

Minutes of a meeting of the Nelson City Council to Adopt the Annual Plan 2011/12

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic House, Trafalgar Street, Nelson

On 23 June 2011, commencing at 11.00am

Present: His Worship the Mayor A Miccio (Chairperson), Councillors I Barker, A Boswijk (Deputy Mayor), G Collingwood, R Copeland, E Davy, K Fulton, P Matheson, J Rackley, P Rainey, R Reese, D Shaw and M Ward

In Attendance: Chief Executive (K Marshall), Executive Manager Support Services (H Kettlewell), Executive Manager Strategy and Planning (M Schruer), Executive Manager Community Services (S Coleman), Executive Manager Regulatory (R Johnson), Executive Manager Community Relations/Kaihautuu (G Mullen), Executive Manager Network Services (A Louverdis), Chief Financial Officer (N Harrison), Senior Finance Adviser (C Fitchett), Manager Research and Monitoring (M Workman) and Administration Adviser (L Laird)

Attendance: the meeting adjourned for morning tea from 11.01 to 11.20am.

Councillor Davy gave the opening prayer.

1. Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Boswijk declared an interest with the Solar Saver Scheme.

Councillor Matheson said that his involvement with the New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT) could be perceived as a conflict in respect to groups who might apply to both the Council and the NZCT for funding, but that he was unaware of any direct conflicts of interest in respect to the Annual Plan adoption.

2. Adoption of the Annual Plan

The motion for the adoption of the Annual Plan (1114108) was moved by Councillor Davy and seconded by Councillor Matheson.

The Council discussed the changes to the draft Annual Plan (1111911) that resulted from the recommendations made during the Annual Plan considerations meeting on 10, 13, 14 and 15 June 2011. His Worship the Mayor confirmed that these recommendations were summarised in document 1111383. He invited Councillors to speak to further changes to the draft Annual Plan before he would put the motion for adoption of the Annual Plan 2011/12.

The Council then addressed individual concerns in the draft Annual Plan 2011/12 and made decisions to further amend the document.

2.1 Uniquely Nelson – Christmas decorations

It was confirmed that the \$15,000 provided for in the Annual Plan was to be split between \$5,000 for all year round 'fairy lights' and \$10,000 for Christmas decorations.

2.2 Nelson School of Music

The Council considered the previous recommendation in document 1111383. Councillor Collingwood, seconded by Councillor Reese, moved the amendment below.

Councillor Boswijk requested the mover to further amend the motion to replace 'a current' with 'an assessment'.

THAT a provision of an additional \$70,000 be made in the Annual Plan 2011/12 for the Nelson School of Music operating expenses, subject to due diligence and a subsequent staff report;

AND THAT Council support for on-going operational funding be reviewed in the activity management plan;

AND THAT the Nelson School of Music be requested to obtain and supply Council with an assessment of earthquake risk, an independent assessment of structural performance and the proposal for removal or strengthening work from the increased funding in 2011/12.

The Council then discussed the importance of earthquake strengthening. Councillor Reese, seconded by Councillor Boswijk, signalled a further amendment to include up to \$20,000 for earthquake strengthening. His Worship the Mayor advised that this amendment became the substantive motion and it was put.

Resolved

THAT a provision of an additional \$70,000 be made in the Annual Plan 2011/12 for the Nelson School of Music operating expenses, subject to due diligence and a subsequent staff report;

AND THAT Council support for on-going operational funding be reviewed in the activity management plan;

AND THAT the Nelson School of Music be requested to obtain and supply Council with an assessment of earthquake risk, an independent assessment of structural performance and the proposal for removal or strengthening work from the increased funding in 2011/12 and that up to \$20,000 be provided to allow this reporting to occur.

Reese/Boswijk

Carried

2.3 Theatre Royal

It was noted that the words 'as well as funding' in the previous recommendation should be changed to a specific reference of the \$60,000 that would be lost due to the principal payments on the loan being deferred.

