

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 17 September 2008

Present:

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Chairperson - Samoa)
Pisa Joe Alaifea (Deputy – Samoa)
Kolovula Murphy (Deputy – Tonga)
Martha Ahmed (Tokelau)
Malakai Jiko (Fiji)
Ana To'o (Samoa)
Danny Kauraka (Cook Islands)
Mailigi Hetutu (Niue)
Mafi Katoa (Tonga)
Brenda Cottingham (Niue)
Kelisiana Alefaio (Tokelau)
Councillor McKinnon
Councillor Gill
Councillor Pannett
Vasi Siohane
Marie Retimanu-Pule
Amarjit Maxwell
Phoebe Velova'a
Alice Cowan
Trudy Jenkins
Francesca Hibron – Observer – Victoria University

Welcome

Warm pacific greetings and welcome from the Chairperson who thanked everyone for attending this meeting and acknowledged the attendance of the Deputy Mayor and Councillors.

Opening Prayer

Councillor McKinnon

Apologies

Tina McNicholas, Titia Vaerua, Lopati Tefoto and Avia Liai

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed by Martha Ahmed and seconded by Mailigi Hetutu.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN

Amarjit Maxwell talked about the Draft Annual Plan and how this affects the PAG. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that she hoped that PAG would be able to add some input to the forward plan as per the attachment to the Chair's report.

Amarjit Maxwell explained the processes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meetings. She said she would like to get input as to where PAG want to focus their time and noted that PAG needs to have a say. She handed out a list of policies and explained about the reporting processes and reports. She said that other groups work on the basis of preparing submissions and public consultations. She said that the group should firstly look at the report titles and ask if this is where PAG would like to get more information on. She noted that this report is signed off by Councillors.

Councillor McKinnon said that he was very grateful to see the attachment to the Chair's report. He noted that PAG have a lot of work to do with the upcoming festival but that Council wants to hear from them. He said that PAG members should look through the lists and see where the Pacific view could be of value which may be early childhood education, community facilities or Adelaide Road. He said that the group should not over submit but select those where the Pacific voice needs to be heard. He said that he thought this is a role to be encouraged by advisory groups.

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that it would be good to have Council officers come along to meetings to give more information to enable the group to advise Council. Councillor Gill suggested that the Council officer concerned could come in a month before the submissions are due.

Councillor Iona Pannett said that the Community Facilities Review is very critical.

Amarjit Maxwell recommended that the group do not submit on all the issues and she recommended that they select two or three to submit on. The Councillors all agreed with this.

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that she was not saying that the group submit on everything but it would be good to get more information. Amarjit Maxwell said that she would ensure that a copy of the Forward Programme and report comes to the PAG.

The question was asked what the framework of a submission is and whether the group make a submission. Amarjit Maxwell said that the group needs to apply to

Democratic Services. The group could also come forward to speak at the meeting and will be given five minutes to present. The group can come in as a deputation as well not just as an individual.

Councillor McKinnon suggested that the definition of public participation and deputation be sent to the Chair. Vasi will send this through to Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako.

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako suggested that at the next PAG meeting scheduled for 15 October it might be a good idea for a Council officer to come along to give a presentation on the background to the early childhood and Adelaide Road papers and it is important to understand these two issues.

Councillor Gill said that at the back of the Forward Programme is a list of some items that need to be scheduled. Councillors are able to move these up the list and groups can suggest that are moved forward.

COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Councillor McKinnon said that he wanted to speak about Tu Tangata saying that he thought it was outstanding. He said that it was important for the Pacific people to present themselves and he thought the items were outstanding. He was especially impressed with the item presented by Wellington East and Rongotai and said the choreography was amazing, of a very high standard and it was an honour to be able to speak at this event. He said that seeing these young people perform can give us confidence in the young people and said how important it was for young people to develop self confidence and self esteem as this makes them more settled in society. He noted that it was good that there were mixed ethnicities in the people attending the event and that the value of the night was aligned with the importance of the Pacific Festival.

Councillor McKinnon then went on to talk about the Council's LTCCP. He said that deliberations have started and noted the importance of the plan and if spending is involved then it must go in this plan. He said that if PAG want something included then this must be brought up now. It is too early for public input at this stage but it is crucial if PAG want a say in how this city is developed. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako asked that it be noted that PAG have been alerted about having an input in the LTCCP and asked that PAG are made aware of upcoming policies.

Councillor Pannett said that there has been a reshuffle of Councillor portfolios and noted that she is the Associate Social Portfolio Leader with Councillor Best being the Social Portfolio Leader. She said that there are a few areas coming up that PAG may want to give input on and these are dog control, encouraging some places to be smoke free, the community facilities review and the housing upgrade.

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that in terms of the housing upgrade she has seen advertisements in the paper. She asked whether people have been hired for this project. It was noted that Housing have hired a community engagement team to make sure this is as smooth as possible.

