
ORDINARY MEETING

OF

GRANTS SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

Time: 9:30am
Date: Wednesday, 2 May 2018
Venue: Committee Room 1
Ground Floor, Council Offices
101 Wakefield Street
Wellington

Business

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Minute attachments

1. Richard Bentley

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Proposal to the WCC by the Karori Historical SocietyThe 1918 Influenza Pandemic and its Recognition through a Project at the Karori Cemetery

(WCC Grants Committee Meeting 2 May 2018, Item 2.3, Arts and Culture Fund)

1. My name is Richard Bentley and I speak on behalf of the Karori Historical Society, a substantial organisation into its 45th year. We have applied to the Arts and Culture Fund for the development and implementation of a programme that commemorates the centennial of the influenza epidemic of November/December 1918. The request was for \$15,000, but the recommendation before the committee is \$2,000. We ask the committee to review and increase the grant.
2. The 1918 influenza pandemic is one of the deadliest natural disasters in human history. The pandemic was especially vicious in Wellington, and targeted the fit and healthy and especially the soldiers as they returned from the Great War. More than 700 people died during November and December 1918, and many were buried in Karori Cemetery. Barbara Mulligan, an expert on the Cemetery, started working on a project to commemorate this event over 18 months ago, and today, she has is supported by an active group of over 100 local residents. Unfortunately Barbara is currently overseas and unable to be here today.
3. The reasons for seeking WCC support for this project are:
 - The Karori cemetery, which has seen over 80,000 burials, provides a unique pathway to insights into the history of Wellington and its people.
 - The pandemic commemoration involves volunteers cleaning and tidying over 500 plots, researching family histories, holding a public ceremony lead by the Mayor on Sunday afternoon 18th November, organising public visitation with volunteer guiding to the four burial sites over Sunday afternoons through November and December, and the compilation of associated display boards, information brochures and publicity packs.
 - The grant being sought will mostly be spent on the design and erection of four permanent display boards in the cemetery.
 - Grant support from the WCC, who own and operate the cemetery, will make it a lot easier for us to seek additional support from community trusts and organisations.
 - The project has the full support of the Cemetery staff.
4. This project is generating significant public interest. We assess it provides a tangible pathway for families, often for the first time, to reflect on the lives of their ancestors and of life in early Wellington. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on the loss of the many young soldiers who had just returned from the Great War. We assert that the project is contributing significantly to building awareness about Wellington's history and culture, and contributing to the creation of a 'People Centred City' which is one of the WCC's principle long-term development themes.

Richard Bentley CNZM
2 May 2018