

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 18 July 2007

Present:

Vula Murphy (Chairperson)
Rev. Lagi Sipeli (Niue)
Mua'ausa Uili (Samoa)
Tapuala Fagaloa (Samoa)
Titia Vaerua (Cook Islands)
Savenaca Daugunu (Fiji)

Amarjit Maxwell
Marie Retimanu-Pule
Vasi Siohane
Phoebe Velova'a
Ollie Seumanufagai
Jennifer Rains

Chairperson's Welcome:

Warm Pacific, personal greetings to everyone with a special welcome to Amarjit Maxwell and Jennifer Rains.

Opening Prayer:

Rev. Lagi Sipeli

Apologies:

Valeti Finau, Cr Alick Shaw, Harry Tauafiafi, Alice Cowan, Bessie Fepulea'i, Ellen Keir

Moved by Titia Vaerua and Seconded by Rev. Lagi Sipeli

Amarjit Maxwell's Introduction

Amarjit Maxwell introduced herself, thanked the PAG for having her at this meeting and explained that she is now the Acting Manager of City Communities taking over from Nick Toonen.

A quick round the table of introductions was then undertaken to introduce the current members of the PAG.

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting:

Confirmed by Titia Vaerua and Seconded by Rev. Lagi Sipeli

MATTERS ARISING:

PAG Review

It was agreed to accept the PAG Review Report as is.

Pacific Festival

The question was raised as to who would be organising the list of entertainers for the Festival. This list is to come from the PAG and the different Pacific communities to the Events Team. It was asked if a project manager had yet been appointed. This would not be happening until August when a meeting with John Dawson and the Events Team takes place.

GRANTS PRESENTATION:

Jennifer Rains thanked the PAG for having her at their meeting and said it was good to be back speaking to the committee. She said that she is happy to hear that the Pacific Festival is now happening next year.

She explained her new position with the Grants team and how the Grants Team could help the Pacific Island community access the various grants available. She gave a presentation on the various grants available at Wellington City Council to all different groups. In particular, small groups can apply for grants but they must be a legal entity and it is possible for these groups to apply for grants through another group that is a legal entity. She said that they would provide help for groups applying for grants.

The money for these grants comes from ratepayers and equates to \$2.1m with approximately 800 grants being approved each year. She ended her presentation by explaining that all the information regarding the different types of grants and who could apply for them was on the Council website. She also said that the Grants team would be happy to help anyone with applications or any other information regarding these grants.

The question was raised asking where people could get application forms. Jenny said that the forms were on the website but they would be happy to print them for people. It was also asked whether these forms and application information could be translated. Jenny replied that this would be no problem and just to ask for this to be done as required.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Pacific Festival

There was no more business to discuss at this time.

Pacific Forum

A date has been set for the Forum – Monday, 19 November. This is to be held at Te Papa as this was discussed and agreed on previously.

Discussion was held regarding going out to the Pacific Island communities rather than people coming to the Forum, ie, look at a good venue where the people are that also has better/more/free car parking. The point was raised as to why the Forum should be held at Te Papa as the Committee felt that there were not many Pacific Island people at the last Forum. Confirmation of the venue was asked for and the point was raised that the Te Papa venue had been agreed at the last meeting and had also been discussed many times before.

There needs to be better exposure of the Forum given to the Pacific Island people to make sure people attend. There is a need for more Pacific Island exhibitions and we want to set a high standard with better communication as the Forum is a show piece for the Council and PAG Committee. There also needs to be more time for people to talk and get their points across. These concerns have been noted. It is too late to cancel the booking for the November Forum but will consider changing the venue for future forums.

The point was raised that although there may have been few Pacific Island people attending the last Forum the people that did attend were involved and interested in what was being said, the quality of the people was good and they raised important questions. The feedback from people who attended this forum was that the venue was a step forward. There is a need to promote and use Te Papa to the Pacific community. They have now realised how important the forum is, have a good opinion of Council and it is believed that more people will attend future forums because of this.

The point was also raised that it is important to record the names of people who attend. Vasi replied that this is done at every Forum, i.e., a registration table is the first stop for people attending. It provides us information on the numbers and who attends.

It was thought that it was a step forward by going to Te Papa and if a church hall is used then you may only have Pacific Island church going people attending but to make the forum successful there is a need for all people to attend.

The suggestion was raised that maybe there should be one formal forum (possibly at the beginning of the year) held in a venue such as Te Papa and a second less formal forum/workshop held in the community.

It was suggested that the issue of forums/workshops be deferred to Council with Vasi and Marie to look into this.

Pacific Advisory Group

At the last meeting a discussion was held about putting a plan into place for the elections to the Pacific Advisory Group. The time frame for this is July to October. The information to be taken out to the communities will be available at the end of July. There will be seven community meetings for nominations and elections of a new PAG.

The question was raised about how these meetings would be conducted. This still needs to be finalised as to what role the Council Officers will have at these meetings. However, the nominations must be made by the individual Communities themselves.

Council Officers will advertise and broadcast the PAG elections to get the message out to the Pacific Island people and will work with these communities on the election process. The dates are still to be set for these meetings but they will be during August. Vasi continues to look for the Tokelauan community. The Tuvalu community have already selected their two representatives.

Local Body Elections

Vasi has been working on the Local Body Elections taking the message out to the Pacific Island community. Marie and Vasi attended a Community meeting at Rongotai College organised by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs. They have been encouraging people to enrol and also stand for election. They have also been making sure that people vote because in the past there has been a bad turnout of voters. Voting papers are sent out via post and the returns will also need to be posted.

There will be advertising carried out through Niu FM Radio, Samoan Capital Radio and ACCESS 738am. It is known that radio is the best way to reach the PI Community as they would prefer to listen to radios from homes rather than attending meetings or reading about the information.

It was suggested that Wesley Church would also be a good way to get in touch with people. Need to get feedback about this from Valeti (Vasi to follow up). It is important for PAG members to let people know that these elections are different from the PAG elections and not to confuse them. It is unfortunate that they are happening at about the same time.

The question was raised about candidates visiting the Pacific Island churches. Council can arrange meetings with candidates and communities should inform Council that they would like to meet the candidates. It is up to the various Pacific Island communities to arrange their own meetings.

It was agreed that the message about voting and standing for election needs to be taken out to the various communities by PAG members as well.

Closing Prayer

Tapuala Fagaloa

Next Meeting: 15 August 2007

Meeting Closed: 7.10pm

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