

Meeting notes for the meeting of the CERA Community Forum
Thursday 1 May 2014, 6:00pm
Canterbury Club, Cambridge Terrace, Christchurch

Present:

Community Forum members:

Richard Ballantyne, Weng Kei Chen, Leanne Curtis, Martin Evans, Wendy Gilchrist, Marian Godniet-Watts, Ruth Jones, Tom McBrearty, Deborah McCormick, Trevor McIntyre, Lesley Murdoch, Jocelyn Pappill, Faye Parfitt, John Peet, Patricia Siataga, Emma Twaddell, Brian Veceli, Darren Wright

Apologies

Hon Amy Adams, Associate Minister of Canterbury Earthquake Recovery
Leah Carr, Gill Cox, Rachel Vogan, John Wong

Chair

Darren Wright

In Attendance

Hon Lianne Dalziel, Her Worship the Mayor of Christchurch
Phil Clearwater, Councillor, Christchurch City Council
Nicola Shirlaw, Community Advisor to the Mayor of Christchurch City
Benesia Smith, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Governance, CERA
Joana Johnston, Acting General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services, CERA
[REDACTED], Advisor, Ministerial and Executive Services, CERA

Withheld under 9(2)(a)

Agenda

1. Her Worship the Mayor of Christchurch

Her Worship the Mayor of Christchurch, Hon Lianne Dalziel, attended and discussed a range of topics with the Forum, including;

- the selection of Christchurch as part of the network of 100 resilient cities; and
- her vision for the Christchurch City Council in the future, particularly in relation to funding/resourcing.

The Forum also had a number of questions and/or comments for the Mayor's consideration.

100 Resilient Cities

- The Mayor discussed the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities project and what this means for Christchurch. She noted that the project supports the employment of a Chief Resilience Officer for Christchurch and that this role is currently being advertised.

- The Mayor discussed her understanding of the term 'resilience'. She noted that her preferred definition of the term is the capacity to co-create in adverse conditions, e.g. the "Share an Idea" campaign.
- The Forum raised concerns that communities that are not geographically defined and have historically 'never had anything' (e.g. facilities and/or leadership) may continue to 'not have anything'. The Mayor noted that she considered the '100 Resilient Cities' project was a way to engage and help these communities.
- The Forum noted that communities are smaller than we think, are self-defining and create their own gates. Communities are not just households and neighbours that have similar interests and relationships. It was also noted that a community can't exist without other communities, each of whom are connected to a lesser or greater degree, for example; business, theatre, art, sport, retail and education. All of these types of communities are interconnected and grow and thrive off and with each other.
- It was noted that the Community Boards need to be more linked with their communities and the Council.

Funding/Resourcing

Withheld under 9(2)(f)(iv)

[REDACTED]

- The Mayor discussed the difference between deficit and asset based thinking in relation to planning. She described a potential future process where communities would define themselves by their assets, who they wanted to share their assets with and who they wanted to plan the development and growth of their assets with.
- The Forum noted volunteer bases for sport in some hard-hit communities that are thriving and questioned that if a community club was already there – is there a need to replicate it? It was further noted that approximately 90% of the 97,000 odd voluntary organisations in New Zealand have no paid workers at all and that communities are not good at linking with these groups, or linking the groups together.
- The Forum asked about the financial pressure that the Council is under. The Mayor noted that the Council is about to release a financial strategy and that there is a 'hole' in the budget while it is still unaware what insurance pay out it will receive. The Mayor noted that it means that Council is having to make hard decisions about funding over a longer period and that the focus of the Council needs to be realigned.

Transitional Creative Movement

- The Forum discussed the success of the transitional creative movement, e.g. Gap Filler, Life in Vacant Spaces and Zen Gardens. The Forum noted that this movement is now looking to also move into other locales around Christchurch. It was noted that the success of this movement was largely due to how it has broken down barriers and that the bureaucratic process often means that the reasons (risks) why you can't do something are what is focussed on as opposed to the reasons that you should do something.

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- The Mayor talked about her vision for 'participatory planning' for Christchurch and noted that a number of cities around the world utilise this method of planning (in Perth and South America).
- The Forum noted that members of community boards are stressed. The Mayor noted that in the long term, the regions that these boards serve will be looked at.

Youth

- The Forum talked about the importance of developing the youth voice and how youth need to believe that their voice is heard and respected in order for them to develop to be good participatory, democratic citizens. The Forum noted that it wants youth to stay in Christchurch and undertake their tertiary education here, but has observed that a number do not see a future for themselves in Christchurch. The Mayor noted that the CCC had invited a youth representative group to present to it, but acknowledged that this is not enough.

Other Issues

- The Forum discussed the importance of leadership. The Mayor noted that leadership has many different styles and long-term leadership is different.
- The Forum asked the Mayor who advises and helps her strategically. The Mayor noted that her Chief of Staff, Community Advisor and Senior Advisor, as well as her fellow counsellors, provide a good 'bird's eye view' of issues and good strategic advice.
- The Mayor also noted that what the CCC can do is restrained by the Local Government Act 2002.
- The Mayor also noted that the Associate Minister of Canterbury Earthquake Recovery, Hon Amy Adams, had invited a CCC representative to attend Community Forum meetings when CCC matters are discussed. The Mayor has suggested that Councillor Phil Clearwater be that representative.

Next Meeting – 15 May 2014

Meeting closed 8:00pm

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