

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 18 June 2008

Present:

1. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Chairperson - Samoa)
2. Pisa Joe Alaifea (Deputy – Samoa)
3. Kolovula Murphy (Deputy – Tonga)
4. Martha Samasoni (Tokelau)
5. Ana To'o (Samoa)
6. Malakai Jiko (Fiji)
7. Danny Kauraka (Cook Islands)
8. Mailigi Hetutu (Niue)
9. Mafi Katoa (Tonga)
10. Brenda Cottingham (Niue)
11. Tina McNicholas (Fiji)

12. Deputy Mayor McKinnon
13. Councillor Ahipene-Mercer
14. Vasi Siohane
15. Marie Retimanu-Pule
16. Phoebe Velova'a
17. Alice Cowan
18. Trudy Jenkins

Welcome:

- Warm pacific greetings and welcome from the Chairperson who acknowledged the attendance of the Deputy Mayor and Councillor.

Opening Prayer:

- Ida Faiumu Isa'ako

Apologies:

- Titia Vaerua, Councillor Gill, Councillor Pannett, Jenny McKinnon, Harry Tauafiafi, Ollie Seumanufagai, Amajit Maxwell

PRESENTATION – Treaty Relations – Induction No. 8 - Nicky Karu, Senior Advisor, Treaty Relations

- Nicky Karu thanked the PAG for inviting her along to their meeting to explain about her role in Council and Treaty Relations. She explained about the reporting structure and the Treaty of Waitangi. She said that Council have a Memorandum Of Understanding with the Tenth Trust and others who are very busy at the moment with claim settlements that they hope to have settled this year. She explained about the Local Government requirements in terms of the Treaty, the Resource Management Act and Local Government Act. She also gives advice with regard to developments. If there are any large developments or works they need cultural reports.
- She then went on to give census data with regard to Maori in Wellington saying that Maori in the city tend to earn more and are better qualified but do not have access to the same services as elsewhere in the country.
- Other activities that Nicky is involved in include the heritage trail, Waitangi Day, Matariki, Kapa Haka performances, organising grants for grass roots events. Treaty Relations has also been involved in a booklet about Maori history that has been published by the library.
- Brenda Cottingham asked with regard to cultural promotion to people what is considered the most important aspect. Nicky Karu replied that this would probably be the way we welcome people as this should be done properly and correctly. Brenda Cottingham said that Maori language should be important as well. Nicky Karu said that it was and that welcoming and greeting people should be undertaken in Maori.

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako then introduced Councillor Ahipene-Mercer who wished to address the PAG.

Councillor Ahipene-Mercer said that he wanted to take the time to introduce himself to the PAG and explain about his portfolio responsibilities. These include climate change, arts and Citizen Engagement. He said that some interesting items had come up from the Pacific Forum around accessing grants. He noted that he would like to attend another PAG meeting to talk about advice that can be obtained around the grant process and other matters.

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako then introduced Tina McNicholas (the new Fijian representative) to the meeting and gave a brief description of her background.

PRESENTATION – Housing Upgrade Project - Byron Roff, Housing Project Director

- Byron Roff explained the new upgrade project will focus on the facilities from a social aspect making them more community orientated and from a building aspect regarding insulation, accessibility and storage. The project is coming to

an end regarding the research and discussion phase and this is now going public with what complexes will be upgraded and in what order and will show how the project team have taken feedback given and implemented this.

- Byron Roff gave some background on the project stating that this is a 20 year project and includes 40 complexes and 126 stand alone houses and started by looking at the sustainability of the assets, rent levels, governance and social cohesion. There is now a changing focus for the asset as it is no longer designed for what it is being used for. Council have committed to providing housing for another 30 years. Council providing housing in the smaller end of the market and complement the Housing New Zealand stock. They have already looked at the design with regard to seismic requirements and these designs have been given back to the Crown for approval.
- He explained the funding and programme strategies including earthquake prone complexes of which they are looking at about seven complexes first. He then went on to explain about the re housing strategy while the renovations are being carried out.
- Vicki McLaren, Manager, City Housing explained about the Community Action Strategy and said that they would like input from the PAG about what they are about to do and how we are doing this. Vicki asked that any feedback be given as soon as possible.
- Byron Roff then explained that they will be looking at a basic standard for the redesign of the complexes including building code compliance (fire and safety access), earthquake strengthening (13 buildings require strengthening), functionality and liveability (kitchens, bathrooms and storage – there will be a redesign away from bedsits) and the external environment (making the complexes safer and more tenant friendly). They will also look at adding to the basic standard if there is a surplus of money in the budget.
- Vicki McLaren noted that one of the issues that they are facing is a lot of anxiety from the tenants regarding rehousing.
- Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked when the project team are ready in terms of feedback, whether the community would be invited to meetings as many people do not attend, if the PAG could be alerted about these meetings then they could make sure that people attend the meetings.
- Pisa Alaifea asked when this process would be starting. Byron Roff said that the first part of the construction is due in about 12 months time. He explained that when a unit becomes vacant it will be left vacant with tenants being moved from one block to another or they will be moved into neighbouring complexes. Tenants will be informed that when this is going to happen they will be moved from A to B but when they return to their original unit it will be a lot nicer unit. Vicki McLaren said that the most important message to get out was that the tenants will not lose their home. The team will be talking to tenants to get specific issues addressed from tenant feedback.

