

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MASSEY COMMUNITY BOARD HELD AT
MASSEY COMMUNITY HOUSE, 385 DON BUCK ROAD, TRIANGLE PARK,
MASSEY, WAITAKERE, ON MONDAY, 7 APRIL 2008
COMMENCING AT 7.32 PM**

PRESENT:

Mr	JG	Riddell (Chairman)
Mr	AE	Davies, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Mr	JC	Carrodus
Cr	MFP	Chan, JP (from 7.50 pm)
Ms	JA	Fletcher
Mr	MJ	Neeson

OBSERVERS: Cr WW Flaunty, QSM, JP

IN ATTENDANCE: Service Manager: Parks and Open Spaces
Senior Advisor: Strategic Governance
Committee Secretary: D Tukutama

1 APOLOGIES

There were no Apologies.

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

7.52 pm **Geoff Webster**
(Massey Ward Resident)

Expressed his views on the Royal Commission on Auckland Regional Governance to the Massey Community Board on the following:

- He supports some areas of Local Government but believes there are decisions that are best made and should be kept, at the regional level such as transport and roading. The rest of the business should be kept in local councils;
- He agrees that community boards should be given a budget for their local areas and that any costing and paperwork should be done through the main Council. Also important is to give people more access to decision making through the community boards. This meeting held locally is a good idea as it is more accessible for the public to attend;
- He also agrees that the community boards are more familiar with their Ward areas and the public are able to approach the community board members much easier than if it was through a regional contact. He feels at the regional level you'd really only get to know elected members through the media.

8.00 pm **Ian Keene**
(Massey Ward Resident)

- Expressed his disappointment with Council in general.

8.15 pm

Brian Lay
(Massey Ward Resident)

Expressed his views on the Royal Commission on Auckland Regional Governance to the Massey Community Board on the following:

- In regards to wastewater, Brian is a strong advocate for charging the wastewater in relation to fresh water usage per household as opposed to the land value charge that Council currently practices. He believes this would lower wastewater charges overall;
- Not in favour of the option of a 'Lord Mayor' as it would only contribute to the ever increasing bureaucracy and this could result in increased rates for the community. He also made reference to the decreased level of input and choice residents would face with an even larger bureaucracy;
- He agrees with the uniform charges for rates but not on how it is currently charged on the value of land;
- Waitakere City has grown over the years and people at the top are not aware of what is going on at grass-roots level. Waitakere City has the highest number of employees working in Council compared to other councils;
- He supports the function of the community boards and feels they should be given more power and delegatory authority as thrusting the authority of decisions on to just a few councillors does not seem fair.

8.24 pm

Maureen Bell
(Massey Ward Resident)

Expressed her views on the Royal Commission on Auckland Regional Governance to the Massey Community Board on the following:

- She agrees with the status quo and the four city model Auckland currently practices. She thinks West Auckland is fantastic and she is very proud of this City. She has lived locally all her life and absolutely loves the culture of Waitakere City and as she has travelled extensively, she knows how special this city has become. She believes Waitakere would lose a lot of what sets them apart from the other cities if there was only one 'Lord Mayor' for the whole Auckland region. Also if this happened, other communities may demand more attention. She loves the fact that locals are able to come to this meeting and submit their input;
- She agrees that water rates are currently charged unfairly and places the elderly people at a disadvantage. Retired residents are finding it difficult and Council should be aware of this issue for the elderly;
- In regards to the changes in boundaries she agrees with the amalgamation of parts of Rodney District Council, Avondale and Blockhouse Bay with Waitakere City;
- The Community Boards are a great forum and that views and issues are easily said with peers with same interests such as shown at this evening's meeting;
- Expressed disappointment that the younger generation have not participated in this forum.

