

Chair's Report to the Meeting of September 2022

I thank the members of the board for your effort and decision-making over the last three years. While I think we are all disappointed with the level of support of the communities of our ward by the council, I think one of our major contributions is a principled approach to decisions.

In particular, I will highlight three of them

1. The funding of a community plan for Mangamuka, a community that seems to be right at the end of any funding decisions. To the extent that the council will fund many 100s of \$1000's for toilet blocks in other communities, but cannot see past a budget of \$30k for a public toilet in Mangamuka - which is in the middle of an hour long trip between Okaihau and Kaitaia, and was a stopping point for tourist buses until the pandemic.
2. The principled approach to footpath allocation that sought to make redress for lack of previous investment in small communities.
3. The insistence of a formal design approach (using Akau) to the upgrade of Memorial Park, to put an end to the old way of 'plonking down' of new infrastructure.

I ask the board to consider the following proposals to cement in the strategic aims of this board.

Okaihau Hall Projects

Summary

I propose that the board puts \$5000 aside to pay up to 100% for a design and pricing of a kitchen and bathrooms for Okaihau Hall, should the project that is proposed by council (in response to a complaint about the state of the hall toilets) not go ahead.

Background

The Okaihau Community Association has been asking the council for a kitchen and bathroom upgrade (amongst other things) for many years. There have been many false starts in response to their requests, and my requests. Requests for design and pricing to support a business case to be taken to long term plans have fallen on deaf ears. With the board success in getting support in response to completed designs, I suggested that the OCA apply for grant funding for such a design.

In the meantime, there was an unfortunate incident, involving a wheelchair bound resident, in the bathrooms, which has prompted the council to initiate a bathroom replacement. One of the options involves using the space the kitchen now occupies, and rebuilding the kitchen in an old used space in the centre of the building.

Rather than a full reliance on the council to follow through on this plan, I have suggested to the OCA that they get a price for a design anyway, and have plan B ready to execute. That is, have the community board pay for it.

To ensure that the money is available, I recommend that the board earmark \$5000 for this, to be granted to the OCA before the meeting in June 2023, or be relocated to some other project at that meeting.

Recommendation

That the board allocates \$5000 from the place making fund to the Okaikau Community Association to fund up to 100% of a design and price for kitchen and/or toilets for the Okaihau Hall, to be uplifted upon submission of a grant application for the same before the board meeting in June 2023. If an application is not received the board should relocate the funds at its June 2023 meeting.

Ward Museum Strategy

Summary

I propose that the board put \$20000 aside for the CE of FNDC to prepare a museum strategy for the Kaikohe-Hokianga ward, with particular attention paid to the Kaikohe Pioneer Village, with a view to including its recommendations for funding in the next annual or long term plan.

Background

One of the board's strategic priorities is the Pioneer Village museum in Kaikohe. The board advocated for a modest increase in the annual grant this year.

The village was set up by a previous mayor, and many elected members have volunteered at the village in some manner since the 70's. Three current members of the board have joined the Pioneer Village during their terms, because they see it as an important part of Kaikohe.

This agenda includes an application, with a substantial quantity of supporting evidence, for a grant to the Pioneer Village.

To remain a part of Kaikohe, the museum must have a stable and predictable income base that allows it to remain in place, on top of which it can seek other income and third party funding for the buildings and collection. In much the same way that the Kaitia museum has.

I propose that the board fund a Kaikohe-Hokianga museum strategy to, firstly, confirm that the museum is a desirable feature of the ward and district, and, secondly, establish a level of funding that removes the uncertainty of the financial security of the village, and to form a case for long term plan funding.

This recommendation offers a choice to the board of the method of funding such a strategy. Via a grant, or a direct earmarking of funds for the CE to undertake this work.

Recommendation

That the board earmark \$20000, from the place making fund, for the CE of FNDC to prepare a museum strategy for the Kaikohe-Hokianga ward, with particular attention

paid to the Kaikohe Pioneer Village, with a view to including its recommendations for funding in the next annual or long term plan.

Standing Orders Modification 1

Summary

I propose that the board ensures that, if any recommendation is made at the first meeting, option A is the preferred method of electing a chair, being consistent with STV elections, and that a similarly consistent approach to resolve ties is taken.

Recommendation

That the following section be added to the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board Standing Orders, and that any minor editing for readability and consistency be delegated to the chair

Election of Chairperson

The election of the chairperson of the board is a serious matter and should be done, as far as it can, in a deliberate manner. The first meeting of a board may be a strange place for a new member, who should not be confused or rushed.

A majority decision is, therefore, appropriate and 'System A' (Local Government Act 2002 Sch7 (25)), while the act requires a meeting decision, is recommended.

System A is described in the act:

It requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the board present and voting; and

It has the following characteristics:

(i) there is a first round of voting for all candidates; and

(ii) if no candidate is successful in that round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and

(iii) if no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third, and if necessary subsequent, round of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded; and

(iv) in any round of voting, if 2 or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.

The following clarifications are added to these standing orders

(i) no formal nomination procedure is required for candidates for chair - an expression of interest is sufficient

(ii) candidates may speak for 3 minutes in support of their candidacy prior to the election process

(iii) where 2 or more candidates tie for the highest number of votes, subject to (v), further rounds of voting are undertaken until the tie is broken

(iv) the meeting may be adjourned, and/or further discussion may be undertaken between votes,

(v) where three or more candidates are tied for the highest number of votes, the meeting may remove a candidate by majority vote before the next round of voting

(vi) where 2 candidates continue to tie for the highest number of votes and three tie breaking votes have been taken, the meeting may decide to audition the candidates by alternating the chair between the remaining items on the agenda and continue voting later in the meeting.

(vii) the order of the chairing of items in (vi) should be agreed by the candidates or, in the absence of agreement, by lot.

(vii) these directions are subject to the act which requires that a chair be elected at the first meeting.

(viii) the deputy chair should not be elected before the chair

A complete description of this standing orders section must appear in the agenda of the first meeting.

Standing Orders Modification 2

Summary

I propose that the board encodes the practice of the current chair of unanimous consent as a method of expediting uncontentious business in the standing orders.

Recommendation

That the following section be added to the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board Standing Orders, and that any minor editing for readability and consistency be delegated to the chair

Unanimous consent

In order to promote an efficient meeting, these standing orders may be varied by the chair by unanimous consent. That is, if no objections are received, or points of order made, the chair may assume that unanimous consent has been given for the change in a single instance. Such a variation, by itself, is not a reason to invalidate any meeting decision.

For example, if the members appear interested in a speaker whose speech is exceeding a time limit, the chair may allow them to continue without seeking the explicit consent of the meeting. An alternative is to seek a suspension of the standing orders which require a 75% vote.

Another example is the requirement for a mover and seconder. If a motion is uncontroversial, the chair may assume the wording and progress to a discussion and vote, or in some cases simply to a vote. A decision to adopt the minutes as a true and correct record of a previous meeting is an example of this.

The chair may choose to highlight the use of unanimous consent by using the words 'if there is no objection ...'

A single member objecting violates unanimous consent which then requires the following of the standing orders as written.

Unanimous consent does not permit the violation of any rule encoded outside the standing orders, such as legislation.