

**AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE CULTURE, ARTS AND EVENTS SPECIAL COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD AT WAITAKERE CENTRAL, 6 HENDERSON VALLEY ROAD, HENDERSON,
WAITAKERE, ON WEDNESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2006, COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM.**

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1 APOLOGIES



2 URGENT BUSINESS

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides that where an item of business is not on the agenda, it may only be dealt with at the meeting if:

- (i) the Committee by resolution so decides; and
- (ii) the Chairman has explained at the beginning of the meeting (when open to the public) that the item will be raised for discussion and decision, why the item is not on the agenda, and why it cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

The Committee may make a decision on a matter determined to be urgent.

NOTE: Urgent Business need not be dealt with now and may be delayed until later in the meeting.



3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, 12 July 2006

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Culture, Arts and Events Special Committee held on Wednesday, 12 July 2006, including the public excluded minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and now be confirmed.



4

HERITAGE ASSISTANCE FUND

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to establish criteria for a \$100,000 per annum heritage assistance fund that would be administered by Council officers to help owners of heritage buildings, museums, sites to preserve the City's heritage for future generations. This non-regulatory support will also be available to assist owners of heritage buildings that are required to structurally strengthen buildings that are found to be earthquake-prone.

BACKGROUND

A report was presented to the September 2005 meeting of the Finance and Operational Performance Committee to establish a heritage assistance fund for residents of Waitakere City. Although the City has been proactive in protecting the City's natural heritage resource, it has fallen behind other Councils in the Auckland region in developing non-regulatory assistance for the City's cultural heritage resources. By contrast, the range of programmes supported under the "green network" umbrella include free plants and sprays, rates relief and ginger bags/bins.

Apart from Council initiated projects, the Council does not provide financial assistance to owners of heritage sites or buildings or rates relief. The uptake of properties for the green network rates relief has been relatively low, due to the stringent requirements to keep properties weed-free. It is considered that rates relief is not widely used by other Councils in the Auckland region to protect heritage, and a contestable fund for built and cultural heritage would better provide for one-off costs associated with restoration, supporting local museums, structural strengthening and conservation plans.

The City is home to several small museums (such as Huia, Oratia Folk Museum etc) that interpret and preserve the cultural heritage of Waitakere. These local museums currently do not receive any assistance from Council to manage their collections appropriately (ie. temperature, humidity and light controlled environments and cataloguing). It is considered that the contestable fund should also be available to these groups to enable them to better manage their collections and to reach a broader audience and undertake more education programmes.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Historic Heritage is a matter of national importance under Section 6(f) of the Resource Management Act 1991 and Council has a wide range of duties and responsibilities to protect built heritage, natural and cultural heritage resources. The Long Term Council Community Plan has nine strategic platforms including "Urban and Rural Villages". The Urban and Rural Villages platform aims to protect and celebrate the City's cultural diversity and heritage and work in partnership with the many cultures of the City. It identifies that planning will need to take place for the protection and celebration of all kinds of heritage in the City, for example Maori, industrial and environmental.

ISSUES

Waitakere City is fortunate to possess a wide range of heritage resources and themes. The Council has funding set aside in the long term council community plan for heritage projects. An essential part of Council fulfilling its heritage strategy and action plan is to enable residents in the community to value historic heritage. This outcome is possible through Council providing private landowners with the assistance that they require to restore and appropriately manage their heritage collections, buildings and sites. It is proposed to establish a \$100,000 heritage assistance fund for the 2007/2008 financial year and each year thereafter.

Anyone can apply for funding if:

- They own or lease a site or building listed in the Heritage Appendix of the District Plan or a site that is known to contain an archaeological site recorded on the Auckland Regional Council's cultural heritage inventory.
- They own or lease a heritage building that Council requires to be structurally upgraded.
- They own and operate a publicly recognised museum in the City.

Council's heritage advisor will assess applications based on assessment criteria outlined in this report and make recommendations to the Culture, Arts and Events Committee that would endorse the success of various applications. Given that the fund will be available to owners of archaeological sites, buildings and museums this would provide for a broad range of applicants to apply.

A1-A6

A copy of the draft application form and the assessment criteria are attached at pages A1 to A6.

RESOURCES

There is funding in the Long Term Council Community Plan for heritage projects commencing in 2007/2008 that will cover the establishment of an assistance fund as outlined in this report.

