

MINUTES

Mauao Project Steering Group

Wednesday 19th December 2007
Te Awanui Harbour Room – Tauranga City Council

OPEN SECTION

Members Present:

§ 7(2)(f)(ii)

Cr Rick Curach (9am to 9.30 and 10.30 to close of meeting)

§ 7(2)(f)(ii)

§ 7(2)(a) - Privacy

Also Present:

§ 7(2)(a) - Privacy

Apologies:

§ 7(2)(a) - Privacy

In Attendance:

§ 7(2)(f)(ii)

1. Karakia

§ 7(2)(f)(ii) opened the meeting.

Opening karakia by § 7(2)(a) - Privacy

Round table introduction.

§ 7(2)(f)(ii) thanked § 7(2)(f)(ii) for chairing previous meetings for this Committee.

2. Apologies

Cr Curach apologised in advance of leaving the meeting briefly.

§ 7(2)(a) - Privacy (did not attend today, will wait for appointment to the committee and join in at the next meeting)

3. Confirmation of Minutes / Matters Arising (TCC Ref: 1643191 – 15/8/2007)

Move for confirmation of minutes: Moved s 7(2)(f)(ii) / Seconded s 7(2)(f)(ii)

Matters arising from the previous minutes:

Proposed Cabins and Campground changes

- s 7(2)(f)(ii) queried the proposed cabins at the campground as had concerns re the structures versus the natural beauty of Mauao, ie needing a balance. Would like to keep Mauao passive.
- Queried last page of the minutes dated 15/8/2007 TCC Ref: 1643191 paragraph 9 – detailing the poll and the numbers supporting the change. s 7(2)(f)(ii) had researched the feedback – mostly people from outside of this area. Feedback not supportive of changes.
- **Action:** s 7(2)(f)(ii) **offered to have feedback information from Property for the next meeting. This project is on hold at the present time.**
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) indicated that this matter is going to Council in February – more consultation will be done due to opposition to the changes.
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy commented that the topic had gone a long way down the track. People may not want it but culture and beauty of the Mount should be upheld.
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) remarked that TCC may have a more commercial focus. Councillors are to look at all CCOs in the new year.
- Cr Curach asked if the Mauao Steering Group had a position on the changes to the hot pools/campground.
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy thought it was theoretically outside the Committee's boundary.
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) asked whether the consultation with tangata whenua was satisfactory.
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) confirmed that a Project Group comprising of 3 iwi, project manager and Becas were involved in discussions but a wider iwi consultation would be beneficial.
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy pointed out that decisions made by this committee were for the Mauao Historic Reserve, but that the hot pools and campground impacted on the decisions made.
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) invited attendees to address concerns for Mauao Historic Reserve and other neighbouring issues at this committee.
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy pointed out that the involvement opportunity arose around the cultural centre proposed in the campground. Cannot build on the Historic Reserve but could have the unit in the campground.
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) explained the concerns in the past were about how far the cabins would extend up to the Historic Reserve.
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy requested a copy of the concept plan which s 7(2)(f)(ii) referred to and to which the Chairman said was constantly being refined and amended.

Action: TCC Ref: 1296595 (Minutes dated 28/2/2007 Mauao Steering Group Meeting – detailing concept plant from Property – attached with these minutes)

- Cr Curach queried the resource consent – for cabins. (lodged November and February is deadline, includes roading). Also queried how submissions could be made to Council. (Guidance from Property Division)
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) commented that the water uptake project should be checked for construction process in the resource consent. s 7(2)(f)(ii) confirmed that the water uptake was to continue as hot pools.

Action: s 7(2)(f)(ii) to supply an update on the Hot Pools Resource Consent.

s 7(2)(f)(ii) asked for confirmation of outstanding issues.

Moved s 7(2)(a) - Privacy Seconded s 7(2)(f)(ii)

Cr Curach left the meeting at 9.30am

4. Terms of Reference

Information forwarded with Agenda relating to Mauao Steering Group guidelines (TCC Ref: 1694829). Any questions to s 7(2)(f)(ii)

5. Park Ranger Report

s 7(2)(f)(ii) gave an operations update:

Stone Steps and Oruahine Track Upgrades- Both tracks are completed. Excellent feedback received on both tracks. A new small track leading to Shelly Beach has been installed.

Animal Pest Control – Regular night shoots and the contractor is happy with the number of rabbits around. A Pindone poison programme will be put in place before next planting. Large death rate of petrels which is unexplained.

Plant Pest Control – has been completed on the pasture land and higher bluffs (targeting gorse, thistles, bidibidi, stinging nettle and bone seed).

Mauao Care Group – having a small break for the summer months. The group has accumulated 413 volunteer hours.

