

Environmental Reference Group

Meeting Minutes

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Details: Date: Monday, 12 April 2021
Time: 5:03pm –6:58pm
Venue: Ngake (16.09), Level 16, Tahiwī 113 The Terrace
Chair: Sally Faisandier

Members present: Mike Britton George Hobson (via audiovisual link)
Lynn Cadenhead Claire Stringer
Arron Cox Michelle Rush
Isla Day Chris Watson (via audiovisual link)
Sally Faisandier Eleanor West

Councillors present: Cr Tamatha Paul

Staff: Kristine Ford, Senior Policy Advisor Peter Brennan, Manager Property
Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager Moana Mackey, Chief Advisor to CPO
and CIO
Lucy Lang, Manager Future Library Hedi Mueller, Democracy Advisor
Alison Howard, Manager Climate
Change Response

Public:

Topic	Description	Start time
1.	Welcome & Apologies Apologies were received for absence from Stephen Almond. Moved Sally Faisandier, seconded Arron Cox. CARRIED	5:03pm
2.	Conflicts of Interest Eleanor declared a conflict of interest due to her role in the Green Building Council.	5:04pm
3.	Update from Councillor Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none">Long-term Plan approved to go out for consultation last week, all encouraged to make submissions.Notice of Motion submitted asking for report back on possibility for fossil fuel free inner-city streets by 2025, similar to zero emissions area in Auckland.LGWM meeting at Greater Wellington, climate change coming through strongly.	5:04pm

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste minimisation package passed at Strategy and Policy Committee last week, funding through Infrastructure Funding and Financing Bill confirmed for Sludge Minimisation project • Amendment to Waste Minimisation package passed to clear slate the recycling bans for streets. <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great to see the visibility of Cr Paul in the media. • Keen for ERG to be closely involved in Notice of Motion after the report back, as well as the Accessibility Advisory Group. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Daniela Biaggio introduced herself and gave an overview of her work programme, including the focus areas and priorities for the 2020/2021 financial year. Daniela highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toitū te marae a Tāne – Restoration Planting Techniques been published • Canopy mapping of city completed • Working in with Predator Free Wellington • Te Kopahou Draft Network plan out for consultation earlier in the year • Lizard translocation in Island Bay - through co-funded PhD research, useful information was available. • Bid for freshwater improvement fund. <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant Natural Areas – WCC can only work on the public land, opportunities through the canopy cover data. Working in with Planning team around the District Plan • How nationwide strategy is being worked into council planning. 	<p>5:10pm</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Public Places Policy</p> <p>Kristine Ford presented on the Footpath Management and Trading and Public Places Policies and how this is proposed to combine into the Trading and Events in Public Places Policy, covering commercial services in public places, fundraising/soliciting donations, display of promotional material, street performances, and temporary activities such as protests and parades.</p> <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting regulation of commercial operators in public spaces. • Impacting of pedestrianising the Golden Mile. • Avoiding cementing in bad behaviour. 	<p>5:35pm</p>

6. Te Matapihi Design and Service Principles

Lucy Lang, Peter Brennan and Alison Howard discussed:

- Since October 2020 decision to put fund through the Long-term Plan, this has been guided by three priorities – design and service principles, building footprint optimisation and sustainability options.
- Decision to move forward on Option C remediation would be 4 Green Star rating, wanting to upgrade to 5 and recommend to build extension to levels 3 and 4.