- Pisa Alaifea asked whether there was an education programme about how to use the units. Byron Roff said that in some situations people do not have the luxury of changing appliances.
- Pisa Alaifea asked whether there were any new buildings being built. Byron Roff said that the budget only allows for upgrading.
- It was noted that in these units there is always a number for emergencies but what do Council do with tenants in an earthquake. Byron Roff said that there will be an environmental recovery programme from Council to house these people and that work was being done to stay ahead of the building code with regard to earthquake strengthening.
- Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked if Vicki McLaren would come along to another PAG meeting to talk about the community feedback.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- The Minutes were confirmed by Pisa Alaifea and seconded by Brenda Cottingham.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Action Points: Vasi Siohane reported on the action points from the spreadsheet provided:

- Vasi Siohane needs a decision about the bus tour as part of the induction process and how long the tour would be for. She suggested half a day. Pisa Alaifea suggested that this be deferred till 18 February next year after the Festival. Mailigi Hetutu said that she was quite happy to have half a day off work to attend but did not want to wait till next year because this is part of the induction process. Ana To'o suggested that this be deferred till daylight savings begins. Danny Kauraka said that he was happy to wait for next year. A vote was taken with 1 vote for the tour to be as soon as possible, four votes for 18 February 2009 and six votes for 15th October 2008 before their monthly PAG meeting.
- It was decided to defer the item regarding the radio funding.
- The cultural centre has been deferred because of the Community Facilities Review not being completed till September.
- Ida Faiumu Isa'ako suggested that the group accept the budget for the Pasifika Festival and come back to the next meeting with any queries they may have.
- Vasi Siohane asked for feedback on what communities want with regard for a venue for the Pacific Forum keeping in mind that Council get rooms free at Te

Papa. Vula Murphy said that it was good to know this information about the venue. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako suggested that this be deferred to the next meeting when there is more feedback from the communities.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Chairperson's Report** – Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako went through her report.
- There is concern that there are no representatives on the PAG from Tuvalu. The Tuvalu community have been in contact but they have not had a meeting as a community to decide whether they will be able to provide a replacement or not. Vula Murphy noted that it is hard to find Wellington residents in the Tuvalu community as many Tuvaluan people reside outside of Wellington. It was suggested that a proposal be put to Council that a Tuvalu representative be recruited from outside Wellington as it is difficult to find a representative from the Wellington community. Deputy Mayor McKinnon said that he would talk to Wendy Walker, Director, Citizen Engagement about this. He also suggested that maybe the Terms of Reference could be looked at again to cover these gaps. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako said that she would address Council in her role of Chairperson about this issue but would send out an email first for agreement with the PAG members.
- Danny Kauraka and Titia Vaerua will meet with Vasi Siohane to sort out attendance issues and Vasi will get back to the PAG at the next meeting.

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako then formally introduced Tina McNicholas and asked her to say a few words of introduction. Tina McNicholas thanked everyone for the opportunity to join the PAG and said she looked forward to being part of this group.

- **DAP Submissions** – Vasi Siohane reported that there had been 27 submissions received in support of the Pasifika Festival with only one submission suggesting that the Festival be held every two years.
- **Pacific Forum** – Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked whether there was a budget available so that a financial statement could be provided at the forum. Vasi Siohane said that the PAG do not have a budget. Deputy Mayor McKinnon said that the PAG are a Council funded organisation and therefore do not have a budget. The question was asked whether a date had been set for the next forum. Vasi Siohane said that she would come back to the next meeting with a date.
- **Samoan Meetings** – The question was asked whether there were any guidelines for these meetings. Vasi Siohane said she would assist with facilitating the meetings as per the Terms of Reference. Danny Kauraka asked if there was any feedback from other meetings. Vasi Siohane said that she would address this at the meeting to be held with Danny Kauraka.
- **Terms of Reference** – New Terms of Reference were handed out to members who were asked to make sure these replace the existing ones handed out

earlier in the year. Deputy Mayor McKinnon that issues were raised at Council and the TOR have been amended to state that the PAG will meet 12 times per year and will be paid sitting fees. He noted that no one voted against this amendment as the PAG were valued as an important contribution to Council. Vasi Siohane noted the new meeting schedule provided and asked for members to diary the new meeting dates – July 2008 to June 2009 – every third Wednesday of the month.

- Deputy Mayor McKinnon noted that when Council were debating the DAP there were no worries about getting the money allocated for the Pasifika Festival or agreement to the Festival. He noted that he appreciated the oral submission from Brenda Cottingham. He then guaranteed this amount for the future. He also noted that it would have been good to see more people at the Pacific Forum.
- It was decided that Vasi Siohane would look at organising the induction bus tour for October at 2.00pm.
- Ida Faiumu Isa'ako and Vasi Siohane will work on the work plan. Malakai Jiko volunteered to help as well and his offer was gladly accepted.

Pasifika Festival – The feedback evaluation form was handed out in the folders. Vasi Siohane suggested that this is become a working document for the next festival. She said that Craig Ireson from City Events is the 'Events Coordinator is now assigned to the festival and he would attend the next meeting. The group went through the draft work plan for the festival. It was suggested that a sub group be appointed with a member from each community to start working on the festival. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako suggested that the PAG look through the work plan and come back to the next meeting with suggestions. Phoebe Velova'a said she will work with the Niuean working group. Pisa Alaifea said that the food and art and craft stalls would need to be upgraded for next year's festival. Vasi Siohane noted that this will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

- Vasi Siohane said that Creative New Zealand have funds that can be applied for. She handed out application forms for the communities to apply for funding and not to wait for PAG or expect it from the \$60,000.00. She suggested that they could apply for funding for the upcoming festival costumes, resources, etc. There are also Council Grants that members can apply for. Information has been sent to PAG members. The closing dates are 25 July and 31 July 2008.

Closing Prayer:

- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako

Next Meeting: 16 July 2008

Meeting Closed: 8:10pm