

To: Waihi Ward Committee

From: Community Development Officer

Date: 9 November 2011

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Appendix A: 820385

Portfolio holder: Councillor Carmine [Heritage, Arts & Culture]

Meeting date: 15 November 2011

Subject: **Proposal to the Long Term Plan from Waihi Arts Centre & Museum Association**

Recommendation:

THAT the report be received, and

THAT the proposal to the Long Term Plan from Waihi Arts Centre and Museum Association Inc be received, and

THAT the implications of the proposal be investigated.

Purpose

The intention of this report is to advise the Committee of a proposal to the Long Term Plan and seek comments that may give direction to the proposer and staff.

Background

Waihi Arts Centre & Museum Association is an incorporated society managed by volunteers within the Waihi community. The association has a 21 year lease over Council's property at 54 Kenny Street Waihi where they have established a museum concerned in particular with the natural history and the history of mining development within the Hauraki District area but specifically the Waihi region.

The society "acquires, edits, assembles on collection, catalogues, displays and makes available for research such historical and contemporary records, books, specimens, artefacts, relics, antiques, furnishings or other objects that may be purchased from time to time" and houses a significant collection of items as well as art work that is made available for public display.

Members of the society are committed volunteers with a passion for the responsibility of managing a museum but needing more professional support to ensure that the assets are managed appropriately.

The President of the society writes proposing that Council employs a part-time qualified archivist for the district whose role would include the following:

- standardise recording of historical treasures
- formulate and implement storage of artefacts' plans
- process research requests
- train volunteers, and
- manages repository committee and makes recommendations regarding appointments

The relevant (museum) society will remain guardians of the historical treasures.

Issues and options

It may be deduced that museums are managed and staffed in the main by unqualified volunteers and that there are aspects of museum management that require formal or tertiary study.

The association's proposal does not indicate whether other museums have been canvassed for their opinions however it may be safe to say that others would utilise the "service" should it be available.

No budget, position description or timeframe for the archivist position has been provided – the association may not be in a position resource-wise to prepare a full business case.

The proposal may have merit should Council consider the need to employ a suitably qualified archivist to manage our own records system and be available to 'approved' groups to assist them with their processes.

Budget Implications / Decision Making Process

A budget or formal position description was not provided and it is unclear as to the length of the appointment – further investigation is required.

Should Council support the proposal a budget will need to be prepared. Budget items would be employment related or a short term contract/project may be considered.

Conclusion

The association has been proactive in its management of the arts centre and museum in Waihi.

The need to establish a consistent and professional standard to the management of archives has merit and the association has to be applauded for taking the initiative.

Investment in heritage and arts has focused on assets such as heritage buildings or contemporary sculptures; it may be an appropriate time to look at investing in the management of artefacts and relics etc.

The 'proposal' from Waihi Arts Centre & Museum Association has financial implications that need more research however it may present long term benefits for the district.

Naaku noa, na

John McIver
Community Development Officer