

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 16 May 2007

Present:

Vula Murphy (Chairperson)
Rev. Lagi Sipeli (Niue)
Tapuala Fagaloa (Samoa)
Savenaca Daugunu (Fiji)
Titia Vaerua (Cook Islands)
Nick Toonen
Vasi Siohane
Ollie Seumanufagai
Bessie Fepulea'i
Ellen Kier
Adele Gibson

Chairperson's Welcome:

Warm Pacific and personal greetings.

Opening Prayer:

Rev. Lagi Sipeli

Apologies:

Cr Alick Shaw, Valeti Finau, Mua'ausa Uili, Harry Tauafiafi, Alice Cowan, Billie Tait-Jones; Marie Retimanu-Pule
Accepted by Tapuala Fagaloa and Seconded by Titia Vaerua

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting:

Titia Vaerua and Tapuala Fagaloa

Matters Arising:

PAG REVIEW: Nick Toonen & Adele Gibson
Copies of the report are now available to release.

The report was presented at the Pacific Forum. Lots of questions were raised at the Forum about the level of support that would be received for the PAG from Council. The conclusion was reached to continue with the PAG and not to change the group but more clarification on points that were unclear and also what support would be

received from Council were needed. The new Terms of Reference are essentially the same as previous with small modifications.

Purpose & Role of Group – Need to clarify roles. Need more support for the selection process and know the role more fully. The group still select the Chairperson but needs better clarification of the role and skills required for the chairperson's position to make this decision. Need to be clear about the framework of the PAG and Council. TOR had good ideas but could be difficult to implement and could get complicated with differing views of the Council and people appointing members to the PAG as to what was expected.

It was noted that Adele's paper was to go to Council on 7 June and this needed to be finalised by next week. It was important to get feedback tonight or by Monday of the following week.

It was suggested that it would be better for Council to go to the Pacific People and say "here is the plan for the next year" as this would be easier to understand and deal with rather than asking "what do you want".

It was noted that the role of Council Officers was quite clear to bring issues to the table and ask for comment. It was discussed whether separate meetings should be arranged because of the nature of the group the PAG meetings were not long enough to discuss difficult issues. It was noted that Council needs to be able to raise issues for discussion at these meetings because there is no other place to raise them.

Responsibilities of Group – The responsibilities of the Group, Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson were clarified and the points on the TOR went through. It was asked if it was the role of the executive to set the agenda. The Chairperson and the Council are to set the agendas to make sure Pacific concerns are discussed. It was agreed that the guidelines are very clear now.

It was asked if there were any funds for the facilitation of meetings for catering and venue hire when groups were meeting to discuss the review. There is no funding available to fund all communities at the moment as you cannot just fund one group, you need to be able to fund them all.

Membership of the Group – There is a need to have all the Pacific Nations represented on the PAG and Council would like to see a diversity of age, gender, a mix of skills across the group and also a mix of New Zealand and Pacific born members. It was agreed that a balance was needed but more than one young member would be needed to encourage them to remain on the PAG and encourage others to seek nomination.

It was suggested that this should be left up to the different communities to select their members the same way they do at present.

The mix of Pacific Island Nations was to stay the same as previously. The meeting agreed with that status quo. It was suggested that nominations could be discussed further.

If more discussions are needed the paper could be delayed by one more week but would prefer not to. The members of the PAG were happy with the general principles.

Quorum – Should have 16 members on the PAG and the quorum should be more than half of the current members. This point is stated clearly in the TOR.

Nick Toonen covered the remaining points on the TOR.

- There would be a thorough induction for new members.
- Having a meeting every two months should be adequate. It was suggested that goals for the coming year should be set at the end of the previous year and it was important that this be reviewed in six months. The group were happy to meet every two months.
- The next few points were agreed as there was no change from the status quo.
- Regarding having ad hoc meetings and remuneration – it is too hard to budget for payments for ad hoc meetings and the PAG should work better when working to agendas and there should be no need to have other meetings.
- It was suggested that there needs to be an address list of key contact in the community for relevant information to be sent to. It was also suggested that it would be good to vary the Pacific Forum.
- It was asked if there had to be an urgent non scheduled meeting would this be paid? *The PAG can meet more often as has occurred previously but Council will only pay if they have requested the meetings.*
- It was noted that a lot of time is spent delivering messages to the community and this would be made easier with financial help.

It was noted that if there were any issues that were of concern then the paper could be delayed.

It was agreed that the current PAG would continue meeting till a new Group were elected.

Other Business

Pacific Forum – The Group were thanked for their help in promoting the Forum. The venue may be changed from Te Papa for the next forum. The Forum was a good way to deliver the Draft Annual Plan to the community and many people found the Forum informative. It was noted that there had been good comments received from the community. Tapuala Fagaloa apologised for not attending the Forum. Titia Vaerua said that she did not realise how important the Forum was and also noted that she did not like the idea of a wet hostel. Nick Toonen explained the idea of a wet hostel. Rev Sipeli said he would like to see the number of Pacific Island people increased at the next form. He also suggested that Council Officers should sit amongst the Pacific Island people and not just by themselves. Nick Toonen explained that a lot of Council Officers attend the Forums as this was a good way for them to gain exposure to the Pacific community. He also noted that the breaking up of the Forum into groups was a good idea but this could be discussed further at future meetings for future forums. It was asked why the venue needed to be changed. The Group members agreed that they were happy with Te Papa to remain the Forum

venue. It was decided that the upcoming forum should be discussed at future meetings.

Pacific Festival – The date has now been set for 16 February 2008 at Waitangi Park. The plan for the Festival needs to be discussed at the next meeting, ie, ideas, how, what, etc.

Resignation – Vasi Siohane read and tabled the email from Arby Mitikulena regarding his resignation from the PAG. There was a move to accept this resignation and Rev. Lagi Sipeli moved this with Tapuala Fagaloa being the seconder. Vasi was asked to express the PAG and Council's thanks for the commitment and work to the PAG by Arby Mitikulena.

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Lagi Sipeli

Next Meeting: 20 June 2007

Meeting Closed: 7.30pm