

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 17 December 2008

Present:

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Chairperson - Samoa)
Pisa Alaifea (Deputy – Samoa)
Ana To'o (Samoa)
Martha Ahmed (Tokelau)
Mafi Katoa (Tonga)
Danny Kauraka (Cook Islands)
Titia Vaerua (Cook Islands)
Tina McNicholas (Fiji)
Brenda Cottingham (Niue)
Mailigi Hetutu (Niue)
Lopati Tefoto (Tuvalu)
Avia Liai (Tuvalu)

Vasi Siohane
Marie Retimanu-Pule
Jennifer Rains
Phoebe Velova'a
Trudy Jenkins
Bessie Fepulea'i

Welcome

Warm pacific greetings and welcome from the Chairperson who thanked everyone for attending this meeting.

Opening Prayer

Brenda Cottingham

Apologies

Malakai Jiko, Kolovula Murphy, Kelisiana Alefaio, Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon, Councillors Gill and Pannett, Harry Tauafiafi, Ellen Keir

Special Welcome

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako welcomed Jennifer Rains, the new Acting Manager of City Communities to the meeting and explained her role.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed by Ana To'o and seconded by Titia Vaerua.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

- Martha Ahmed said that there was not much to report from Tokelau but they have been practising for the festival.
- Brenda Cottingham said that the Niue community have a new pastor who is there for three months. They had a very successful Niue Day exhibition at Te Papa and the fundraising fashion show was very successful. She also suggested that it may be a good idea to organise a photo book to be sold at the festival showcasing Wellington, PAG and the pacific community.
- Danny Kauraka said that the Cook Island community have had a very full schedule with a tour group from the Cook Islands visiting last week and a large string band competition that has not been held in Wellington for a very long time.
- Mafi Katoa said that there has not been much happening in the Tongan community. The Core Group members lead by Vula Murphy went to Parliament to support a part Tongan Member of Parliament this evening. An exhibition was held at Te Papa showcasing Tonga traditional dresses.
- Tina McNicholas said that the Fijian community have had a school group visiting, they have welcomed a new High Commissioner (Acting) and are now gearing up for the NZ Sevens. (*Ida Faiumu Isa'ako noted that if communities are running events then they should take photos to record these as they are good for profiling Pacific Communities within Wellington City*).
- Mailigi Hetutu said that Niue have a Sevens team entered in the competition this year. She also noted that the Porirua Niuean community had hosted a Christmas lunch for their elderly matuas and she would like this sort of event to be extended through to Wellington City.
- Avia Liai said that the Tuvaluan community do not have much to report as they have been talking and working on the Pasifika Festival.
- Titia Vaerua mentioned that the String Band competition was not only about the music but was also looking at a way of holding onto the language for the young people. The Cook Islands community are going to Tokomaru Bay for the 50th

anniversary of when the first Cook Islands Chiefs come to the Tokomaru Bay Marae.

- Ana To'o said that there is a Kilikiti tournament being held on Saturday at Rongotai College and she encouraged people to attend and participate.
- Lopati Tefoto said he had nothing further to report from the Tuvalu community.
- Pisa Alaifea noted that there is a Samoan week long annual cricket tournament held in Lower Hutt and he thought that this was something that Wellington should get into.

PAG FORWARD PLAN

LTCCP – Jennifer Rains said that Council are very keen to engage with the PAG on this plan. There is a big emphasis on talking about the plan before it gets to the draft stage this time. Jennifer Rains said that Council would come and talk to PAG at their February meeting. She also noted that there will be opportunities for talking to local communities about the plan but more information about those will be provided.

Community Facilities Review – This has been adopted by Council and will be rolled out over the next three (3) year period. City Communities will be looking at what service levels the community want out of Council services. Council will look at coming to a PAG meeting to talk about this review. Council will also look at profiling community groups. PAG will be kept informed about the review.

Early Childhood Policy – This Policy is in consultation at the moment. Council are looking at how much we charge for rent for early childhood centres in Council buildings. Jennifer Rains asked PAG to put in submissions to this policy either personally or as a group.

Jennifer Rains also noted that as the Grants Team Leader, she is happy to come and talk to PAG members about Grants. She also noted that for recreation grants that Council will help with sports equipment but not with travel costs. There are also Grants seminars held and the next grant round is in March. Vasi Siohane noted that she usually sends information out about the grant rounds by email. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako said she would like Jennifer Rains to come back and talk about grants at one of the PAG meetings.

Jennifer Rains also said that Council manage the Creative NZ Creative Communities Grant and she said that they are very keen to have Pacific people applying for this grant. She noted that individuals can apply and that you do not have to be part of an organisation.

Questions – It was asked whether families could apply for grants. Jennifer Rains said that it would be better if they could possibly come through an umbrella organisation.

How does the Early Childhood Policy apply to already established centres? Jennifer Rains said that Policy is looking at providing equity for all groups including those

already in Council buildings. It was asked if there was a list of early childhood centres. Vasi Siohane will send this out to the group.

It was asked whether there were any vacant Council premises or land for the establishment of any more early childhood centres as there are a couple of groups looking at setting up centres. Jennifer Rains said that there was a waiting list for groups but no vacant premises at present. She also noted that Mark Farrar will be coming to speak to PAG in January 2009 about early childhood education.

