

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 19 September 2007

Present

Valeti Finau (Chairperson)
Rev. Lagi Sipeli (Niue)
Mua'ausa Uili (Samoa)
Tapuala Fagaloa (Samoa)
Titia Vaerua (Cook Islands)
Savenaca Daugunu (Fiji)
Marie Retimanu-Pule
Phoebe Velova'a

Chairperson's Welcome

Warm Pacific, personal greetings to everyone with a special welcome to the final meeting for most of the current Committee members.

Opening Prayer

Savenaca Daugunu

Apologies

Councillor Shaw
Amarjit Maxwell
Vasi Siohane
Bessie Fepulea'i
Ellen Kier
Ollie Seumanufagai

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

Confirmed by Titia Vaerua and Seconded by Phoebe Velova'a

MATTERS ARISING

Pacific Festival

It has been confirmed that the Festival will be happening. It was suggested that Valeti attend a meeting with Melody Scales while Vasi is away on sick leave. It was mentioned that Phoebe Velova'a has been seconded into Vasi's role for five hours a week. Need to be organising the MC, performers and items now. Vasi has approached different groups for suggestions on items they can perform. Still looking

for someone to be MC for the formal part of the Festival. David Daniella was suggested but he is not in New Zealand at the moment. Titia suggested George Upu for MC. Need to get a budget and to work out the costings for performers, tents, requirements for food stalls, etc. Melody will be taking a lead role in this. Vasi has started the processes to get the required information. Have \$30,000 funding confirmed but still need to find \$10,000 more.

Still need to organise formal part of the Festival and the layout as well. Need to make sure programme is not duplicated, ie, drumming, choir – items need to be individual to Pacific Island Nation. Would be good for the Festival to focus on youth. Would like this Festival to be the first of many. John Dawson wants to have this as an annual event. For this to happen it needs to go into the LTCCP. Organising this event will be easier on the different communities if it is an annual event.

It was noted that the organising of this Festival is one of the achievements to be attributed to the current PAG and the focus of the Festival should be to celebrate Wellington.

When the new PAG Committee meet they will need to set a time line – no later than November. They will also need to discuss health and safety issues, who will be responsible for what – it would be good to get input from Billie Tait-Jones as she has helped organise Waitangai Day events before at this park.

Correction from Previous Minutes

The name of one of the new PAG members is incorrectly noted in the previous minutes. The Tongan member's name is Mafi Katoa.

GENERAL BUSINESS

PAG Elections

There will be a formal farewell for the current PAG members and for former committee members in the Mayoral Chambers on 9 October 2007. This needs to be before the Local Body Elections so that Councillor Shaw will be in attendance. This will also be a welcome to the new PAG members who will be invited. The Mayor will be invited to attend.

Marie read out the names of the new PAG members. There are 13 new members. The next election for PAG will be in 2010.

The subject of induction for the new committee members was brought up. There needs to be a good induction pack ready for the new group and they need a proper orientation with possibly a section on Treaty Relations – this will benefit the new group to know about Council services and facilities. Decisions also need to be made about how many paid meetings the committee will meet for during the year.

It was noted that it was good to have some old members on the new PAG committee.

Local Body Elections

There has been good positive feedback on both the PAG and Local Body elections – also about the advertising carried out on the radio. Marie passed on Ross Bly's thanks for the PAG committee's involvement in the elections. There is only one Pacific Island representative for the elections in the Southern Ward. There has also been good support for the Porirua and Lower Hutt elections.

Te Papa Opening

Te Papa will be opening a Pacific Island section this coming Labour weekend. The Marketing Team has been given 25 tickets for the PAG and other people who are interested in attending. Council will be paying for another 25 tickets. These will be offered first to current PAG members and then to the new members.

Pacific Island Forum

The Forum will be held on 19 November and the theme this year will have a youth focus. Marie and Vasi will have discussions with the Youth Team in City Communities for their input and ideas. If anyone has ideas to share about what they would like to see brought up at the Forum please let Marie or Vasi know.

The idea was mentioned again about having only one forum per year with another opportunity being given for the communities to have their say. There also needs to be better representation from the PI community – need to fill out the venue with PI people and not Council staff. There also needs to be more time allocated to talk things through. It was suggested that maybe the new PAG committee could make changes about how things are done.

General Business

It was asked if certificates could be arranged for past PAG committee members to acknowledge their service. Marie said that she would arrange this.

Valeti then asked the members for any final comments they might like to add.

Tapuala Fagaloa said he would like to voice his appreciation to the group and his pleasure to have been part of the PAG and his hope that the new committee would move things along for the Pacific Island communities. He expressed his thanks for having him on the committee and said it had been a wonderful experience.

Mua'ausa Uili congratulated Valeti on her role as Chairperson of the PAG and he also thanked Rev. Lagi Sipeli for his role on the committee. He said he knew that good people had been elected to the new committee and he wished them luck. He said that he hoped that he would see the committee members in the future.

Marie Retimanu-Pule said how wonderful it was to see how far the committee has come since it began. She said how grateful she was for Rev. Lagi Sipeli's leadership, thanked Valeti for her very dignified presence and thanked the committee for their hard work and for staying on through the review. She thanked Tapuala and Mua'ausa

for their support for the Samoan community and Vasi for all her hard work to being everything together and also to Karen Rangi for the work she carried out on the review.

Valeti Finau reflected on the past committee members since 2003 when the PAG was formed. There have been 19 members of the committee over the four years with 7 original members left now. She said being on the committee has given her an insight to Wellington City Council and being on the group is a personal blessing. She specially thanked Rev. Lagi Sipeli for his commitment and attendance and said she was blessed to have worked with him and wished that there were more people like him with the same commitment and dedication. Valeti acknowledged and thanked Mua'ausa and Tapuala for their commitment and said it would be hard for them to step down from the group. She acknowledged the original members and Council staff of the PAG and thanked other Pacific members within Council. She asked that special Pacific greetings be passed onto the Mayor and Council for allowing the PAG to be developed for the Pacific people and acknowledged Councillor Shaw for his support and wished him all the best for the upcoming elections. Valeti thanked Marie and Vasi and the PI team in Council for all their support and gave her best wishes to the new PAG.

Rev. Lagi Sipeli also reflected on the early years of the committee and said there is still a lot of work to be done. It is good to have a Pacific Island unit in Council as this is where we can make a difference and make our presence felt. He mentioned one outstanding item that he would like to see the new PAG take up and this is having the space for people to have umus, ie, Red Rocks, Cobham Park – Councillor Shaw has this on his agenda and knows the history behind this. He then thanked Valeti for all her strength and input to the PAG Committee.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Lagi Sipeli

Next Meeting: 17 October 2007

Meeting Closed: 7.07pm

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