8.29 pm

Ian Miller
(Massey Ward Resident)

Expressed his views on the Royal Commission on Auckland Regional Governance to the Massey Community Board on the following:

- He has followed the issue since it has started and has noted there are about 150 pages of information on Auckland's Regional Governance that the public can access from the internet;

- About whether we value community boards and value elected members, he did not know. He wondered reading all this information, was there a lot of money spent on this review? With 4 cities and 3 districts, he wonders if we have an opportunity to change for the better? The city does have an opportunity to have a say;
- If the community had opportunity to make changes for the better, then it should be taken advantage of. He doesn't know the answer himself, however, we should learn from previous experience especially from the presented overseas examples of other cities;
- He believes the status quo is not sustainable. The growth of the bureaucracy locally is tremendous and the fact is now, most people in Waitakere City work for Council;
- He wonders whether we should be looking at Auckland differently, and separating the metropolitan areas and the rural areas as they have different needs? He supports the devolution of the rural areas of Rodney and Franklin into their own 'rural' city as done in the Waikato, as their rating base is completely different, as are their building codes;
- Also questioned, how many jobs needed to be replicated in the metropolitan area? As with shared services in North Shore as an example. Do we want to put these things in the hands of private business like the railway?
- A prime example of different needs are the islands in the Hauraki Gulf that are still rated as if they were living in the Auckland City area but they don't use the bus services;
- He supports that there is a lack of forethought and co-ordination on the Royal Commission on the Auckland Regional Governance. He feels it is important to get this right for the right reasons rather than to be defending own city for the sake of keeping it;
- He has seen this happen in Waitakere and every other city in the region where there is a degree of overlap and degree of non-cooperation and therefore, no common base for systems, for example, computer systems and micro-chipping dogs. He questioned why should Waitakere need their own system but this micro-chipping initiative is a regional problem;
- Noted that there are larger cities with less elected members that function a lot better with a better management system;
- He is not able to answer the question about amalgamation and is still investigating an answer to the Auckland Regional Governance issue;
- His views on community boards are that they were created as a means to feed back into the bureaucracy. He asks does North Shore have more delegatory power for their Community Boards?

8.58 pm

David Cox
(Massey Ward Resident)

Expressed his views on the Royal Commission on Auckland Regional Governance to the Massey Community Board on the following:

- He supports that one Auckland and 'one voice' would represent Auckland a lot better. He has, over the years, been involved in local activities. He has also lived in central Auckland and now is taking more of an interest in what is happening in the community;
- In regards to the local meetings, he really likes them, seeing the faces of the Elected Members;
- He's discovered 'he who lobbies wins' and even Joe Bloggs will win if they persevere as this goes a long way;

- Strongly agrees that the current core of bureaucrats could send locals up the creek and he doesn't agree with the current way local government is run;
- His views on Community Boards is that they need grass roots lobbyists further up the chain and they are a necessity to getting the voices of the community out there.

9.04 pm

**Penny Bright
(Auckland City Resident)**

Expressed her views on the Royal Commission on Auckland Regional Governance to the Massey Community Board on the following:

- She noted that she is the voluntary watchdog of Metrowater and the rights of citizens;
- She is refusing to pay Auckland City Council rates as the Chief Executive Officer is not disclosing to the public how much of the 850 million dollars that is given to contracts to private companies. Of the 1 billion component of rates, 15% going to the workers of the Councils and 85% going to the private contractors. In Auckland City who decides the contracts? She strongly agrees that citizens have the right to know where this money is going;
- She questioned whatever happened to the old borough councils, there was nothing broken with that model;
- She argued there has been no comprehensive cost benefit analysis of the contracting model of the Metrowater model and questions why the government is conducting a Royal Commission on this issue when there has been no analysis done?
- The Council reports do not disclose the details of the money going to the private sector.

RECOMMENDATION

632/2008

MOVED by JG Riddell, seconded AE Davies:

The Massey Community Board resolved to:

Receive the public submissions on the Royal Commission on Auckland Regional Governance presented at the Massey Community Board meeting on Tuesday, 7 April 2008.

CARRIED

2 ROYAL COMMISSION ON AUCKLAND GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATIONS

633/2008

MOVED by MJ Neeson, seconded JA Fletcher:

The Massey Community Board resolved to:

1. **Receive** the presentation and form a working party to draft a submission to the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance on behalf of the Massey Ward residents.

2. **Note** in its submission the views expressed by the residents at the public meeting of the Massey Community Board, held on Monday, 7 April 2008.

CARRIED

9.45 pm

The Chairperson thanked Members for their attendance and attention to business and declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AT A MEETING OF THE MASSEY
COMMUNITY BOARD HELD ON

DATE:.....

CHAIRMAN:.....