

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 20 August 2008

Present:

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Chairperson - Samoa)
Pisa Joe Alaifea (Deputy – Samoa)
Kolovula Murphy (Deputy – Tonga)
Martha Samasoni (Tokelau)
Malakai Jiko (Fiji)
Danny Kauraka (Cook Islands)
Mailigi Hetutu (Niue)
Mafi Katoa (Tonga)
Brenda Cottingham (Niue)
Ms Kelisiana Alefaio (Tokelau)
Mr Lopati Tefoto (Tuvalu)
Mr Avia Liai (Tuvalu)

Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon
Vasi Siohane
Marie Retimanu-Pule
Bessie Fepulea'i
Billie Tait-Jones
Alice Cowan
Craig Ireson
Trudy Jenkins

Welcome

Warm pacific greetings and welcome from the Chairperson who thanked everyone for attending this meeting and acknowledged the attendance of Councillor McKinnon and Mrs McKinnon.

Opening Prayer

Vasi Siohane and Billie Tait-Jones as part of Maori Language Week

Apologies

Ana To'o, Tina McNicholas, Councillor Gill, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Ahipene-Mercer, Harry Tauafiafi, Ollie Seumanufagai, Amajit Maxwell, Phoebe Velova'a

Councillor McKinnon noted that Councillor Gill sent her apologies because her mother had recently passed away. It was decided to send flowers and a card on behalf of the PAG. Vasi to action.

Welcome to New Members

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako welcomed the new members to the PAG and asked if they would like to say a few words. The new members said that they were pleased to join the committee to represent their communities and are looking forward to working together to move forward.

Vasi will have Induction folders for the three new members by the next meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Councillor McKinnon noted that there is one wording change to the Minutes on Page 5 (Pacific Forum) from "state funded" to "Council funded" organisation.

The Minutes were confirmed by Martha Samasoni and seconded by Vula Murphy.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Vasi went through the Action Points from the previous meeting:

- The bus tour is to go ahead on Wednesday, 15 October 2008; details will be available at the September PAG meeting.
- Radio – this has been deferred because there is nothing to report at present.
- Multicultural Centre – this has also been deferred.
- Pacific Festival – the 2008 budget has been accepted.
- Forum Venue – still waiting for feedback from the communities. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako asked if there was a deadline for this information. Marie Retimanu-Pule said that Council are conscious that communities have different meeting times but would like the feedback by the October meeting
- Pacific Forum – Marie Retimanu-Pule said that she has made a request to Council for a preference of having only one forum per year but this decision needs to be made at a higher level. This will be confirmed at the October meeting. Councillor McKinnon noted that this will need feedback from the PAG as well. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako asked the members if they wished to discuss this now or postpone this to the next meeting. Vula Murphy said that she would like to postpone this. All PAG members agreed to this. Deputy Mayor Ian McKinnon said that PAG members should consider the option of having a workshop as well as a second forum.
- Work Plan – this item will be deferred to next month's meeting.
- Festival Work Plan – this is part of the agenda.
- Festival Committee – this is part of the agenda.
- Representatives from Tuvalu & Tokelau – new representatives have been appointed and the conversation with Wendy Walker regarding this has been

deferred since we now have new members from the two nations involved, - i.e. Tuvalu and Tokelau. Councillor McKinnon said that he is happy to discuss this with Wendy at any time and noted that the Terms of Reference must reflect what you are most comfortable with. He suggested the PAG keep deliberating on the Terms of Reference and if there are any conflicts with the City this can be discussed and changed to reflect with what PAG are comfortable with to represent Pacific needs.

