

Community and Natural Environment Committee

Te Komiti Haapori me te oranga o te Taiao

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Natural Environment Committee held in Council Chamber and Audio-Visual Link, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 9 April 2024 at 9:30am.

PRESENT

Chairperson	Cr Kesh Naidoo-Rauf
Heamana	
Deputy Chairperson	Cr Anna Casey-Cox
Heamana Tuarua	
Members	Mayor Paula Southgate (via Audio-Visual Link) Deputy Mayor Angela O'Leary (via Audio-Visual Link) Cr Maxine van Oosten Cr Moko Tauariki Cr Ewan Wilson (via Audio-Visual Link) Cr Mark Donovan Cr Louise Hutt Cr Andrew Bydder Cr Geoff Taylor Cr Sarah Thomson Cr Emma Pike Cr Melaina Huaki Maangai Olly Te Ua

In Attendance	Sean Murray – General Manager Venues, Tourism and Events/Deputy CE Helen Paki – General Manager Customer and Community Maria Barrie - Unit Director - Parks & Recreation Rebecca Whitehead - Unit Director Community Services Nicolas Wells - Strategic Property Manager Joanna van Walraven - Team Leader Planning & Policy Aimee Haycock – Senior Parks Planner
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Gus Sharp - Representative for Waikato Regional Theatre

Governance Staff	Amy Viggers – Governance Lead Arnold Andrews and James Winston II – Governance Advisors
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Pam Chiles from the Waikato Interfaith Council opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. **Apologies – Tono aroha**

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr van Oosten)

That the apologies for early departure from Cr Donovan, Cr Wilson and Cr Tauariki, and for lateness from Mayor Southgate are accepted.

2. **Confirmation of Agenda – Whakatau raarangi take**

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the agenda is confirmed.

3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga*

Cr Macindoe declared an interest on Item 8 (30 Victoria Street Celebrating Age Centre Options). He noted he was not conflicted and take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.

Prior to the discussion on the item, Cr Macindoe declared an interest on Item 7 (Waikato Regional Theatre – Update report). He noted he was not conflicted and would take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.

Prior to the discussion on the item, Cr Donovan declared an interest on Item 9 (Sport Waikato Update). He noted he was not conflicted and would take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.

4. Public Forum – *Aatea koorero*

Meredith Osmond and Peter Oettli (Age Concern Waikato) spoke to Item 8 (30 Victoria Street Celebrating Age Centre Options) and highlighted the work being undertaken by Age Concern and the role they had when then Celebrating Age Centre was a usable space.

5. Confirmation of the Open Community and Natural Environment Committee Minutes - 22 February 2024

Resolved: (Cr Macindoe/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Community Committee Meeting held on 22 February 2024 as a true and correct record.

6. Chair's Report

The Chair introduced her report and highlighted the events that have taken place in the city since the last meeting of the Committee.

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Maangai Te Ua)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

Prior to the discussion on the following item, Cr Macindoe declared an interest on. He noted he was not conflicted and would take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.

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7. Waikato Regional Theatre - Update Report

Gus Sharp, from the Waikato Regional Theatre, provided an update to Members on the theatre in particular its design. He responded to questions from Members in relation to the budget for the construction of the theatre, futureproofing the theatre through design, potential users and hospitality offerings that were in the surrounding area.

Resolved: (Cr Hutt/Deputy Mayor O'Leary)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

Mayor Southgate joined the meeting (9.45am) during the discussion of the above item. She was present when the matter was voted on.

8. 30 Victoria Street Celebrating Age Centre Options

The Unit Director Parks & Recreation took the report as read. Staff responded to questions from Members in relation to cost to Council, the potential options included in the staff report, timelines, effect if the decision was delayed, relationship with the Municipal Endowment Fund and Age

Concerns tenancy.

Staff Action: Staff undertook to circulate information to Members concerning the sites of the 9 buildings scheduled to be renewed in Years 1-3 of the Draft Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Staff Action: Staff undertook to circulate information to Members on the history of the Celebrating Age Centre in particular how it was funded.

Resolved: (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Community and Natural Environments Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves **Option 2: Retain the Celebrating Age Centre for Community Use**, subject to renewals funding being confirmed in the 2024-34 Long-Term plan; and
- c) notes that staff will report back with updates on partnership conversations.
- d) requests staff to seek further clarification from Momentum Waikato Community Foundation on their next steps on the BrainTree project and provide this information to members prior to Long-Term Plan 2024-34 deliberation meeting.

The meeting was adjourned from 11:05am to 11:27am during the discussion of the above item.

Mayor Southgate left the meeting during the above adjournment.

Cr Tauariki retired from the meeting (11:46am) at the conclusion of the above item. He was present when the matter was voted on.

Prior to the discussion of the following item Cr Donovan declared an interest. He noted he was not conflicted and would take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.

9. Sport Waikato Update

The Team Leader Planning & Policy took the report as read. Staff responded to questions from Members in relation to programmes conducted by Sport Waikato and the grant received from Hamilton City Council.

Staff Action: Staff to circulate information concerning how the Partnership agreement between Hamilton City Council and Sport Waikato delivers on desired community outcomes.

Resolved: (Cr Donovan/Cr van Oosten)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

Cr Donovan retired from the meeting (12:13pm) at the conclusion of the above item. He was present when the matter was voted on.

10. Ashurst Park Reclassification (Te Rapa Sportsdrome site) - Deliberations and Approval Report

The report was taken as read.

Resolved: (Deputy Mayor O'Leary/Cr Hutt)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report; and

- b) approves the reclassification of the portion of Ashurst Park alongside the Te Rapa Sportsdrome, from Recreation Reserve to Local Purpose (Community Facilities) Reserve, as shown in **Attachment 1**.

Mayor Southgate rejoined the meeting (12.13pm) during the discussion of the above item. She was present when the matter was voted on.

The meeting was declared closed at 12:21pm.