CONCLUSION

The Council has made a commitment to support heritage through its Urban and Rural Villages platform. A key part of that commitment is to integrate heritage into people's everyday life. The establishment of non-regulatory incentives compliments the Council's regulatory role and demonstrates that Council is prepared to provide practical assistance for owners of heritage sites and museums.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Heritage Assistance Fund report be received.
2. That the Council endorse the assessment criteria for the heritage assistance fund and publicly advertise for applications in February 2007.

Report prepared by: Alina Wimmer, Principal Advisor: Heritage.



GOING WEST TRUST

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report seeks to inform the Culture, Arts and Events Special Committee of the setting up of the Going West Trust, to obtain endorsement of its objectives and to recommend that a Memorandum of Understanding be developed and brought back to the Culture, Arts and Events Special Committee for approval.

BACKGROUND

The Going West Books and Writers Festival is now in its eleventh year of production. In that time it has brought a diverse programme of word-based events to the City and built a solid reputation nationally as one of the best festivals in the country. That reputation has been largely focused on the literary weekend itself and the steam train trip to Helensville celebrating the novel by Maurice Gee from which the name of the festival is drawn. However, the other supporting events within the programme have created access for a much wider demographic and spread the benefits of Council's support to residents from all areas and backgrounds. These events include:

- The free family StoryFest
- Wordsmiths (a touring programme to schools)
- WordUp (an event for young teenagers)
- The Poetry Slam (a competitive performance event for amateur poets)
- NZ Theatre season at the Playhouse Theatre
- Secondhand and Rare Book Market
- Partnership programmes with the Corban Estate Arts Centre, Lopdell House Gallery and the Titirangi Theatre.

As announced last year, it is not possible to run the steam train trip this year and this may be a permanent situation. However, once double tracking is completed, this can be revisited.

To date the major support for the festival has resided with Council, with a supporting group of sponsors such as Graeme Douglas, Creative New Zealand, Rocon Printing and other industry and publisher businesses. The sustainability of the Going West Festival has therefore been dependent on both the political and administrative support of Council.

It was verbally indicated to the Culture, Arts and Events Special Committee late in 2005 that it was proposed to establish an independent trust to support the festival via funding and to act in an advisory capacity to the project team.

The newly formed Going West Trust wishes to partner Council in supporting the festival and to take some long-term responsibility for its future should changes occur within the Council work programme.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Going West Books and Writers Festival is identified in Council's Arts and Cultural Strategy as a flagship event for the city.

It is also identified in the Long Term Council Community Plan. It contributes to creating a rich cultural life for the residents of the city and provides profiling and cultural tourism benefits.

ISSUES

- The Going West Trust has received its certificate of incorporation and is awaiting confirmation of charitable status.
- The foundation trustees are as follows:
 - Cherie Barford: Chair; Waitakere writer
 - Bruce Bryant: Accountant and rare book collector
 - Murray Gray: Bookseller and Festival Director
 - Bernard Holibar: Writer and Chair of Waitakere branch of PEN
 - Kathy Hunter: Originator of 'Leaf Salon' - a successful literary website
 - Dee Murch: Publications Co-ordinator
 - Mick Sinclair: Lawyer specialising in copyright and entertainment issues
 - Peter Simpson: Associate Professor of English; University of Auckland
 - Rose Yukich: Festival Publicist and Programme Assistant.
- The Trust has been established to support the festival through access to external funding bodies; but the skill base it brings to the festival through the calibre of its membership, is equally important.
- The aims and objects of the Trust are also listed in the trust deed, as attached at pages A7 to A23. They cover both quite specific aims as they relate to the festival and some more general aspirations for the support of word-related projects in the City. These more general aims have been included to allow the trust to consider other projects in the future that fall within the overall realm of books and writing.
- Currently the trust has applied to both the Portage Licensing Trust and the Waitakere Licensing Trust for funding support for this year's festival. Results from those applications are pending.
- It is recommended that, subject to endorsement from Council, a Memorandum of Understanding is developed between the Going West Trust and Waitakere City Council.

A7-A23

RESOURCES

There are no resource issues relevant to the setting up of the trust.

Council provided \$130,000 for the festival through the 2006/2007 Annual Plan process. After revenue from income and ticket sales this is a net cost to Council of \$85,000. Staff resources are in addition to this.

The Going West Trust has applied for funding for both the StoryFest (\$11,000) and the theatre season at the Playhouse (\$30,000). Both applications are pending. Should these funding applications not be successful, the overall festival will continue with some budget adjustments. The advisory function of the trust continues and further and wider applications will be made for the 2007 festival.

