

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Pacific Advisory Group Meeting on 20 February 2008

Present:

1. Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako (Chairperson - Samoa)
2. Pisa Joe Alaifea (Deputy – Samoa)
3. Kolovula Murphy (Deputy – Tonga)
4. Brenda Talagi Cottingham (Niue)
5. Martha Samasoni (Tokelau)
6. Malakai Jiko (Fiji)
7. Danny Kauraka (Cook Islands)
8. Mailigi Hetutu (Niue)
9. Mafi Katoa (Tonga)
10. Titia Vaerua (Cook Islands)
11. Councillor Gill
12. Amarjit Maxwell
13. Vasi Siohane
14. Alice Cowan
15. Chris Morley-Hall
16. Wayne Murphy

Welcome

Warm pacific greetings and welcome from the Chairperson.

Opening Prayer:

Mailigi Hetutu

Apologies:

Ana To'o, Manuila Tausi; Viliame Naliva; Deputy Mayor McKinnon, Marie Retimanu-Pule, Harry Tauafiafi, Phoebe Velova'a;

PRESENTATION – Induction No. 5 – Wayne Murphy, Senior Policy Advisor, Policy Unit

NB: These are Induction Processes for the new PAG members:

Wayne Murphy, Senior Policy Advisor in the Policy Unit explained about the work the Policy Unit cover and that the Forward Programme was the way information goes to the Councillors of current policies. He gave a handout of his presentation to all the members.

Questions raised included the following:

Do you come out to groups like the PAG if there are any policies pertaining to that group? *Council have a statutory obligation to engage with interested parties. If the group identify something in the Forward Programme then it would be a good idea to use City Communities as a conduit to Council.*

Are we allowed a copy of the policy for gaming venues? *Yes, this policy is on the Council Website. Vasi Siohane can print out copies for PAG members who do not have access to a computer and for anyone on request.*

Is there a policy regarding monthly or bi monthly meetings of advisory groups? *This should be part of the Forward Programme as it is a political decision. Need to work on the Terms of Reference with City Communities.*

GENERAL BUSINESS

Festival Feedback

Chris Morley-Hall gave his feedback on the Festival saying that it was a huge success with a large crowd considering the weather. He said that some things did work well and there were others that did not and asked for some feedback from the group.

He said that the Pacific Village was not how he thought it should be and that it should have been a place for people to walk in and move around, as this area was to be a celebration and education of the Pacific culture - e.g. demonstrations of how things are made. He suggested that for future festivals it may be a good idea to have traditional huts/fales made that can be reused as this would bring personality, colour and flavour to the event and this would also compare favourably with the constant cost of hiring tents. He suggested that these huts could possibly be stored in a hired shipping container that could be stored at the landfill. He also suggested that it would be a good idea to look at funding from other sources for the cost of making these huts.

One thing he noted was that in the Samoan tent there were no traditional elements as the purpose of this area was for the promotion of traditional island crafts.

Other points noted were that there needs to be more lead up time for the organising of this event. Frank Kitts Park is an ideal location as there is a more intimate atmosphere created with the ability to create more than one space for entertainment and activities and it would also be a good idea for the youth area to be expanded.

Questions and issues raised included:

People working in the tents could not see the stage from the village area. *This was unfortunate but the audience should have the view and not the vendors.*

Councillor Gill noted that Frank Kitts Park will be having an upgrade and will have a large flat park area as part of the development. It was suggested that Vasi Siohane get

a copy of the preliminary plan for the upgrade of the park and bring it to the next meeting. Chris Morley-Hall noted that Frank Kitts Park is better because of available nearby parking and it also has better draining system.

Need to brainstorm ideas through the PAG, ie, huts, decorations, etc.

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako noted that it could be possible to make huts so that they do not have a depreciation element involved and agreed that storage is an issue that needs to be discussed.

Amarjit Maxwell noted that the logistics of this idea need to be worked through other parts of Council, i.e., where to store the items. Mailigi Hetutu suggested that the tents could still be used and decorated outside to look like huts as the tents will still be needed if the weather is inclement.

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked about the timing of the festival – whether there was a better time during the year for it to be held. Chris Morley-Hall noted that it is always busy at this time of the year and especially in February.

Chris Morley-Hall suggested that it would be a good idea for Pacific communities, to not only own the one day festival, but could own the whole week or month as well with ideas including photo displays, have a show of Pacific traditional dresses, etc. He also suggested that the name should be changed for next year to make it a more straightforward name.

Chris Morley-Hall said that it was good that the food stalls were not closed down, some were lucky in this respect. The logistics of the food stalls needs to be better thought out and these stalls will incur charges in future. There is a need for more space to be provided in the tents with fridges, warmers, etc also being provided. The information stalls for government departments, i.e. health, police, etc will also incur charges next year and all groups need to be made aware of this early in the planning.