2.4 Queens Gardens Conservation Plan

Councillor Fulton, seconded by Councillor Reese, proposed an amendment to the recommendation regarding the Queens Gardens Management Plan.

The Chief Executive advised that if Council passed the proposed resolution then that would mean that the Suter would be unable to progress its intended redesign plans until such time as a formal conservation management plan was completed, and that the considerable time required to complete such a formal plan would mean that design work for the Suter would be unable to progress in the coming year and perhaps for a much longer time period. Council accepted that this was a consequence of the proposed motion but felt that the formal conservation plan was essential prior to the Suter design work progressing. The motion was put and was passed.

Resolved

THAT the Queens Gardens Conservation Plan become a priority project;

AND THAT staff ensure that adequate provision is made to recognise the heritage value of Queens Gardens in relation to any Suter Art Gallery development.

Fulton/Reese

Carried

2.5 Nita Knight – Montgomery Square Toilets

It was confirmed that the submission requested longer operating hours and earlier cleaning of the Montgomery Square toilets on Sundays.

2.6 Penrose Property Management – Bank Lane Canopy

It was noted that the provision for the maintenance of the canopy in Bank Lane should read 'up to' \$60,000.

2.7 Simon Flood and Jan Smith – Railway Society Extension

The Council discussed the railway extension to Trafalgar Street and the importance of the long term plan to this project. Councillor Collingwood, seconded by His Worship the Mayor, moved an amendment to the previous recommendation.

The Council was informed that if the Railway Society gets resource consent, it will then come back to Council for consideration.

Resolved

THAT provision be made in the Annual Plan 2011/12 to allow the Trafalgar Street Railway Extension project to go ahead subject to the outcome of the resource consent;

AND THAT the Railway Society and Council staff meet to discuss the proposed long term plan and the viability of any future railway extensions.

Collingwood/His Worship the Mayor

Carried

2.8 Bill Leonard

The Chief Executive advised that the bylaws requested by Mr Leonard will not be progressed this year and that Council staff will make contact with Mr Leonard and explain the decision.

2.9 Venture Accelerator

Resolved

THAT provision of \$30,000 be made in the Annual Plan for the Nelson Regional Economic Development Agency to lead a scoping exercise for a potential business incubator.

His Worship the Mayor/Reese

Carried

2.10 Editing Changes to the draft Annual Plan

The Council made a variety of editorial changes to the text of the draft document and staff were asked to make these changes.

Attendance: the meeting adjourned for lunch from 12.45 to 1.20pm.

2.11 Nelson Tasman Tourism

Resolved

THAT \$25,000 be included in the Annual Plan 2011/12 for the agreed shares in Nelson Tasman Tourism subject to locating the appropriate formal request and Council approval for the allocation of these funds.

Rainey/Reese

Carried

2.12 Rutherford Park Development

The Council discussed the recommendation for the Trafalgar Centre, Maitai Walkway and Rutherford Park Development Plan projects.

The Council debated whether or not the Annual Plan should reference the role of the community in bringing the issue of a performing arts and conference centre to the Council table at a later date. The Council also discussed whether the Annual Plan should reference a trust structure outside of Council to continue looking at the options.

The Chief Executive cautioned the Council on entering an area of work that had not been consulted on in detail. He also said that any performing arts and conference centre project could be discussed in the Arts, Culture and Heritage Activity Management Plan and Council should remain focussed on completing that planning as part of its 2012 LTP review. Council agreed that the upcoming Activity Management Plan was the best way to reconsider the issue, should it decide to do so at the time.

2.13 Safe at the Top

Conflict of Interest: Councillor Reese declared an interest on this topic and withdrew from the conversation.

It was requested that words signalling support for 'Safe at the Top' be included on page 76 of the Annual Plan.

2.14 Q-Youth

The Council was advised that the Social Wellbeing Policy did not have a budget however Q-Youth would receive any non-financial support that was possible.

