



## Meeting Minutes - Panama Riverside Friends Society Incorporated

Held online – Zoom, Oct 02, 2024

07: 07 PM - Opened with Karakia – Thomas Henry

07:58 PM – Closed with Karakia – Matthew Connolly

**Present:** Susan, Delphina, Thomas, Tea, Matthew, Chrystelle

**Absent:** Dean

**Apologies:** Nil

### Quick recap

Tea initiated the discussion and welcomed everyone.

The team discussed various community initiatives, including a skate school for kids, potential sports tournaments, and collaborations with local groups. They also planned for the upcoming Christmas Carols in The Street event, and discussed the need for better facilities at event locations. Lastly, they explored potential partnerships with business associations and service providers for future events.

Reports presented - Treasurers report from Delphina (Attached) and a profit and loss statement (attached).

### General Business

Organising a **Skate School** for Kids in Panama - Matt confirmed that the skate school is funded by Kellogg's, and Delphina added that it provides free skateboarding sessions for children aged 8 to 14, including skateboards and helmets. The group agreed that this would be a great initiative for their community.

Community Initiatives and **Sports Programs** Discussion - Matt proposed several community initiatives including touch modules or tournaments, health programs, community fitness clubs, a night market, and a community safety day. He mentioned initial inquiries with Dunkirk Rugby and Fritz, the manager, and plans to connect with the local fire station and police chief. Tea and Delphina expressed their support for these ideas, emphasizing the importance of sports in keeping kids off the streets and engaged in healthy activities. Matt also mentioned the possibility of coordinating with the Tag President for NZTFI to secure a free module for their events.

The team discussed potential sports tournaments for the upcoming Christmas season. Matt mentioned that the Otahuhu Rugby League's grounds were under renovation. Venues such as Dunkirk Reserve were options and he suggested engaging with the Auckland Council to assist would be helpful. Tea suggested aiming for tournaments around December and January or the first block of school holidays in April 2025 as an ideal time to hold these. Mat proposed a pop-up day or community day, but noted the need for referees and possibly providing food and water. Delphina suggested modules as a good option, as they run over a period of time.

**Waka ama** - The team discussed collaborating with a local community group, the Cook Island Outriggers, to involve Panama children in their activities. Tea suggested packaging a proposal for a

holiday program for the next meeting. There is also a program already developed called “Nappas Nipas” which should also be considered moving forward. (copy attached)

**Safety Awareness** and Community Initiatives Discussion - Thomas shared the success of a recent safety awareness event held in Otahuhu and plans for future community safety days that could be held in Panama. Mat proposed incorporating water safety from the Auckland Coast Guard into future events. The team discussed community safety initiatives and the roles of relevant agencies.

Planning Christmas Event - **Christmas Carols in the Streets**, we have received 95 gift boxes from our partner and Dempsey Wood have indicated they will support the event once again this year. The team discussed the planning of an event, to be held in December. The potential dates are: the 14th or 15th of December, and the 7th or 8th of December. They also discussed the need to avoid clashing with the Otahuhu Parade. The event would involve a truck with a microphone, singing Christmas carols at 10 stops, and distributing presents to families. The team agreed to research the Otahuhu Parade dates and finalise the event date at the next meeting. An invitation would be sent to all groups in the community inviting them to actively participate in the Panama event in 2024. Delphina was asked to organise the truck and Santa, while Chrystelle was to check with the council about gate access.

**Improving Community Facilities** and Support - The team discussed the success of their community events, it was identified that there is a real need for better facilities, such as toilets, at the event locations. This was also an ongoing concern for the community who are unable to have the basic amenities that are essential to whanau. It was often raised by residents that the inhumane treatment of them and the children in the area was unacceptable. The constant suggestions that they could use the toilets at the Rowing Club, but this was deemed impractical especially at times when these sports clubs were not open. The team agreed to write a letter to the council to raise the issue of inadequate facilities and to request support for the community and future events. They also considered starting an online petition to gain more traction.

Organising Community Health Expo and Parade - The team discussed organising a community health expo event involving service providers. Thomas offered to manage the event and liaise with the police for their participation. Tea emphasised the positive impact of police and fire department involvement at past events, suggesting their inclusion in the upcoming Christmas parade, possibly leading a motorcade. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 we held a community day titled Panama **Kaitiakitanga Community Day** – We have missed this for 2024 but Tea has approached Moa to see if he would like to be the program lead for this annual event from 2025 onwards.