- Manuila Tausi – best wishes have been passed along to Manuila who has had to resign from PAG as he now resides in Levin. Ida Faiumu-Isa’ako asked if Wellington City Council had an exit process and any acknowledgement for the time spent on the PAG. Councillor McKinnon said that this was a very good thought and suggested that Marie Retimanu-Pule and Vasi Siohane compose a letter to be signed by the current Chairperson of the PAG and himself. Vula Murphy said that the first PAG received certificates from the Mayor. Councillor McKinnon said that it would be a good idea to have a combination of both these ideas. Marie Retimanu-Pule and Vasi Siohane will organise this.
- Festival Committee – Pisa Alaifea asked how many people would be on this committee. Vasi Siohane said that each community would choose one representative to be on the committee and this was the basis for the last year’s committee.

PRESENTATION – PACIFIC FESTIVAL – Craig Ireson, City Events

Craig Ireson went through his background and experience with Wellington City Council (his correct title for the Pasifika Festival Event is (Events Co-ordinator).

- He went through the life cycle of an event which is testing – growth and stasis – renewal. He said that we need to learn from the 2008 event.
- There is a change of venue to suit a bigger audience and Waitangi Park has been booked and confirmed for Saturday, 31 January 2009.
- Will be looking at the option of having two stages one traditional and one contemporary.
- There needs to be more assistance especially for food stalls and a closer liaison with the PAG and Wellington City Council – per Vasi.
- He talked about the budget saying that this has been increased from the last budget by \$20,000. This will be broken down into entertainment, production, materials, services, marketing and promotion. Councillor McKinnon asked about the expenses of cleaning and the erection of stalls whether this has been budgeted for. Craig Ireson said that this will come out of the budget and that we may be able to share costs with Waitangi Day for marquees. Councillor McKinnon said that PAG need to know exactly how much money they have to run the festival – need more clarity around this.
- Craig Ireson said that the \$60,000 budget has not been broken down as yet but will be taken to the festival subcommittee once discussions have been held with the Waitangi Day Committee. This will be a very transparent process. Ida Faiumu-Isa’ako asked if there will be any PAG representation in the meeting with the Waitangi Day Committee. Craig Ireson said that there will be PAG representation by Vasi Siohane and Bessie Fepulea’i.
- He then went through the draft dates for the organisation of the festival.

Vula Murphy said that she has already given feedback to Chris Morley-Hall on last year's festival and asked if Craig Ireson has received this. He said that he had and this would be used to start discussion for this year's event.

Danny Kauraka asked if Craig had attended this year's festival. He said that unfortunately he was away at that time. He then asked if Craig had any ideas in mind about the festival. He replied that he thought it was important that he did not put his ideas because it is the PAG's festival but he did like the concept of a village. He said that his role is more to help organise and would welcome any ideas. Mailigi Hetutu said that the subcommittee would definitely need advice on the organisation of this event and asked if Craig would be able to attend the committee meetings. He said that he would be available.

Avia Liai asked if it was possible to look at two dates. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako said that this had already been discussed. Craig Ireson noted that Waitangi Park is heavily booked, Frank Kitts Park had more available dates and regarding the wet weather venue it was decided not to go ahead with this because this would incur more costs from the beginning.

Titia Vaerua asked if Craig Ireson thought there was sufficient money in the budget to run this event. Craig Ireson said that he thought there was enough money but there may need to be some more compromise but not at the expense of safety or production, he will look at sharing costs and there is a need to be consistent with the fees charged for the stalls. Need to work together with Waitangi Day Committee on this.

The members then held an election for the festival subcommittee. The members are as follows:

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| ○ Samoa | Pisa Alaifea |
| ○ Cook Islands | Danny Kauraka |
| ○ Tonga | Mafi Katoa |
| ○ Tokelau | Martha Samasoni |
| ○ Fiji | Malakai Jiko |
| ○ Niue | Mailigi Hetutu |
| ○ Tuvalu | Avia Liai |
| ○ Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako will also be on this committee. | |

Pisa Alaifea asked if Craig Ireson could start to get figures organised before the subcommittee meets and also the fees that will be paid to entertainers.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **PAG Member's Reports** – Vasi Siohane said that arising from the questions received at the last Pacific Forum, a meeting with the Samoan PAG members was held to help with the members' reporting to/back to their communities. As part of her role, she extended this to include all PAG members and has been meeting individually with all the PAG members from the seven nations. She noted that different communities work differently, some communities prefer

radio sessions and newsletters to get information to their communities. She has been discussing how often meetings should be held, venues, costs, time lines and where to from here. Vasi is more than willing to attend any community meetings, and has a presentation prepared to take to the community groups, ie, the Pacific Statistics from Census 2006 in Wellington City. She asked if any other PAG members were ready to report back tonight.

