

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting
8 October 2008

Present:

Ben Ogilvie
Essen Vicente
Nurul Sultan
Nigel Smith
Katelin Bull
Dipti Manchanda
Bessie Fepulea'i

Opening Prayer

Essen Vicente

Apologies

Jack Marshall, Sheela Shanmugam, Jocelyn Lim, Fabian Todd

Welcome

Ben welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked members for their high and low points since the last meeting.

WEMO

Lynne Edmonson from the Wellington Emergency Management Office introduced herself to the Youth Council members and explained a little of what her job involves. She said that she would be attending a future Youth Council meeting and would like to start a project with the Youth Council Members.

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes from the previous meeting were Moved by Nigel Smith and Seconded by Nurul Sultan.

YOUTH AWARDS

Essen gave feedback from a recent youth awards meeting that she had attended. She said that she would email Youth Council members with the information she had obtained from this meeting. She noted that most companies have covered areas for awards and the challenge now would be to come up with an award of our own.

Bessie suggested that maybe a youth category could be added to the Wellington Airport Community Awards. She will bring information about these awards to the next meeting and also email members with this information.

YOUTH FORUMS

Bessie gave an update on the youth forum and said that the next forum will tie in with the LTCCP. The forum will be run around April or May next year and will be about the LTCCP. She said that she would like to give out information to promote the forum with the main question being how we deliver this and Council need youth input. We need to work out how we make this subject more attractive to youth. She said that she would like to start promoting the forum now during summer events with the possibility of giving out pamphlets. She asked if anyone has any ideas about ways to promote the forum could they please email her.

SUMMER EVENTS FOR YOUTH COUNCIL

Essen asked if anyone had any ideas about events that Youth Council could run. It was suggested that maybe it would be a good idea to have bands playing while people were waiting for the fireworks to begin on Guy Fawkes Day. This would also be a good way to help prevent people drinking.

Bessie suggested that it would be a good idea to have the bands playing in Civic Square. The Youth Council members all agreed with this idea. She said that there needs to be two people who will take charge of organising this and that they needed to have the commitment as well. Ben and Essen said that they were willing to organise the bands. Nigel suggested ringing around the schools to ask if their bands would like to play at this event.

It was decided that there needs to be a few bands playing with a 30 minute slot that includes a set up time. Bands that perform need to have performed to an audience before so they know how to keep an audience entertained. Ben, Essen, Nurul and Katelin will look into organising bands to play. Bessie said that they need to arrange a meeting with her and Fabian to look into organising this event.

Bessie said that Youth Council also need to look into organising another event for after Christmas. She suggested that the same group get together to look into this.

END OF YEAR FUNCTION

Suggestions for the end of year event included: Laser Force then a barbeque, paintball, Auckland road trip, a cruise or a day trip to Picton.

The question was asked whether the new members on Youth Council would be attending the end of year function. Bessie said that they would.

Bessie said that in previous years Youth Council had watched movies or gone to Laser Force. She will send out the options suggested via email to the members so they can vote for the preferred option. It was noted that members can only vote for one option.

PRESENTATION - MARC SLADE, COMMUNITY BIO DIVERSITY CO-ORDINATOR, PARKS & GARDENS

Marc introduced himself and explained what he does. He said that the reason he wanted to attend a Youth Council meeting is because Council need to get young people involved in their projects. He then proceeded to give a presentation about Council's environmental programme.

- Council's role in natural heritage
 - Have a bio action plan
 - Are part of Environmental Strategy
- What are we doing?
 - Pest and weed control
 - Revegetation at selected sites
 - Community greening programme
 - Stream protection
- Help community groups with weed control and planting through Parks and Gardens.
- Why do we do it?
 - New Zealand is the most bio diversity hot spot in the world with many unique plants, birds, fish and amphibians.
 - We have the highest range of endangered species
 - We are getting to the stage where we have more species of non native plants which is increasing constantly.
 - We need to try and restore seed sources and to encourage bird life.
- Why does Council do this?
 - Planting helps with climate change
 - Forms a permanent carbon sink
 - Promote awareness for future generations
 - Make Wellington a better place to live
 - Improves city living.