Planting – continuation of planting below the Oruahine track.

- s 7(2)(f)(ii) requested permission to continue the planting of 5,000 plants and an extension of the fence line as indicated on the powerpoint presentation.
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy queried the choice of plants – preferred natives previously grown on Mauao.
- Naturally Native presently supply reveg plants.
- **Action:** s 7(2)(f)(ii) *to investigate the possibility of sourcing from Maungatawa.*
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy requested s 7(2)(f)(ii) to check the Historic Reserves Plan first. and s 7(2)(f)(ii) suggested checking the Reserve Management Plan.
- Note: s 7(2)(f)(ii) is updating the Mauao Reserve Management Plan over the next two years. Mauao will have its own Plan with the Conservation Plan included.

Resolution:

s 7(2)(f)(ii) moved that a resolution be passed regarding the continuation of planting below the Oruahine track to proceed (as indicated on the powerpoint presentation by the Park Ranger).

Moved by s 7(2)(f)(ii) / seconded by s 7(2)(f)(ii)

Visitor Numbers on the Tracks –

	August	September	October	November	December
Base Track	65,438	61,984	75,387	84,014	100,000 plus anticipated
Summit Track	10,583	10,583	10,583	13,565	

- s 7(2)(f)(ii) queried how the summit numbers were obtained. Laser counters are not completely accurate as they do have a small margin of error.

Rock Behind Hot Pools

- s 7(2)(f)(ii) indicated on a power point where the rock sat. (12 sites on the port side of the campground have been removed). Would like to use this site for interpretation signage/kiosk as an option if the campground changes do not go ahead.
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) raised the matter of overgrown vegetation issue around the Te Puia spring. Mark agreed to keep an eye on this area.

Base Track Material – submission for a large sum to complete an upgrade on the base track has gone into the Annual Plan.

Live to Play Month – A very successful event – 40 people enjoyed the historic walk conducted by Jack Thatcher, and many sand castles were built on the main beach.

Waitangi Day – 5.30am on Wednesday, 6th February 2008

s 7(2)(f)(ii) thanked s 7(2)(f)(ii) for his update.

6. Future Projects

s 7(2)(f)(ii) outlined the budget allocations for Mauao new projects which have been listed in the 10 year Plan. Maintenance programme budget utilised by s 7(2)(f)(ii) was not included. Would like to keep 'Future Projects' as a new agenda item to help to improve communication regarding timing and the probability of the 2008/2009 figures changing.

The Base Track (2008/2010) - the key issue is the base track surface with the number of public using it being in the 900,000 per year, the general wear and tear, and the ongoing discussions on the surface and timeframe. Needing to come up with a solution.

Mauao Management Plan will cover the next 10 years. s 7(2)(f)(ii) will be leading the process for the new Management Plan. Copies of the existing Reserve Management Plan are available.

s 7(2)(f)(ii) asked if any questions:

- s 7(2)(f)(ii) asked what the operation cost for Mauao was? \$600,000 per annum operational budget (for pest control, planting etc.)
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy asked if the new projects included re-development. s 7(2)(f)(ii) replied that it only included Open Space and that she would add other projects affecting Mauao.
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy queried the role of the Mauao Steering Committee and the new projects, to which s 7(2)(f)(ii) explained that the new projects arose from Council's consultations through the Reserve Management Plan which established what future consultation was required, which the Committee followed up.
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy queried whether the changes in the circuit track and other tracks were in the Conservation Plan?
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy asked if DOC contributed to the \$600,000 budget. The reply from s 7(2)(f)(ii) was that DOC did not contribute.
- **Action:** s 7(2)(f)(ii) **to update to include re-development projects with Open Space.**
- **Action:** s 7(2)(f)(ii) **to add Future Projects as new agenda item.**

Morning tea break at 10am

Meeting convened at 10.20am

7. Rock Removal

- s 7(2)(f)(ii) gave an update of events since the meeting held 23/11/2007 to discuss this issue.

A solution has been reached after other options were investigated and a site visit by s 7(2)(a) - Privacy to establish that the rock is dangerously perched above the Oruahine Track and the Base Track. The rock will be blasted off, but not before Christmas (probably in March 2008). A formal plan will be presented to the Kaumatua Forum on the 26th February.

- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy said that blasting was not the preferred solution for tangata whenua, but they would emphasise “the danger and safety aspect” when presenting back to the Kaumatua Forum and that the decision “to blast” came after exploring a number of other alternatives.
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) commented that he had learnt a lot regarding communication avenues, especially with sensitive issues such as this one.
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) agreed with members that it was not a decision made in haste, and agreed that media coverage should be kept at a low key next time.

