divya Unnikrishnan

1.	<b>Opening , Apologies, Attendance Follow Up   Chair &amp; Co-Chair</b>  Apologies received from:  Eva McGauley Morgan Watkins Sophie Reedy-Young Damon Rusden	4:00pm - 4:10pm
2.	<b>Conflicts of Interest   All</b>  No conflicts of interest were declared  It was noted that Jack Marshall is running for the Tawa community board, of which he is already a member.	4:10pm - 4:12pm
3.	<b>Confirmation of Minutes   All</b>  Minutes were moved to be accepted by Melissa, Cam seconded – no objections were raised.	4:12. pm - 4:15pm
4.	<b>What's on Top   All</b>  Everyone shared something going on in their lives currently.	4:15pm - 4:20pm

5.	<p><b>Elections   Clare Sullivan &amp; Divya Unnikrishnan</b></p> <p><b>Elections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clare advised the YC members of the upcoming key election dates (distributed)</li> <li>- YC's role in election engagement with youth is important, existing youth voting rates are low</li> <li>- Citizens are often more impacted by local government decisions than central</li> <li>- YC members are advised that as official members they should not be seen to be directly endorsing candidates.</li> <li>- Clare encouraged YC members to highlight electoral matters in their networks to encourage democratic participation</li> <li>- Online voting will not be going ahead this year, as per Central Government's decision</li> <li>- Human rights commission are supportive of online voting, given the access benefits it provides citizens</li> <li>- Online voting also lowers errors that can invalidate votes in the STV system (two votes for the third candidate for example)</li> <li>- Online voting would also provide strong statistical data that could be analysed to better elections in the future</li> <li>- WCC will be posting online where post-boxes are located</li> </ul> <p><b>The floor was opened to YC to question Clare;</b></p> <p>Q- Last year there was a push to have a voting area at university, this caused issues... will there be one this year?  A- We will be looking at having the additional voting areas at libraries primarily.</p> <p>Q – Would it be worthwhile us supporting online voting by writing a letter to the relevant minister?  A- Yes. WCC have been tasked by central government to bring forward a strategic case showing some further planning on online voting and its implications also.</p> <p><b>Communications Election Campaign</b></p> <p>Divya has some questions to YC around the election campaign, and is seeking some feedback from YC as a focus group.</p> <p>-The Youth council noted they had success with their website previously by focusing on Youth issues; public transport etc.  “If you make it clear that this is something that Local Government</p>	4:20pm – 4:45pm

works with you may have more success.”

Divya noted an important distinction; that the WCC campaign can't talk about issues specifically, but can talk about how votes may impact 'public transport'.

Jeremy advised that YC should brainstorm some issues that may impact Youth and pass those on to Divya.

Youth Council noted that the primary issue is accessibility (to voting).

Cameron Wright noted that;  
“one day at school last week we signed up 70 people. We demonstrated the power of the vote in this day through some exercises. Enrolling at school is a really good idea as it is incredibly easy compared to the postal system.”

WCC advised that there will be videos explaining the technical aspects of voting (STV rules etc.)

Youth council queried the themes of the WCC campaign. They noted that there has been a lot of rehashing of the 'all votes count' theme previously, and that using this idea again may be ineffective.

Divya explained that WCC will be focusing on things that are relevant to Wellingtonians. Lowering barriers to entry and highlighting the relevancy of local government.

Youth Council highlighted that keeping people's individual interest maintained is very important. People who have voted previously (20-25 age bracket) often lose interest later. Incentives aren't highlighted to them.

Emotional campaign rather than intellectual, leaving the later to Electoral Commission.

**Actions :**

**Youth Council to email James ideas regarding the election, James to coordinate the ideas to relevant council officers.**

6.	<p><b>ELT update</b></p> <p>Jeremy advised that he will be the ELT member associated with Youth Council The advisory groups support structure is also being reviewed</p>	4:45pm – 4:50pm
7.	<p><b>Refugee Youth   Jamie Shackleton (Red Cross)</b></p> <p>Jamie to introduce upcoming Youth Refugee Forum &amp; project aims Youth Council to provide feedback</p> <p><b>Red Cross</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thomas introduced himself as a youth coordinator working within the Wellington refugee community</li> <li>- Refugee community engagement is currently being undertaken at the moment</li> <li>- Stereotypes were identified as a major obstacle for refugees within New Zealand.</li> <li>- Opportunities are limited due to stereotypes; Thomas’ group decided that this is something that they wish to take action on.</li> <li>- A key action was local action – NZ refugee youth council is 1 year old, currently looking at taking actions that challenge existing stereotypes.</li> <li>- Thomas spoke to the challenges that people within his community have faced due to stereotyping.</li> <li>- NZ refugee council would like to engage with the WCC youth council, looking to partner with them to connect with the wider Wellington Youth.</li> </ul> <p>WCC YC members agreed to act as a conduit between both WCC and the wider youth demographic of wellington</p> <p>YC to look in the forward plan about consultation with the refugee community</p> <p>YC advised that recruitment is upcoming and that they will be looking at advertising in a diverse areas</p>	4:50pm – 5:05pm
8.	<p><b>Youth Event Brainstorming</b></p> <p>YC to split and plan upcoming event – topics determined by Event working group</p>	5:05pm – 5:15pm

9.	Break prior to PDP	5:20pm – 5:25pm
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### **Working Groups**

#### **Annual Plan Forum**

Sean, Ollie, Melissa, Teri, Anya

#### **Wellington Access Radio**

Teri, Jack Comer-Hudson, Sean

#### **Social Media**

Melissa, Niamh, Teri, Sean

#### **Low Carbon Capital**

Sean, Teri, Cam, Rosemary, Anya, Damon, Seb, Siobhan

#### **Annual Report**

Ollie