Members discussed:

- The option for a housing tower being in response to request to look at all options to maximise building footprint. Option 1 pushes level 3 and 4 out with minimal impact, Option 2 gives level 5. Option 3 of residential housing tower would avoid sunlight planes, view shafts, and keep bulk from Civic Square.
- Internal layout design – embracing safety in design, universal design, acutely aware that it needs to be an inclusive space.
- Heating and ventilation system to be replaced in order to get 5 Green Star rating, 6 Green Star rating would require changing the façade of the building so would be hugely expensive.
- Learnings about ventilation systems post COVID.
- Option 1 (5 Green Star) has asked for no natural gas connection, wanting to maximise sustainability criteria without spending.
- Gas boilers being ruled out for Te Matapihi. Tākina convention centre will have solar panels to shave off peak load which is useful.
- Green Star ratings do not currently factor in emissions over lifecycle.
- Ongoing energy assessments – Green Star ratings are at point of construction, not ongoing.
- Using decisions and guidance to form Development Contributions Policy.
- Investment in 6 Green Stars risky due to location and climate change.
- Climate action costing money – looking for council to spend funds in the most effective way possible.
- Lack of investment in LTP on housing as Audit requires specific info on what the money would be spent on.
- Purpose of proposed Level 5 – commercial offices, potential for WCC staff to move back and occupy the building as well.
- 6 Green Star rating would require procurement from certified providers – can be constricted by market.
- Universal design – and that life mark certification not planned at this stage, would need to refer to design team.
- Appreciate the work on the first round of consultation, and the principles.

5:45pm

7.	<p>Portfolio Updates</p> <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity: Meeting with Daniela to ask further questions, also regarding Our Natural Capital and including short term targets and timelines. How biodiversity work will be incorporated in the Draft Spatial Design team, including daylighting of streams, water sensitive urban design, lawn mowing heights and how that relates to predator free efforts as well as improved biodiversity. Mike to arrange meeting with Daniela and let all group members know. • Water: Long-term Plan consultation – keen for ERG to write a submission, lots of issues that intersect. Michelle to lead (Arron to assist). • Transport: LTP submission to include opinion on Cycleway funding. • Urban Development: Discussion on Central Library, Spatial Plan at Council in August, District Plan being drafted, have had conversations with Vida. Demolition of Arlington block nearly done, led by Kainga Ora, and the Housing Development team get regular updates. • Resilience: Lynn working on portfolios and formatting. • Heritage: LTP submission to include opinion on funding for both Resilience and Heritage. • Climate Change: Carbon neutral govt in four years, majority of emissions coming from air travel. 	6:20pm
8.	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle wanting to workshop offline session about group views regarding District Plan. Potential to do this through principles. • Lynn to draft overarching principles document. <p>Moved Sally Faisandier, seconded Lynn Cadenhead, the following motion: That the ERG schedule 90 mins outside of regular meeting times, to workshop an overarching principles document and the group’s views regarding the District Plan.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	6:47pm
9.	<p>Previous Minutes Confirmation – 8 March 2021</p> <p>The previous minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Moved Sally Faisandier, seconded Lynn Cadenhead.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	6:55pm
10.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Monday, 10th May 2021. Chaired by Arron.</p>	6:58pm

Actions: The following tables the actions, responsibilities and deadlines from previous meetings

Action Points		Responsibility	Deadline
1.			
2.			

General Business	
1.	

Portfolio Groups	ERG Lead		Council Officer
Transport	Michelle Rush		Joe Hewitt, Team Lead Transport Strategy and Siobhan Procter, Manager Transport and Infrastructure
Climate Change	Chris Watson	Isla Day, Steven Almond	Alison Howard, Climate Change Response Manager
Waste	Steven Almond	Clare Stringer	Emily Taylor-Hall, Waste Operations Manager
Water	Arron Cox		Zac Jordan, Principal Advisor Resilience Infrastructure
Resilience	Lynn Cadenhead		Mike Mendonca, Chief Resilience Officer
Urban Design Agency/Urban Growth	Eleanor West	Sally Faisandier	Vida Christeller, Manager City Design & Place Planning; Phil Becker, Manager Build Wellington
Mana whenua iwi & Treaty Relations			Nicky Karu, Manager Tira Poutama-Iwi Partnership
Biodiversity/Open Space	Mike Britton	Clare Stringer	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Heritage	Lynn Cadenhead	Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Heritage Manager