CONCLUSION

The Going West Trust has been set up by an independent group of supporters and representatives of the writers' community of Waitakere City. Its aims are to support the festival through access to external funding and to act as a partner and caretaker with Council in ensuring the future of the festival.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the Culture, Arts and Events Special Committee endorse the objectives of the Going West Trust.
3. That a Memorandum of Understanding between the Going West Trust and Waitakere City Council, be developed by Council officers and brought back to the Culture, Arts and Events Special Committee for approval.

Report prepared by: Wally Thomas, Director: Public Affairs.



6 WAITAKERE CITY HISTORY PROJECT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to give an update to the Culture, Arts and Events Special Committee on the proposed writing of a comprehensive history of Waitakere for the 20th anniversary of the City in 2009, seeks endorsement of the project plan and, if it so wishes, appoints a Councillor to the Project Advisory Group.

BACKGROUND

The proposal to produce a Waitakere history has, in itself, a long history. Attempts have been made to publish a work of history since 1972. Although some significant writing and documentation has come out of these efforts, nothing has ever made it to print. Books on various areas and themes have been published (notably Dick Scott's *'Fire on the Clay; the Pakeha comes to West Auckland'* - 1979) but the comprehensive history is yet to be achieved. The recently published history of the Waitakere Ranges covers a significant part of the geography and history of the area but is not the comprehensive story of human settlement and endeavour proposed in this official publication.

The project was revived in 2005 when some funding was targeted towards a review of the literature and sources to date and the creation of a project plan in collaboration with Random House Publishers.

A24-A31

From this process Council is holding an extensive register of existing documentation and potential sources of heritage material, a project brief and a subsequent project plan and costings. The project plan is attached at pages A24 to A31.

The working title of this history, at this time, is 'One City - Many Voices'. As the project plan indicates, it is proposed that themed chapters are written by experts in each field and that a writer/editor provides a linking editorial voice. Advice from the publishers indicates that a volume with sound academic research behind it, but written in an accessible style with extensive illustrations, is suitable for both civic purposes and general release.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The recording of a history of Waitakere is a sign of a City reaching maturity. Both the Arts and Cultural and Heritage Strategies support this arena of work.

The publication of a Waitakere history will serve a profiling and promotional role for the City and enhance a sense of identity for residents.

It will also contribute to the Strong Communities strategic platform and vibrant arts and cultural activities contributing to Community Outcomes.

ISSUES

This project has been developed to the point where it is possible for Council to come to an informed position on the value of a Waitakere history and to endorse the next and most intensive phase of the work.

The project plan recommends the formation of a Council Advisory Group, charged with working to support the Project Manager and to ensure that the outcomes are in keeping with Council's overall aspirations for this book. It is suggested that the following members are approved:

- Manager: Arts
- Advisor: Local History Collections
- Advisor: Heritage
- A Councillor - to be appointed by the Culture, Arts and Events Special Committee

There is a budget of \$25,000 in the 2006/2007 Annual Plan which is sufficient to contract a Project Manager to undertake the development and management of the research and writing stage of the book.

It will be necessary to access external funding for a significant part of this project and a project partner needs to be sought. The options are to set up a separate trust for this purpose or to invite an existing organisation to adopt partnership status with Council. The newly formed Going West Trust is prepared to consider this proposal after the 2006 Going West Books and Writers Festival is over. Should they not feel able to take on the project another organisation will need to be approached.

There is a key editor/writer position to be established for this project. Prior to this meeting of the Culture, Arts and Events Special Committee some potential candidates will be approached and these will be presented for the Committee's consideration and feedback.

RESOURCES

There is \$25,000 in the 2006/2007 Annual Plan budget for the contracting of a Project Manager. The total budget for the project over three years, as estimated by Random House Publishers, is \$237,000. This includes 500 hardback deluxe and 500 paperback volumes for Council's use (value \$26,500). The rest of the print run (3,000) will be distributed and sold by Random House. It is proposed to seek up to \$125,000 in external funding to support this project. This would leave a balance of \$112,000 to be allocated through the Annual Plan process over the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 financial years.

CONCLUSION

The long-held aspiration to produce a comprehensive history of the Waitakere City region has progressed to the stage where the scale and cost of the project is clear and an informed decision can be made as to whether to proceed. This project has had in principle endorsement from the Mayor and other Councillors over a long period of time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Waitakere City History Project information be received.
2. That the Culture, Arts and Events Special Committee endorse the Waitakere City History Project as described in the project plan.
3. That the Culture, Arts and Events Special Committee, if it so wishes, appoint a Councillor to the Project Advisory Group for the Waitakere City History Project.

Report prepared by: Naomi McCleary; Manager: Arts.

