



Report 08.682
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Committee Council
Author Cr Rex Kirton, Chair, Parks, Forests and Utilities
Committee
Murray Kennedy, Divisional Manager, Water Supply,
Parks and Forests

Report of the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee Meeting held on 11 September 2008

1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee that took place at the Wellington Regional Council Chamber on 11 September 2008.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Parks and Forests Concessions Policy review

The revised policy sets out the rules that to apply for people wishing to use the Council's land for an event or activity and a charge that applies under certain criteria. These charges are used to restore the facility to its condition immediately before the event.

One submitter was heard:

- Mr Ian Priest, a representative of the Aurora Harriers Club, was concerned that the proposed policy does not make any distinction between a commercial and a non-profit (charity or volunteer) operator running an event. He felt that organisations whose members give their time freely should be looked upon more favourably. In addition, these voluntarily based organisations often find that a bond paid, before an event, difficult to meet because their financial resources are limited. The bond is reimbursed once the terms of the concession have been met. Therefore, the concession bond payable for this group should be reduced. Mr Priest also raised the issue of an event e.g. running, which affects multiple blocks of publicly owned land (e.g. GW, HCC and DoC land).

Murray Waititi, in response, advised that the events that Mr Priest refers to are considered non-commercial activities. A small charge applies if an event attracts more than 150 participants. However, a bond needs to be paid to ensure that the land is left in a tidy state with any rubbish, signage or banner removed promptly once an event has been concluded. Officers, under the policy, have discretion and are able to exercise some flexibility covering the amount of the bond. Particularly, where a group has held past events and cleaned up satisfactorily.

Mr Alan McKenzie (DoC representative on the Committee), advised that when an event affects DoC property as well as other public land the charge is split. The operator of an event is usually charged an amount based on the proportion of the land used during an event.

There was some discussion covering a written submission from members of *Film Wellington*, the local film and television production industry and their request for charges to be consistent across the Wellington Region. Further, that the Council and other councils of the Greater Wellington Region should agree a standard film protocol.

Philippa Crisp advised that we are working with other Councils on such a protocol and the outcome from this work will be included in the final policy.

Officers were also given feedback about other aspects of the Concessions Policy and these covered waivers for charities and new operations.

Councillor Kirton asked that this aspect, together with the issue of a multiple public lands event be investigated and reported to the next Committee meeting.

4. Waitangirua Farm Reserve Classification (under the Reserves Act 1977)

The Committee, after discussion, agreed to recommend option five to the Council. As a result the farm is to be designated as a Recreation Reserve with the conservation covenants held in perpetuity.

Councillor Kirton commented that submitters concerns articulated in the previous meeting seem to be allayed once the terms, “recreation” and “scenic” reserve and the differences between the two had been explained fully.

5. Divisional Manager’s report

Mr Kennedy updated the Committee with the progress of consulting with the city councils and the new water supply options. However, because the Hutt City Council had yet to consider the issue, the programme has been delayed slightly. Consequently, a paper covering each city council’s response will be presented to the Committee at its November meeting and not the October meeting as indicated in his report.

In response to a question, Mr Leonard advised that a large indigenous tree that fell on the Orongorongo track was not easily accessible to heavy machinery and uneconomic to recover. In other instances, iwi are offered these trees which they may remove at their expense.

6. Unconfirmed minutes

The unconfirmed minutes of the Committee's meeting are attached as Attachment 1.

7. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:



Cr Rex Kirton
Chair
Parks, Forests and Utilities
Committee

Report prepared by:

Murray Kennedy
Divisional Manager, Water
Supply, Parks and Forests

Attachment 1: Public minutes