

Environmental Reference Group

Minutes

Date: Monday, 10 October 2022

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Venue: Ngake (16.09), Level 16 Tahiwi, 113 The Terrace, Wellington, and Zoom

Purpose

- Advise Council on the best ways to improve Wellingtonian's quality of life environmentally, socially, culturally and economically by protecting and enhancing the local environment.
- Bring knowledge and insight into Council around the environment, including water, energy, waste, biodiversity, urban design, climate change, heritage and transport management, in the context of Council's roles and priorities.

Attendance

Chairperson:	Michelle Rush (Co-chair), Shannon Wallace (Co-chair)
Members:	Steven Almond, Sally Faisandier, George Hobson, Clare Stringer, Arran Whiteford, Sam Satterthwaite, Ben Zwartz, Spencer Clubb
Liaison Councillors:	N/A
WCC Staff:	Siobhan Procter (Chief Infrastructure Officer), Leteicha Lowry (Kaitohutohu Manapori Democracy Advisor), Silas Phillips (Māori Strategy Advisor), Daniela Biaggio (Manager Urban Ecology)

Meeting Procedures

The meeting opened at 5:03pm.

1. Apologies were received from the following members:

- Mike Britton and Moana Mackey – for absence.

SW/GH – absences carried

No issues were raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.

SW/SS – minutes carried

2. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Attendees introduced themselves around the table.

Items

3. Biodiversity Strategy, *Presented by Daniela Biaggio.*

Daniela presented to the group on the Biodiversity Strategy. This was done through a workshop format to receive input from the ERG, as the strategy is in its early stages. Consultation is expected to occur approximately in June 2023. The Open Space Strategy is currently being redrafted and is expected to go to Council in early 2023.

4. Member/Portfolio Updates

Members provided the following updates on their assigned portfolios:

Transport:

- Of note are changes to speed limits – consultation is expected mid-2023.

Climate change:

- Portfolio leads and supports will discuss how they want to split mahi before approaching the assigned officer.

Waste & circular economy:

- Leads and supports have discussed distribution of mahi. Officer has been unavailable.
- Siobhan advised that the Zero Waste Strategy is being finalised and will go to Council in the near future.

Water:

- No update from members.
- Siobhan advised the 2nd water service entity bill is expected immediately, and suggested a future presentation to ERG on Wellington Water and the reform process.

Resilience:

- No update. Will meet with officer in near future.

Urban design:

- Officer has been away so will meeting in near future.

Mana whenua and treaty relations:

- No update. Rethink of portfolio group name suggested by Silas.

Biodiversity/open space:

- Portfolio leads and supports will continue meeting with officer.

Cultural heritage:

- Officer will meet with portfolio leads and supports in December.
- Heritage Week is upcoming (24 October – 6 November).

Additional member updates:

- October Climate Festival occurred in Auckland - discussed whether such an event was possible in Wellington, and the link between diet and climate change.
- Schools Strike for Climate recently had another strike.

5. 2023 Meeting Schedule

Leteicha presented the proposed meeting schedule for 2023, which has been circulated to members. Members have until the end of the week to advise Leteicha of any proposed changes, or of any issues. Otherwise, this will be considered approved.

The meeting concluded at 6:56pm.

Information

Next meeting date: 14/11/2022

Actions from previous meetings:

- ERG members to review and update portfolio statements.
- ERG members to work on letter/information to officers who will be presenting to the group.

Actions from this meeting:

- Democracy advisor to organise presentation to ERG on Wellington Water and the reform process.
- Democracy advisor to follow up with Siobhan re: pre-copy of Zero Waste Strategy to ERG.

Portfolio / Working Groups:

Portfolio Groups	ERG lead	ERG Support	Council Officer
Transport	Arran Whiteford	Shannon Wallace	Joe Hewitt, City Insights Manager
Climate Change	Sally Faisandier, Arran Whiteford	Steven Almond, Sam Satterthwaite	Alison Howard, Climate Change Response Manager
Waste & Circular Economy	Spencer Clubb	Clare Stringer, Steven Almond	Chris Mathews, Manager Waste, Water & Resilience
Water	Michelle Rush	Shannon Wallace	Zac Jordan, Principal Advisor Resilience Infrastructure
Resilience	Sally Faisandier	Spencer Clubb	Chris Mathews, Manager Waste, Water & Resilience
Urban Design Agency/ Urban Growth	Ben Zwartz	Sam Satterthwaite	Vida Christeller, Manager City Design; Phil Becker, Manager City Development
Mana whenua and treaty relations		Spencer Clubb	
Biodiversity/Open Space	George Hobson	Clare Stringer, Mike Britton	Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager
Cultural Heritage		Clare Stringer	Mark Lindsay, Cultural Heritage Manager Pouarahi Tu Taonga