

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 14 November 2007

Present:

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Chairperson - Samoa)
Pisa Joe Alaifea (Deputy – Samoa)
Brenda Talagi Cottingham (Niue)
Tevita Mafi Katoa (Tongan)
Manuila Tausi (Tuvaluan)
Ana To'o (Samoa)
Martha Samasoni (Tokelau)
Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon
Councillor Celia Wade-Brown
Garry Poole, CEO
Michael Webster
Amarjit Maxwell
Marie Retimanu-Pule
Vasi Siohane
Alice Cowan
Billie Tait-Jones

Welcome

Warm pacific greetings and welcome from the Chairperson.

Opening Prayer

Brenda Cottingham

Apologies

Titia Vaerua, Danny Kauraka, Malakai Jiko, Harry Tauafiafi, Ellen Keir, Melei Melei, Vula Murphy.

PRESENTATIONS – Induction No. 1 - Garry Poole, Chief Executive Officer.

NB: These are Induction Processes for the new PAG members:

Garry Poole, CEO, gave an introduction into the Wellington City Council, issues facing the Council and the future of Wellington City. He explained how the Council will engage with the PAG on matters affecting the Pacific community. He was asked about his statement “making Wellington a competitive city”. He explained that we

want to make Wellington a place where people want to come and live, work and visit in so it has to be competitive with other cities in the world.

The question was raised regarding “quality consultation” as people were unhappy with the consultation process at the last Pacific Forum. He replied that he was sorry that people felt that way regarding the forum but wanted people to know that we are listening to them and he wanted to know how members felt that the forums could be improved.

Mr Poole was asked about the budget for the City Council, i.e. how much does it cost to run the City? He replied that it costs around \$315m with most of the money coming from rates, user charges and interest on investments. The Council does not borrow to run the city and only borrows to purchase assets.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillors McKinnon and Wade-Brown and invited them to speak. Councillor McKinnon said that he would try to get two Councillors to represent the Pacific Advisory Group. The Councillor representatives would be allocated by 21 November 2007.

PRESENTATION: - Induction No. 2 – Democratic Services

Michael Webster, City Secretary, gave a presentation on the democratic process covering governance and the code of conduct. A copy of his presentation was handed out to members. Only one question was raised regarding whether there was a general policy regarding privatisation of services. He replied that services were privatised because of the pressure of expenditure and income although some services cannot be privatised. This is done on a consultative process.

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting:

The Minutes were confirmed by Pisa Alaifea and seconded by Ana To’o.

MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising from either the Chairperson’s Report or the previous Minutes.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

PAG Handbook

The members were all given new handbooks (folders) containing all relevant information and were asked to bring them to every meeting and to make sure that all relevant papers were kept in their folders. They were also asked to make sure that they had no conflict of interests as per the presentation by Michael Webster.

Pacific Forum – 19th November 2007

Forum invitations have been posted out and PAG members were asked to distribute the poster to their communities and to encourage people to attend. A draft agenda was then passed out and discussed.

Questions Raised:

- Were there any issues that needed to be addressed from the previous forum? *Garry Poole would report back on the last forum and a copy of the written report would be handed out.*
- What about number of attendees? *Around 120 people attend but would like to see more – need to encourage people to come along to encourage meaningful discussions.*
- Regarding the issues raised at the previous forum – they need to be brought to the PAG members so they as representatives know what to say. *The members would be provided with a write up before Monday so they had information needed to answer any questions raised.*
- The report from the last forum would be ready by Thursday and would be emailed to members.
- Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked that all members of the PAG attend the forum.
- Sandra Alofivae's presentation was discussed. The presentation will give an overview of the Families Commission and cover issues like family violence and parental leave.
- Would there be an opportunity to ask questions on other matters? *Questions will not be restricted but would like to see any questions raised to be regarding families.*

The Chairperson then welcomed the new Fijian representative, **Viliame Bokini Naliva**, to the meeting and apologised for not acknowledging him earlier. Mr Savenaca Daugunu officially retired from PAG.

Absolutely, Positively, Pasifika Festival:

A layout plan for the Waitangi Day Event set up was shown to give PAG members an idea of what the space availability will be like for the Pasifika Festival. Vasi Siohane again asked for the different nations to provide contact details of performers by Friday 18 November, so that Melody Scales could get in contact with them.

There will be a layout plan provided by the next PAG meeting. The budget also needs to be looked at – it was suggested that Melody Scales, the Project Officer, be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss this.

The question was raised about the Pacific youth and their participation at the Festival. Vasi Siohane and Marie Retimanu-Pule have had discussions with the Youth Team in City Communities and asked for their ideas and any performers that they thought would be suitable.

As this Pacific Festival is a first for the City we want to make sure that it is successful and something that the City will want to happen as an annual event.

Points noted:

What is the budget and why the \$500 fee different for other nations? *This was only an indicative figure for planning purposes, please ignore.*

How is the day going to be run, would like to see the plan now and also need ideas how to arrange the programme for the day. *They were assured that this will be brought to the next meeting.*

Billie Tait-Jones suggested that members go and look at Waitangi Park to get an idea of how it looks. She also explained the layout plan for last year's Waitangi Day event. She has kindly offered her help with health and safety issues regarding the food stalls.

Charging for stalls – it is up to the PAG to decide whether to charge for stalls to generate money that would help with the running costs. It was decided to postpone this decision until the budget had been organised. The point was raised that if you charge for stalls and get payment before the date then stall holders will be making the commitment to turn up on the day – could possibly refund at the end.

PAG Members are concerned that there is not much time remaining to organise the Festival and would like to know what has already been organised and put in place for the day as soon as possible.

The question was raised about having two stages. The Waitangi Day event will have two stages; the Pasifika Festival plans are not confirmed yet and may not be able to afford two separate stages.

The Festival will be promoted at the next Pacific Forum by the Chairperson and will also be mentioned by the Mayor in her Opening speech.

The Chairperson felt that Pacific Health Providers should be encouraged to have stalls and was told that this concept has already been incorporated into the plan.

A draft programme will be brought to PAG for discussion before being finalised.

The issue of sponsorship was raised – no sponsors at present but would be good to have on board to enable performers to be paid more.

The main expense on the day is the erection of the stage and then the provision of tents. The question was asked if the stage could be kept up after Waitangi Day. This is not possible due to security issues and the length of time it would need to stay up. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako will approach Capital Coast Health for possible sponsorship.

The question was asked about what publicity there would be for the Festival. The Communications Plan will include posters, there will be advertising in the

“Absolutely, Positively Wellington” and the Pacific media will be utilised i.e. Niufm, Samoa Capital Radio, ACCESS Radio, TVNZ etc. Also it is part of the ‘Meridian Summer City Wellington 08’ and will be advertising it on our behalf.

Closing Prayer

Ida Faiumu Isa’ako

Next Meeting: 19 December 2007

Meeting Closed: 7:45pm