Councillor Curach rejoined the meeting at 10.30am.

8. Project Updates

Campground Ablution Block and Cabins s 7(2)(f)(ii)

- New ablution block completed. Other ablution blocks painted and tidied.

Water Pipeline s 7(2)(f)(ii)

The last section near the slip repairs has been completed. Iwi are happy with the conclusion.

Slip Repairs 4x4 Track

Wooden retainers which were intended to be used have been replaced with concrete blocks, with existing Mauao rock to soften the look. Grassing of the slope has worked.

Slip Repairs Pilot Quay

All work is finished. It is intended to put in a gate to restrict access to the road to Pilot Quay for wharf use only. This restriction would last until March 2008, but permanent restricted access would be applied for. Keys are kept by the Park Ranger.

s 7(2)(f)(ii) queried whether Iwi had been advised about the gate put in by Transportation Division (TCC). Emphasised the importance of keeping Iwi informed of any activities around Mauao.

s 7(2)(f)(ii) assured s 7(2)(a) - Privacy that the soil from the slip being held at the Marae will be returned to Mauao (to the reservoir site) for use as required on small projects as it has been sprayed for weeds.

Interpretation Signage

s 7(2)(f)(ii) asked for guidance from the Committee as to whether to proceed with new information signage for the base of Mauao and/or directional signage for Summit/Base tracks (this also included Gateway entrances to Mauao).

After general discussion it was agreed that it would be more beneficial to hold any decisions on any signage until after June when the ownership handover should be occurring. To be discussed as an all in one package.

Action: Budget and time frame of existing signage projects should be reviewed in June 2008.

Ownership Update

s 7(2)(f)(ii) gave an overview of the process to date and emphasised that the Crown owns Mauao at the present time. The Transfer had full support of the previous Council, however Council requires the enabling legislation to include the following:
(Council decision added for your information)

- No part of Mauao to be sold or disposed of to other interests
- Will remain a Reserve, free public access would be guaranteed
- No commercial activities on the reserve
- Council responsible for day to day maintenance and administration
- A formal Governance group established to make policy and procedural decisions on operational matters for Mauao. The Mauao Steering Group is already in place. This committee meets on a quarterly basis and includes the following representatives – 4 iwi, 3 Councillors, 1 DOC and 1 Historic Places Trust.
- Any changes in level of service resulting from the transfer be funded by the Crown.

Issues from Iwi

Described as “Clayton’s arrangement – given to Trustees but the Crown still owns. Prefer the hearings to be held in Tauranga to allow submissions from the wider community.

At the Meeting held on 14 December Mayor Stuart stated:

- o Council’s position clear about the “Transfer” this has been an arrangement between the Crown and local Iwi.
- o Council supports the transfer (see Council decisions)
- o Transfer does not include the Hot Pools /Camping Ground area.
- o Transfer has been progressed by Te Runanganui o Tauranga Moana for the past 7 years.
- o MoU was signed 10 October 2007 between TCC and the three Iwi (Ngaiterangi, Ngati Ranginui and Ngati Pukenga). MoU sets a pathway for the future and the start of the process for the new Council.

After the Bill has been adopted in June 2008 it may well mean changes to the Governance /operational structure of Mauao and could affect the Mauao Steering Group committee. The Minister Parekura Horomia states the Government intends that the Bill will become law by June next year.

(See handout)

Councillor Curach asked if there was any benefit if the 3 Iwi joined voices for one strong submission.

9. Rock Climbing

s 7(2)(f)(ii) asked the committee if it was a sensible move to stop the rock climbers using Mauao. The site where the metal eyes have been attached is in the ‘dangerous’ rockfall area.

The frequency of the rock climbers using Mauao was questioned and whether they had existing user rights, which was unknown. Public safety was at risk.

Action: s 7(2)(f)(ii) **is to contact the rock climber user groups to inform them of the danger of using Mauao and that other alternative sites away from Mauao should be sought. s 7(2)(f)(ii) to report back to the next meeting in February.**

Mountain bike events have been banned and other activities such as hang gliding and King of the Mount running events to be reviewed at a later date.

10. General Business

Monitoring Representative

- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy (as replacement for s 7(2)(f)(ii) on the Steering Group) had spoken to s 7(2)(a) - Privacy s 7(2)(a) - Privacy queried whether an Iwi monitor needs to be appointed for Contractors excavating on Mauao.
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy the Waitaha representative, needs to be at the table when a monitor is appointed.
- After discussion it was decided that this would be discussed again at the February meeting and that the interim monitoring representative would be s 7(2)(a) - Privacy who works with Mauao Conservation and MAF tours and is often on site.
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy has been filling this role on the waterline project. s 7(2)(a) - Privacy has been in contact with s 7(2)(a) - Privacy
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) thought the representative needs to have cultural understanding and could be someone from the Steering Group.
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) agreed that staff needed someone as an interim monitor until the committee had made that appointment at the next meeting on 13th February 2008.
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) commented that the Mauao projects are finishing for the year but an Iwi monitor would be needed later in the new year.
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy was to take the matter to the Iwi meeting being held on Thursday 20th December for discussion with other Iwi and would contact s 7(2)(f)(ii) with a decision.