It was asked whether there were any funds available for the establishment of centres. Jennifer Rains noted that she did not see this as Council's role in providing buildings but this was more the Department of Education's role.

General Item – Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked the group whether PAG should have a formal farewell for Amarjit Maxwell. The group agreed to send a card as an acknowledgement.

PASIFIKA FESTIVAL UPDATE

Marie Retimanu-Pule gave an update on the Festival plans. We are currently in the process of sending out invites to dignitaries; there is funding available for decorations and Marie will now be taking a key lead in running the festival. With regard to the tents, there will be two tents of 30 x 3 metres – partitions will not be available due to safety concerns though tables may be used to partition off areas. Performance payments – we need to know how many of the groups are community or church based organisations – there will be no withholding tax charged as the groups are non profit – we would like this information before Christmas. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako noted that the main object for the day is to make sure that groups get paid on the day.

Fashion show – we will be having more discussions around this show and as soon as information is available it will be forwarded onto PAG. Marie Retimanu-Pule will get in touch with Mailigi Hetutu in regard to external people being part of the fashion show.

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked if there was a programme for the day that PAG members could look at. Vasi Siohane read through the draft programme. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako noted that the closing of the Festival is as important as the opening. She asked who was going to close the Festival and suggested that maybe City Communities or PAG as Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon would be unavailable on the day. Jenny said that if someone from Council is going to close the Festival then this would need to be a politician or director. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that the Cook Islands' drummers would close the Festival with the PAG members on the stage.

Titia Vaerua asked if the Festival had to finish at 5.00pm as it is still light at this time. Martha Ahmed suggested that maybe the next Festival could be started later in the day to make better use of daylight saving. Tina McNicholas asked if PAG could have copies of the programme. Vasi Siohane said that these would be distributed as soon as the programme is confirmed. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako said that it would be better if PAG could be involved right at the beginning of the planning for the day.

Vasi Siohane noted that the posters are available for distribution now. PAG members have one large poster per community with 10 smaller posters to put up. It was suggested that maybe PAG could look at applying for a grant to make a canvas sign to put over the bridge. Bessie Fepulea'i noted that putting signs over the bridge is part of a booking system and needs to be organised early.

Marie Retimanu-Pule said that so far six Government Departments have responded with regarding to having a stall on the day.

Phoebe Velova'a said that she would get in touch with CitiOps to see if they would be available to help on the day with transporting decorations. Brenda Cottingham said that she thought the stage should be decorated in green and should be neutral.

Danny Kauraka noted that at the last meeting Pisa Alaifea had asked to see the budget and he wanted to know what was happening about this.

Jenny Rains said that she did not have any objections to PAG having the budget and this will be sent out to members. She noted that Council owns the budget but PAG should be happy about how the money is being spent. Danny Kauraka said that the budget was supposed to be available at this meeting and said he was not happy that it had not been provided. It was agreed that PAG would talk about the budget at the next meeting. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako said that when it comes to planning the festival for 2010 that PAG should be involved at the start of the planning and asked that no funds be allocated in the budget so that PAG members can see where the money goes. Jenny Rains noted that next year the committee will be involved at the start of the planning process for the festival.

Pisa Alaifea said that comparing the budget of \$60,000 to \$40,000 we do not seem to be getting as much for the money especially the high Metro costs and asked whether the \$60,000 could have been spent better. Jenny Rains said that next year if groups want to advise on how to have greater community input then that would be a good idea. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako said that she would like to see PAG drive the budget more.

Vasi Siohane said that Council needs to have a meeting with the food stall holders. It was suggested that this meeting is held on 14 January when there would be a site visit as well. Tina McNicholas clarified that in terms of keeping food hot this is the responsibility of the stall holder. She also asked about the role of Health & Safety that has been allocated to Malakai Jiko as this is big job with a lot of responsibility. Vasi Siohane noted that he is only the point of contact between Council and stall holders on the day, especially if there should be any complications. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako said that PAG members need to make sure food stall holders attend the meetings on 14 January and the meeting with Catherine Dawson, Council's Environmental Health Officer on 21 January.

There still needs to be clarification around the NGO stalls. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she could look into what space is available. PAG agreed not to charge NGO's this year and would look into having them do so next year.

Roving microphone – Tofinga will have a script from the PAG members to introduce their performances on the day and he will be roving around in the village.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako went through her report for November.

Avia Liai asked if PAG could see Ida's speech for the festival before she gives it because she will be speaking on behalf of the PAG. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako noted that her previous speech was written by Council. Jenny Rains said that a better way would be for Ida Faiumu Isa'ako to write her speech and then give it to PAG members to look at. She should be given bullet points of what information should be included in her speech. Some of the group thought the messages in the speech should come from PAG but Tina McNicholas said that the speech should come from the perspective of the Chair and not as a view of PAG. It was agreed that the speech should be **checked and critiqued by Council staff.**

Mailigi Hetutu said that she was not happy with the late changes of Council staff working with them, i.e. Festival Committee.

Closing Prayer

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako

Next Meeting: 21 January 2009

Meeting Closed: 8:10pm