It would be good if the MC or performers give explanations about their performance so that non-Pacific people attending are made more aware of the Pacific culture and meanings.

The processes around getting information and forms back needs to be addressed so that information comes back quicker. Because the information on performances came back late the programme was confirmed too late for it to go on the website.

It was asked what stage the payments for performers were up to. *Vasi Siohane replied that she was still waiting for groups to get back to her with their information, so these can be processed together, i.e. this information was supposed to have been received by Chris earlier and Vasi is just picking it up now..* The WCC process is no different from any other organisation in that payments require approval and signed signatures at the appropriate level. These payments could have been processed as 'koha' [because they are not professional performers] and could have been made on the day, had the correct information been received early. Danny Kauraka said that it was frustrating to have to wait for payments and it was not fair for others to have to wait because some groups had not given their information on time.

Chris Morley-Hall said that the requirements for payment were explained months ago and it was made clear at the PAG meetings what was required in so far as invoices must come from a Church group to avoid paying PAYE. It should have been discussed then if this was going to be a problem.

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked what groups still needed to send their information. *Vasi Siohane said that she was waiting for details from Samoa, Tuvalu and Tokelau and would talk to Payment Services to see how quickly payments could be processed.* Danny Kauraka noted that the lack of payment on the day will make the communities feel let down and not trust Council if they are asked to perform next year, they may well not want to.

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako thanked Chris Morley-Hall on behalf of the PAG for organising the Pasifika Festival and all his hard work. She asked if there was a need to have an event organiser or whether the PAG could organise the event by them selves. Chris Morley-Hall said that the event could not be organised without an Event organiser, as there are some things that only an Event organiser would know and needed to organise.

Kolovula Murphy noted that there was some criticism about the decoration of the stage; there should have been more hanging tapa cloths, pacific nations' flags, or some pareu material from Langis; and accessible to Pacific people who wanted to join in the dances as well as gifting of money and lollies to performers.

The food stalls were too small thus too crowded, and suggest it would be a good idea to hire flooring from Hiremaster for these stalls so it is much cleaner and hygienic. A wet day alternative venue must also be considered.

Chris Morley-Hall noted that it would be a good idea to have a larger changing area possibly at the back of the stage.

Danny Kauraka noted that the sound system was not very good because you could not hear from certain areas and music was not played continuously.

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked when PAG should start planning for next year's festival. Chris Morley-Hall said that planning should start now starting with the organising of a timeline.

Vasi Siohane will approach the Events Team at Council to confirm a date for next year's festival as early as possible.

Amarjit Maxwell said that this festival has gone to the Councillors, as a 'New Initiative' for the 08/09 year and in early March Councillors will vote on it. It was noted that there is a lot of support for this.

Councillor Gill said that once this has gone out then the community need to make submissions and say that they want this festival for their community. Amarjit Maxwell said that a budget of \$65,000 has been put forward for the Annual Plan for the festival. Chris Morley-Hall noted that it would be a good idea to start now on organising sponsorship and other funding for the festival.

Bessie Fepulea'i said that the youth area was very popular with the graffiti art getting favourable comments from all age groups and the Pacific drumming was also popular. It would be good for the youth area to be expanded to include a youth stage for future festivals.

Amarjit Maxwell and Councillor Gill both stated that they thought the day was wonderful and a great success. Vasi Siohane tabled an email from Deputy Mayor McKinnon thanking everyone for their hard work for the festival. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako advised that she had already replied to the email from the Deputy Mayor. Martha Samasoni said that a thank you should go out to the community from the PAG. Vasi Siohane will organise this and PAG members will be asked to send these to their communities and/or give Vasi a list of the people who should be acknowledged. Kolovula Murphy said that she already did their thank you via the Tongan radio.

Danny Kauraka noted that he would like to see more direction from the PAG on where and how future festivals are run rather than this coming from the Events Team. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako said that the PAG should note as early as possible what direction they would like the festival to take but PAG can only make formal suggestions to Council and PAG cannot say that they do not want a project manager.

Amarjit Maxwell said that there is a good enough relationship with the Events Team for us to have dialogue with them so that there can be consultation with the community on the organisation of the festival. Danny Kauraka noted that the PAG did not have enough say on this festival. Amarjit Maxwell said that we will start organising the festival earlier and therefore there will be more consultation with PAG and the community. Vasi Siohane noted that Pacific sensitive and cultural awareness should be taken into account for future Pasifika festivals.

Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting:

The Minutes were confirmed by Kolovula Murphy and seconded by Malakai Jiko.