- Martha Samasoni presented the Tokelau report; Malakai Jiko presented the Fiji report and Vula Murphy presented the Tongan report. Copies of the reports were handed out to members.
- Vula Murphy thanked Wellington City Council for paying for the venues and refreshments for these meetings - \$50 venue and \$60 supper.
- Danny Kauraka asked if this is a monthly figure. Vasi Siohane replied that she is happy to work around different communities preferences. It was asked whether this money could be used for radio sessions instead of community meetings. Vasi said that consistency is important and she will co-ordinate the outcomes and recommendations for the next PAG meeting.
- Brenda Cottingham said that she had been thinking of ways in which to contact her community and would like the names and phone numbers of the Niuean community in Wellington (if possible). She said that she has prepared a newsletter and is looking at having articles from different Niuean groups who may be able to contribute to the costs of posting this newsletter out.
- Brenda Cottingham presented a letter to the PAG that asked if the PAG could be financially able and have a PAG club. It was asked how this would be different from PAG meetings. Brenda replied that this would be a more social group. It was then asked who would be the umbrella organisation for this club. It was decided that this idea could be looked at further and this was then tabled for discussion and will be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- **Access Radio** – Mailigi Hetutu said that she has been talking with Access Radio and has been give two slots that she cannot use every second week and wanted to know if anyone was interested in this radio slot. The slot is for 1 ½ hours. Vasi Siohane said that she will liaise with Mailigi and Access Radio.
- **Chairperson's Report** – Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako went through her report with most items having already been covered during the meeting.
- Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako reported that the Samoan community have been meeting via wards but the meetings have been poorly attended even though they were advertised. The Samoan community will report back at the next meeting. Pisa Alaifea said that there were many reasons why people did not come to the meetings but they have been doing their job as PAG representatives.
- Vula Murphy said that the community reports need to be part of the agenda for each monthly PAG meeting and this was accepted.

- **Housing Upgrade** – Councillor McKinnon said that members will know of people in their communities that will be affected by this upgrade. He said that there could be a degree of anxiety about what is happening but if PAG members would say to people that the Council is very aware of their anxiety and Council will hear any concerns they have and that they have a team ready to deal with any issues and concerns.

- **Pacific Festival** – Waitangi Park is a larger venue so there is a need to think big in the planning of this event. This year will be looking at bringing youth groups in and this also gives self esteem. We want to have superb stalls and it will also be good to have professional stalls. We want the stalls to represent and showcase the Pacific people. It would be good to look at other forms of funding. **Do not underestimate the economic impact of the Pacific people in the City, eg, Kiwibank could be approached.** Pisa Alaifea said that an item on the upcoming festival should be included in the “Wellington Paper”. Vasi Siohane said that this will be the next edition of this paper and also noted that this paper is not being delivered to some homes now. Billie Tait-Jones said that she will be supporting the subcommittee in any way possible. Malakai Jiko asked if the subcommittee meeting could be held before the next PAG meeting.

- Councillor McKinnon said that the PAG meetings held are excellent but PAG must not lose sight that they are an advisory group to Council and that they are here to let Wellington City Council know what is on the minds of the Pacific Communities.

- It was suggested that a new agenda template be put together and should include an agenda item on “Advice to Council”.

Closing Prayer

Titia Vaerua

Meeting Closed: 7:45pm