Danny Kauraka asked whether there have been any language problems with the tenants. It was noted that there have been no problems at the meetings and that communications have been sent out in different languages.

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that she has not heard too much about this out in the community when she has been out in her tour of duties.

Councillor Pannett said that the housing team have organised 23 meetings for the tenants and Te Aroha is the first block of flats to work on. She also noted that this is a 10 year project.

Councillor Gill noted that most of the meetings have been carried out now but there will be further consultations down the line as there is some anxiety amongst the tenants. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako noted that she would like to attend these meetings. Councillor McKinnon noted that these meetings have been brought up at previous PAG meetings and that if there are any concerns then please refer people on to the housing team.

ACTION POINTS

Vasi Siohane handed out a copy of the action points from the previous meeting with a progress report and said that she would not talk to the action points because of time constraints but there was information provided in the report. She did note that if anyone had any comments to make if these could please be referred to her.

Vasi Siohane did give a quick summary of information regarding the upcoming bus tour on 15 October 2008.

She also gave a quick summary regarding the individual Pacific Nation meetings and said that these meetings have been very worthwhile as it gives the PAG members a better understanding of how they have and how they can improve on their report back to their own communities and PAG/Council as per the Terms of Reference.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako talked to her report. It was noted that Vasi Siohane will respond directly to the Tongan community regarding the early childhood education item.

The question was raised about the link with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs. Vasi Siohane noted that this is covered in the Action Points handout.

It was noted that PAG must be seen to give advice to Council as per their Terms of Reference.

PACIFIC FESTIVAL REPORT

Pisa Alaifea gave an update on the report on the festival subcommittee meetings. He asked that the PAG note the suggestions made. Items raised at the meetings included:

- There will be allocated duties so a team looks after set areas this year.
- A suggestion raised was to do away with the formalities but still have devotion to open and close the Festival.
- Application forms have been handed out and we are now asking for information from each island nation group. The allocation is two performance items, one food stall and one art and crafts stall. We need to have this information by the 8 October meeting. The delay in receiving this information for the inaugural Festival was a problem.
- Health and Safety is an important issue. Vasi Siohane has forms about this and the requirements are the same as last year. With issues needing to be improved on.
- Need to look at the charges for stalls - \$50 for community groups and \$500 for Government.
- Community performers will get \$500 for each group.
- The committee have talked about having two stages. This is still to be discussed. Bessie Fepulea'i will give more information about why it is good to have two stages.

The question was asked about applying for sponsorship. Vasi Siohane noted that it is now too late to apply for sponsorship. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako asked whether we are looking for sponsorship or stakeholders. Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon said that the way he saw this was that the real stakeholders are the Pacific people.

Councillor McKinnon said that with regard to doing away with the official ceremony that the Mayor has been instrumental in supporting this Festival and he thought that the Mayor should be acknowledged and should give a speech. He said that he thought the plans so far are excellent as outlined and are a good example. He noted that it would be wonderful to have performers from Tu Tangata perform on the day and said that the real drive for the event is that we are presenting the Pacific Nations to Wellington.

Councillor Pannett said that she supported having speeches to give importance and structure to the Festival and also Council are the main funder. She noted that it may be appropriate for groups to look into getting their own sponsorship.

Marie Retimanu-Pule noted that because the Festival is still new that we thought we would look at other funding options for the next Festival. Councillor Iona Pannett also noted that the sponsor should be appropriate to the Festival as well.

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako then asked for feedback on the report from the subcommittee.

- The question was asked if PAG members had been assigned jobs as yet. Pisa Alaifea said that these had not been allocated as yet but this would be looked into at the next subcommittee meeting on 8 October.

- Brenda Cottingham said that she thought it was important that the PAG members be introduced at the Festival.
- Marie Retimanu-Pule noted that there needs to be a draw card at the Festival to encourage people to attend.
- An explanation needs to be given to explain about the performances of each island, i.e., what and why.
- It was noted that members do not mind only having one MC for the whole event, and for the MC to do the 'introductions and explanations of the items.
- Ana To'o thanked the subcommittee for their work and said that she thought that it would be good to have a proper opening ceremony like last year. Vasi Siohane said that one idea that was looked at was having this ceremony later in the day similar to the Waitangi Day programmes in the past.
- It was noted that it was agreed to get more community stalls.
- It was noted that the community need to know what they are going to get and the question was asked when the layout would be available as we need to know how many more spaces will be available so that we can ask other people. We need to know exactly how many each island will have. It was noted that this should be able to be identified now before the layout comes to the committee.
- Danny Kauraka asked how many stalls are available. Vasi Siohane said that we need the information from the seven island nation groups first as we cannot get a layout until we have all the community information. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that we cannot advertise until we know what our space is. Marie Retimanu-Pule noted that we need to know from each island group that they have filled their quota.
- Danny Kauraka noted that the reason we went to Waitangi Park was so that we could have more stalls.
- Vasi Siohane noted that the next meeting for the subcommittee will be on 8 October when this can be discussed. It is important that we are consistent and fair when allocating extra space.
- Vula Murphy confirmed that the Tongan community would have one food stall, one art and craft stall and two performances.
- Ana To'o asked whether PAG could invite colleges that performed at Tu Tangata to perform at the Festival. Marie Retimanu-Pule pointed out that timing was an issue as the schools were on holiday and school schedules are very tight. She said that she had some reservations about this and that this needs to be talked through with Bessie Fepulea'i. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako suggested that a formal invitation be sent out from Wellington City Council. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that if there is a second stage then this idea could have possibilities.
- Vasi Siohane said that she has still not heard from Creative New Zealand about paying for young artists to perform at the Festival.