- How we help
We provide information in the form of fliers and signs
Do a lot of work with schools, especially primary age
- Our problems
Most of the community groups are over 65
It is easy to engage with small children
Very few young people aged between 13-25

Marc then asked the questions of Youth Council – how do we make it exciting for young people and how can we involve young people as members and future leaders?

Suggestions from Youth Council included:

- Let people know that this can be used towards service for their Duke of Edinburgh Award. This would involve about 30 hours over six months.
- Contact environmental groups at schools. These groups are becoming more common. It would be good to give a presentation at schools and maybe approach Year 9 or 10 students.
- Marc asked whether Youth Council thought that young people would find these projects interesting. This would depend on how many people attended. It would be good to start the ball rolling by convincing one person to attend who would then get their friends to attend.
- It was noted that Youth Council have done some planting in the past.
- It was suggested that badges be given out for participating.
- Encourage participation during the school holidays around Term 2.
- This could be part of a school trip for the biology classes to tie in with NCEA. You need to contact the schools before the end of year so that this can be part of the school's year plan.

Marc said that Council are working on the Porirua Stream. They are working with community groups and he said it would be good to get young people involved in this project because of vandalism. He said that he would like to get ideas of how Council can engage young people in the Tawa/Churton Park area. Youth Council suggested having a competition along the lines of being the first one to plant a certain number of trees.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Link Crew Invite – Bessie said that all of Youth Council are invited to the launch. The Link Crew are funded by BGI to promote youth services within Wellington City. She said that it would be good for Youth Council to attend this launch. It would also be good for Youth Council to do some engaging with this group as they are another voice for young people in the city. Nurul and Ben said that they would be interested in attending. Members to email Bessie to say whether they will be attending.

Feedback from Environmental Reference Group – Nigel gave some feedback on the recent meeting he attended. He said that most of the issues

discussed do not have any relevance to youth, however, it is interesting to attend these meetings. One of the issues discussed was that we are going to run out of water at some point. We need to convince people to save water with the problem being that we cannot store enough water for the population as the city grows. Another issue that was discussed was the tips in Wellington with the tip at Porirua not being efficient and having problems with emissions. The sustainability group are currently going around selling efficient light bulbs that they offer to install for free if purchased at the time. Currently the group is involved in a structural reform.

Feedback from Leadership Training – Essen gave some feedback on the recent Leadership Training Course she attended. They looked at how a person is a good leader, and they were taught how to do presentations including how and what to say. They are planning on running this course bi-annually with the next one being hosted by Kapiti Coast and then in October next year at Lower Hutt. The theme will be a focus on youth voice. This is a fund and useful day and Essen recommended that Youth Council members attend. She noted that the other Youth Councils in the area had more members attending.

Governance Groups – Bessie suggested that at each meeting one or two portfolio groups report back as this will give motivation to attend meetings and will get more information flowing to Youth Council. She said that this will be put into the agenda as a fixed heading.

Information in APW – It was suggested that Youth Council ask for a slot in the paper, either APW or the DomPost Council page to let people know what Youth Council has been doing. Bessie will look into this.

Recruitment Application Forms – The question was asked about where we were up to with these forms. Bessie said that they are on line at the moment with the Web Team inputting changes. These forms are on the Youth Council Page on the Council Website. Bessie will forward the link to this page to the group. Applications close at the end of the month with advertisements going into the paper and general email advertisements also sent out. Bessie will send these to members so they can send this out to anyone or groups that may be interested in applying.

Bessie tabled the Adelaide Road feedback booklet for members to look at.

Next Meeting: 5 November 2008 – to be confirmed as this is Guy Fawkes Day.

Closing Prayer: Essen Vicente