**Business Associations** - Tea proposed the idea of tapping into resources from a business association to support their cause. Thomas agreed, suggesting that the association could potentially be a part of all events. Delphina and Tea discussed Richette's (Otahuhu Business Association) involvement, who holds roles in various organisations and is keen to participate in upcoming events Matt was tasked with exploring potential business associations in the area, particularly those in the Mount Wellington region.

**Mount Richmond Residents** – This community is growing and are an integral part of the community. They are connected through a body corporate and have regular meetings; Susan will assume the responsibility for energising the Mount Richmond community and potentially developing literature to engage them as well as sharing information with them. They should also be invited to join “Happy Thursdays”

Home ownership and presentations - Delphina shared that Flex Street Mortgages had provided a toolkit and were keen to present their Home Ownership Program at a future meeting. Lastly, Delphina mentioned that Foundation North would like to attend a future meeting to discuss how they could support the community.

Communication with Ossie Manukau – the attached email to Ossie has had no response, the committee would like clarification and asked that Tea follow up this, it may be that Ossie has been away unwell.

Communication with ATWC – they are to be invited to Novembers Happy Thursday so we can share what is happening for the community regarding after school and school holidays?

Communication with Kaianga Ora – Tessa reported several meetings past that we would have regular updates regarding activity in Panama Road area, Tea will text and call her to see if she will attend HT this month.

### **Financial**

The profit and loss statement alongside the Treasurers report was presented to the meeting.

Funding application to the DIA Lotteries Grant has been submitted and indications are that we will receive support to continue the amazing Mahi the committee are doing on behalf of the Panama community.

The Koru Trust agreed to provide support in the interim as small fees are required for such matters such as Xero subscriptions and bank fees.

We are awaiting responses from Foundation North for the “Bike Pump Track” and this is expected by October 14<sup>th</sup>. Delphina discussed this with Liz Tapaha, the relationship manager for Foundation North, who expressed optimism.

Tea also mentioned a feasibility study, which Dean is working on with the community fund. They expect good news about the feasibility study from the community fund committee. The feasibility study will require about 30K from the remaining 40K in the fund.

Matt secured funding for gym memberships, banners, and flags. He has access to a limit of 15k which he must provide “activity” related to well-being.

### **Action Points**

**Matt** to draft scenarios for touch modules/tournaments and submit for next meeting – This is in relation to the Societies desire to provide more opportunities for the Panama community to engage in health and well-being.

**Thomas** to find out dates for Otahuhu and Papatoetoe Christmas parades

**Dell** to write letter to council regarding toilet facilities at Ian Shaw Park

**Dell** will follow up with the “skate school” to see how this can be initiated in the Panama Road community. Suitable venues and collaborations will also be explored.

**Matt** to research and contact Mount Wellington/Carbine Road business associations for potential support. If there are other associations then these should be contacted and invited to future board meetings and community hui such as “Happy Thursday”

**Susan** to develop promotional collateral/ literature and engage Mount Richmond community for upcoming events.

**Tea** will communicate with Local Board Chairperson and elected members to seek a response regarding Maria Meridiths earlier communications regarding the “Panama Greenways” initiative.

**Chrystelle** agreed to take the meeting notes and provide meeting minutes for this meeting and all future committee meetings.

**Dean** will continue to communicate with “Community Fund” group and report back progress. He has invited members to attend and be a part of the PRFSI “Happy Thursday” community networking gathering.

**Tea and Del** – arrange meeting with Tu Manawa lead, Bernadette Toeava to progress sporting programming, including Waka Ama and Rowing (Greg and Kaz), Rugby, League, Netball, Kio Rahi, water safety, fire, and police as well as other activities identified in coming months

**Tea & Del** – drive petition and fundraising “temperature” visual. Included in this would be the promoting of the “Greenways Maps” to be displayed

**Tea** – send invite to others such as Good Seeds and School to engage and provide details about their participation to celebrate with Panama families.

**Dell** – Invite Foundation North to next Panama, Mt Wellington, Otahuhu community network meeting “Happy Thursdays”

**07:58 PM** – Closed with Karakia – Matthew Connolly

Signed Dean Napa Date 7th October 2024

Chairman

Dean Napa