PAG MEMBER'S REPORTS

Martha Ahmed brought to the attention of the meeting that there was a funeral in Newtown where the family were asked to pay up front 90% of the fee for the funeral and were told that this is a policy for Pacific people only. This family were very upset by this as they were unaware of this policy when booking the funeral. She noted that when Wilsons Funeral Home were asked for a copy of this policy they were not able

to produce a copy but they did say that this policy was the same for all funeral homes and part of the Association's policy. She said that she did not think the policy was a good thing. Councillor Iona Pannett said that she thought this was discrimination and outrageous that the Pacific people should be singled out.

It was agreed that Vasi Siohane and Marie Retimanu-Pule would look into this and find out if this policy exists and try to get a copy.

Vula Murphy said that families can apply for funding for funerals from WINZ. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that if anyone needs help with this just to contact her.

Martha Ahmed said that the Pacific Liaison Co-ordinator from the Police Department, would like to attend the PAG meetings in future.

Pacific Forum – Marie Retimanu-Pule noted that a submission was put forward to request only one forum per year and recommending not to have a forum in November, as PAG were also having subcommittee meetings for the festival. She said that there has been a workshop and earlier forum already this year. Garry Poole has requested that there is a November forum because the last forum was so successful. A forum date was set for 12 November. The theme for the forum is still undecided. PAG members were asked for their ideas on a theme, one that was not too onerous because PAG and Vasi Siohane already have a full agenda with the Pacific Festival.

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that she can see where Garry Poole is coming from but if PAG felt that they were unable to have a forum then they need to say this to Garry Poole. She asked whether the community were asked about having another forum or just representatives from PAG as the forum is only six weeks away.

Marie Retimanu-Pule said that is more the idea for the theme that is important now. Councillor Iona Pannett suggested the theme of Housing. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that she did not think this was a good idea. Marie Retimanu-Pule suggested that members go away and think about this and give any suggestions to Vasi Siohane within the week. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that she would like to have a meeting with Vasi Siohane and Marie Retimanu-Pule about the upcoming forum. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that Council want to have a workshop and forum next year on seniors. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako suggested public health as a theme. Councillor Iona Pannett asked if there were any hot issues in public health at the moment. Another suggestion was safety possibly concentrating on road safety.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Martha Ahmed said that people should be careful when using other people's music because of copy right infringement. She also said that she was part of APRA. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that it would be good to get more information on this.

Vula Murphy gave a verbal report from the Tongan community. They mainly discussed the festival, early childhood and the new voting system at their meeting with the main project they would like to concentrate on being a Pacific Cultural

Centre and Early Childhood Education. They will meet again next month to put together a proposal.

It is hoped that Council acknowledge PAG and the work that they do and make sure that the group continue.

Councillor Pannett noted that there are only 10 days to go for the vote on the STV poll and asked that members remind their communities to vote.

PAG Forward Programme – This is still being worked on by Vasi Siohane, Malakai Jiko and Ida Faiumu Isa'ako.

Brenda Cottingham noted that she had put a nomination forward for the upcoming Wellington Airport Community Awards for the Niue Community.

Mailigi Hetutu said that she would like an agenda item added for the next meeting about Niufm radio and that programmes should be rotated between Auckland and Wellington as it is being dominated by Auckland. Niufm already has a studio in Wellington and there are local pacific with experience. She also noted that she would bring this in her community report to the next meeting.

Vasi Siohane said that there is a pre set PAG meeting date for 19 November and the forum has been set for 12 November. She asked members if they wanted to have a meeting as well as the forum as we usually do not have a meeting on a forum month. Vula Murphy asked whether PAG members get paid for attending the forum. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she would look into this. Vasi Siohane said that the subcommittee meeting date will change to 5 November because of the forum. All members of the subcommittee agreed to meet on this date. Vasi Siohane will send out an updated meeting schedule.

Closing Prayer

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako

Next Meeting: 15 October 2008

Meeting Closed: 7:50pm