

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 20 June 2007

Present:

Valeti Finau (Chairperson)
Rev. Lagi Sipeli (Niue)
Mua'ausa Uili
Tapuala Fagaloa (Samoa)
Titia Vaerua (Cook Islands)
Councillor Shaw
Marie Retimanu-Pule
Vasi Siohane
Alice Cowan
Phoebe Velova'a

Chairperson's Welcome

Warm Pacific, personal greetings and thank you to members of the group for looking after the last meeting during her absence last month.

Opening Prayer

Rev. Lagi Sipeli

Apologies

Vula Murphy, Nick Toonen, Harry Tauafiafi, Ellen Keir, Ollie Seumanufagai, Billie Tait-Jones, Bessie Fepuleai.
Moved by Tapuala Fagaloa and Seconded by Mua'ausa Uili.

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting:

Confirmed by Titia Vaerua and Seconded by Rev. Lagi Sipeli

MATTERS ARISING:

PAG Review Feedback

No feedback has been received from communities regarding the review. Some people requested reports since the Forum but no feedback has been received since and it was thought that the information provided at the Forum adequately answered any questions.

It was noted that there is a need to connect with the young people in the community and to encourage their participation.

Councillor Shaw said it was good that Council is now aware that youth issues cannot be addressed by the PAG and Council is making other means to engage with Pacific youth.

The current PAG were pleased with the decisions made and believed that there should be a review carried out every three years. All Pacific groups are happy with the set up and there is a willingness to make it work better in the future.

Amendment to Previous Minutes

Titia Vaerua corrected that she knew of the importance of the Forum but that the community (i.e. Cook Is) people had not until they came to the last Pacific Forum.

Grants Presentation

Jennifer Rains apologised for not attending the meeting but would attend the next meeting.

PAG Review

The Terms of Reference is going to Council next Wednesday, 27 July with very few amendments having been made to the draft TOR. Marie would be having a meeting on 21 July to discuss the PAG elections and processes. Marie and Vasi have been very involved with the whole review process and are very happy with the document. The TOR were accepted at the last meeting.

It was noted that the induction process in the TOR is very important to the effective operation of the PAG. When working towards electing new members the PAG should be aware of things they might wish to see covered by the induction process. This was an important decision making process as it explains who people should be talking.

Councillor Shaw explained that the purpose and role of the PAG is in an advisory capacity and the group should have the right to make recommendations or have input on issues within Council. This does not mean that Council can not do work for the PAG.

The PAG should make use of Council services whenever they require information or research and this should come out of the Business Unit's budget. There should be more clarity around the role of the PAG and not having to deal with funds. It was agreed that the Committee should not become involved with money. They should tap the resources of Council directly and take questions to the Forward Programme. Maybe a better way to advise Council is to have matters put on the Forward Programme and get supporting papers written for the Group – who can advise Council and have matters placed on the Forward Programme.

PAG to make a recommendation regarding the above after further discussion. This will be beneficial to incoming group. As the PAG members are in full time employment they do not have time to read documentation that is complicated. It would also help the new PAG to have more knowledge of what Council processes and any issues relating to Council.

Pacific Festival

The date and venue is now set, i.e. Saturday 16 February 2008 at Waitangi Park. A Festival Subcommittee was set up in the past to discuss the festival. Minutes were taken at these meetings and these ideas should be incorporated into further discussions to avoid any unnecessary repetition. Organising this festival is a colossal task with only eight months to go.

Discussion was deferred at the last meeting but ideas were asked for. The festival is going to be run in with the Council's Events Team. A Plan and a Working committee, and a Manager must be arranged.

The question was raised regarding membership of this working committee – should this include members from the PAG? Vasi and Marie will be meeting with the Events Team first to discuss the best ways to run the Festival. It is very important to keep the guidance from the PAG about the framework, performers, stalls – what is it that people would like to see at the event.

The name of the festival will be the “Absolutely Positively Pasifika Festival”.

Need to make a list of Pacific entertainers as this event will be a good opportunity to showcase the Pacific people of Wellington, show the cultural diversity in the City and bring the Pacific people of Wellington together.

It was previously suggested that people attending the Auckland Pacific Festival be invited and encouraged to come down to the Wellington Festival afterwards. However, this will now not be possible since the Auckland Festival (early March 2008) after the Wellington Festival (16 February 2008).

Vasi advised that finding a date for the Festival was not easy to fit into the Events Calendar. It was very fortunate that the Chinese New Year Festival organisers agreed to move their Event so we could have the 16th February for our Festival.

Each Pacific nation group need to each pick or identify two hit items to focus on. i.e. Fourteen different items are needed to start with.

The Events Team in Council could think about the content and management of the Festival but there are some things that only community groups can do, like the food stalls, etc. It was decided that John Dawson or Melody Scales be invited to attend the next meeting to give their suggestions on the Festival. Do not want the Events Team to say that they are waiting for PAG ideas. Also to contact Auckland to see what is happening in arts events around the Auckland Pacific Festival.

Concentrate at the next meeting on identifying items from the community and look at local talent to showcase Wellington.

Nick Toonen's input into the Festival was acknowledged.

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Community Meeting

An invitation was received from the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs to the community feedback meeting on Thursday 28 June 2007 at 7pm at Rongotai College, Kilbirnie.

Vasi and Marie will do a presentation based on the Pacific Portfolio, PAG Review, our next Pacific Forum, the Pasifika Festival and the 2007 Local Body Elections. The main message is to promote the Elections to the Pacific communities and to encourage Pacific people to stand and be elected into the Council.

It was suggested that meetings and presentations about the Local Body Elections could be organised for just specific community groups. Could promote the elections via Radio Pacific and newsletters. Vasi asked for any other suggestions where the elections could be promoted to the Pacific people. Phoebe suggested the Rates Notices as these go out to a lot of people. Also suggested were the Tongan White Sunday, City Life, Access Samoa, and Capital Radio. The Cook Island community prefer people to speak to them and so would prefer radio announcements. It was also suggested was putting the information into Sunday bulletins at churches.

The issue of Pacific NiuFM Radio was brought up again, with concerns over the fact that this was mainly Auckland based with no Wellington component since it is a National Pacific radio. It was agreed to liaise with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and to invite the appropriate person from NiuFM to do a presentation at a future PAG meeting.

Other Business

The TOR must be translated into the seven Pacific nation's languages. Council will do this through the Translation Services.

Nick Tonne's farewell will be a combined morning tea with Strengthening Families. PAG will present Nick with a small gift in appreciation of Nick's great work and PAG members are invited to attend.

Valeti extended best wishes and blessings to Councillor Shaw for his trip overseas.

Councillor Shaw tendered his apology at the next PAG meeting.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Lagi Sipeli

Next Meeting: 18 July 2007

Meeting Closed: 7.10pm

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