MATTERS ARISING:

Have Council responded to the Tongan report? *Council are still working on this as priority was given to organising the festival. Council will get back to the Tongan community before their next meeting on 19 March.*

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairperson's Report

Ida Faiumu-Isa'ako spoke to her report. Issues arising from the Chair's Report included:

- It was noted that email correspondence should only be sent out when all the facts have been confirmed and should be professional in nature. Vula Murphy asked that email messages should be professional and to be careful who the recipients are.
- Brenda Cottingham noted that there should be more awareness on Pacific food at food stalls from Health & Safety.
- With regard to the meeting with the Police, the feedback has been received that things seem okay during the weekend. It was noted that the community should be more interactive in dealing with the gang issue, i.e. it should be dealt with now rather than when it is too late. Kolovula Murphy noted that there has been a media release from the Police on the radio regarding this issue. Councillor Gill asked why only Newtown was concentrated on. This was because this was an isolated issue and Newtown is where the headquarters is.
- With regard to PAG members sitting fees - Vasi Siohane noted that again, there are still some forms to be received from some members. Danny Kauraka said that all forms should have been done at the one time and was unhappy with the delay in payment.

Forward Programme

Amarjit Maxwell handed out a copy of the Forward Programme outlining what issues are coming up for Council approval. It would be good for PAG to highlight issues are coming up over the next 12 months that they feel are important to their communities and use this to lobby for the meetings to increase from 6 to 12 meetings during the year. There is a template to use. Feedback should be obtained and then worked into a meeting schedule for the year.

The following areas were discussed as having an interest to the PAG and for feedback:

- Environment issues – waste management
- Public health bylaw
- Transport
- Recreation
- Safety
- Affordable housing
- Broadband (ICT)
- Building before suburbs
- Early childhood education
- Tenant participation
- Dog control
- Participation (DAP)
- Youth Council

Councillor Gill suggested that the election review may be of interest to the Pacific community as this was on how we vote. Should we have a poll on what the public and on how we vote – STV or First Past the Post? Voting numbers have decreased because voting is so confusing.

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked for feedback from the PAG on whether there needs to be a poll on how we vote. Martha Samasoni said that it would be good to hear what the community want. Pisa Alaifea said that he thinks the current voting system is confusing and he personally would prefer First Past the Post. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked the members to give their feedback tomorrow to Councillor Gill on whether we want to have a poll or not. Danny Kauraka noted that he felt he could not vote on behalf of his community without consultation with them.

Amarjit Maxwell said that the PAG need to build a draft programme for the year around the issues noted above and email them around for consensus.

PAG Meetings

Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked the members what they wanted to do about meeting for the rest of the year as the PAG have now had their scheduled six meetings for the year. Do the group still want to attend meetings? Amarjit Maxwell noted that this is from July and the group would not be paid for meetings in March, April, May and June. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako said that officially the group did not have to meet anymore. It was suggested that members go back to their communities and ask them for their feedback.

Amarjit Maxwell noted that the PAG members are the conduit for their own communities to advise Council and bring their views into Council. The Terms of Reference do not cover special meetings in communities. Pisa Alaifea asked when the next meeting was for the PAG to meet with the Pacific community as a whole.

Vasi Siohane said that the next forum was scheduled for 7 May. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako noted that in the Terms of Reference 3 Clause 2 PAG members are responsible for reporting to their own community. Pisa Alaifea suggested that the group do meet next month but only discuss the forum and how the forum will be conducted as all the community have an opinion on at the moment is the Pacific Festival.

Kolovula Murphy said that is why the previous PAG set up community meetings, we have already been presented with the schedule of meetings and we have already agreed that we do not attend meetings that we are not paid for. If Council call a special meeting that is paid for then we will attend. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako said that it was up to each member whether they attend unpaid meetings or not.

Amarjit Maxwell noted that there needs to be clarity on community meetings as Council do not have any expectations around meeting community groups as this is not a Council decision.

Mailigi Hetutu stated that it was made clear that every second meeting would be paid for and any other meetings would not. She suggested that the group should stay with

the schedule and meet every second month. Councillor Gill noted that there was a need to meet every month because of the workload. Martha Samasoni agreed that the group have to really meet monthly.

Pisa Alaifea asked whether the group would meet next month or not. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako said that the group would not meet next month and would wait until Council got in touch with them before meeting. She suggested that the group correspond via email in the meantime. Vula Murphy agreed that the call for any meeting must come from Council it is not for PAG to call the meeting.

Amarjit Maxwell said that as there was one more ordinary meeting left that the group would meet before the forum in May.

The forum this year will be held on 7 May and theme this year is Pacific Youth. Council will be looking for input on the venue; theme; workshops; etc from the PAG. Ida Faiumu Isa'ako asked whether Council had looked at the airport as an alternative venue. Vasi Siohane noted that there were budget restraints associated with the forum. It was suggested that Newtown School be looked at as an alternative venue. The group were asked to email Vasi Siohane with their suggestions which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Closing Prayer

Titia Vaerua

Next Meeting: Not Scheduled

Meeting Closed: 8:05pm