Action: Agenda item for next meeting: To come up with a new or interim monitor, or appoint s 7(2)(a) - Privacy / or replacement.

- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy also had discussions with s 7(2)(a) - Privacy re protocol of findings at excavations. Asked if TCC had a Policy on "Koiwi discovery", ie Who to contact, identification of finding, What happens with the items, Who is qualified to handle the matter and the process to follow.
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) replied that there is a Memorandum of Understanding re Monitoring Earthworks on Major City Infrastructure Projects in the system. Could be used as a base document for draft a Policy for Mauao.

Action: The MOU is to be put on the agenda for discussion, and to go out with these minutes.

- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy and s 7(2)(f)(ii) said contractors and staff were good at following the process. s 7(2)(a) - Privacy is the qualified professional for items found and for the sites established.
- There was some concern that s 7(2)(a) - Privacy was the only one to be relied upon. s 7(2)(f)(ii) said that there seemed to be a lapse in time before all parties were contacted, ie Police, Iwi, HPT. The timeframe needed to be expanded in documentation.
- It is a TCC Policy for all tendering contractors to follow the process – ie all work to stop if anything was found. It was also felt that a documented process would be able to stand the test of change as it only required updating.
- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy suggested monitoring from this Committee from day one – to the end of any excavation project.

Remuneration

- s 7(2)(a) - Privacy queried remuneration for Iwi monitoring on callouts for these projects.
- s 7(2)(f)(ii) replied that the remuneration rate (either fixed or an hourly rate) was written into contracts as part of the overall project requirements.

Waitangi Day

- s 7(2)(f)(ii) reminded attendees that Waitangi Day celebrations on Mauao started at 5.30am. It was intended to have a sound system available for the speakers, as this was an issue commented upon last year. Transport has been provided by EBOP, WBOPDC and TCC. Funding from Government – District Maori Council and Whareroa Marae was only \$1,000 this year.

- s 7(2)(f)(ii) also explained why there would not be a concert on the beach this year. The process of preparation, sourcing funding, sorting consents, playing at the event and cleaning up after it was too much for the one person organising.
- Event on Mauao successfully brings civic leaders, church leaders and public together.

11. Deputy Chairperson for the Steering Group

It was agreed that a deputy chairperson could be decided on the day if the occasion arose that the Chairperson could not attend. The deputy could be any member of the committee.

12. Closing Karakia

s 7(2)(f)(ii) thanked the attendees for their participation and contribution to the meeting and declared the meeting closed.

s 7(2)(a) - Privacy closed with a karakia.

Action:

- Feedback information from Property Division regarding the Cabin and Campground proposed concept plan. Plus a copy of the concept plan.
- To have s 7(2)(a) - Privacy or representative at next meeting.
- An Update on the Hot Pools Resource Consent

Action By:

s 7(2)(f)(ii)

Action by When:

For next meeting

Action:

- Investigate the sourcing of native plants from Maungatawa for Mauao

Action By:

s 7(2)(f)(ii)

Action by When:

For next meeting

Action:

- Update of new projects to be a new agenda item.
- New Projects to show re-development projects on neighbouring boundaries.

Action By:

s 7(2)(f)(ii)

Action by When:

For next meeting

Action:

- Budget and time frame of existing signage projects should be reviewed in June 2008.

Action By:

s 7(2)(f)(ii)

Action by When:

June 2008 to be reviewed

Action: Contact rock climber user groups to inform them of the danger of using Mauao and report to next meeting.	
Action By:	§ 7(2)(f)(ii)
Action by When:	For next meeting

Action: To appoint a new or interim monitor, if needed, for Mauao excavation works	
Action By:	§ 7(2)(f)(ii)
Action by When:	For next meeting

Action: The MOU re Monitoring Earthworks on Major City Infrastructure Projects to go on the next meeting agenda for discussion and adaption. (A copy of the existing MOU to go out with these minutes.)	
Action By:	§ 7(2)(f)(ii)
Action by When:	For next meeting

Action: Investigate the sourcing of native plants from Maungatawa for Mauao	
Action By:	§ 7(2)(f)(ii)
Action by When:	For next meeting

The meeting closed at 11.55 a.m.