An inquiry was made as to how the Community Assistance Fund was administered and applied and it was asked whether the Council could increase the Fund. The Executive Manager Community Services, Susan Coleman, provided information about the Fund and on how applicants were assessed. She confirmed that Council could increase the Fund. Councillor Copeland, seconded by Councillor Fulton proposed a motion:

THAT the Community Assistance Fund be increased by 10% in the Annual Plan 2011/12.

The Council debated if the Fund should be increased. It was raised that this Annual Plan has already been generous to community groups outside of the Community Assistance Fund.

Resolved

THAT the Community Assistance Fund be increased by 10% in the Annual Plan 2011/12.

Copeland/Fulton

Carried

Councillor Barker and Councillor Reese requested their vote against the motion recorded.

2.15 Trafalgar Park promotion

The Council discussed how Council facilities were promoted and said there was room for improvement, particularly by utilising the website and Live Nelson. Councillor Matheson, seconded by Councillor Davy moved a motion:

THAT staff report back on a marketing campaign for sports and arts amenities and in the meantime use what Council has, including the website and Live Nelson, to promote Council facilities.

The Chief Executive advised that Trafalgar Centre was already advertised on the website. He added that Council previously reduced operating expenses which included communications and Live Nelson, therefore staff were restricted as to how much marketing could be done.

The Council discussed the other mechanisms available for promotion through the community, for example through the Statement of Expectation with Nelson Tasman Tourism. The motion was subsequently withdrawn.

2.16 Activity Management Plans

His Worship the Mayor advised that to progress with the Activity Management Plans before the review of the LTP next year, funds needed to be committed.

Resolved

THAT the Annual Plan 2011/12 include funds of \$50,000 for additional resourcing to facilitate completing the reviews of Activity Management Plans.

Boswijk/Reese

Carried

2.17 Saxton Field Cricket/Athletics/Football Pavilion

The Council discussed the budget for the Cricket/Athletics/Football maintenance budget. It was confirmed that this was a one-year adjustment and that it will be reviewed next year.

It was requested that outside taps be included on the Pavilion.

The Council commented that in future they wished to see a better income from such a significant facility.

3. Exclusion of the Public

Resolved

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting in accordance with section 7 and 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 on the grounds that the public conduct of this part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.

i) Natureland Contract

Reasons:

To carry out negotiations.

ii) Chief Executive Officer's KPIs

Reasons:

To protect the privacy of natural persons.

Boswijk/Reese

Carried

The meeting went into public excluded session at 2.34pm and resumed in public session at 3.50pm.

4. Re-admittance of the Public

Resolved

THAT the public be re-admitted to the meeting.

His Worship the Mayor/Boswijk

Carried

The Council debated the adoption of the Annual Plan 2011/12 in accordance with the staff recommendation that had been moved and seconded previously in the meeting.

The Council noted the spread of the rates increase and also noted that there still remains a risk of rises in insurance premiums.

The Council discussed the free parking initiative from Uniquely Nelson and confirmed that a 'free parking day' was supported for a quiet mid-week day.

The motion was put and it was unanimously passed.

Resolved

THAT, having heard and considered the submissions to the draft Annual Plan 2011/12 and updated estimates, any changes and amendments made at this meeting to the draft Annual Plan 2011/12 or estimates be incorporated in the adopted Annual Plan 2011/12;

AND THAT the Chief Executive be authorised to make any minor amendments to update the Annual Plan 2011/12 before publication, in line with the resolutions passed;

AND THAT the Annual Plan 2011/12, as amended, now be approved in accordance with section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002;

AND THAT the 2011/12 schedule of resource consent fees and charges be approved;

AND THAT the updated Liability Management Policy 2011 and updated Investment Policy 2011 be approved without change from the Statement of Proposal to amend the 2009 Nelson Community Plan.

Davy/Matheson

Carried

There being no further business the meeting ended at 3.50pm.

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings:

_____ Chairperson _____ Date