**Kaipātiki Local Board**

**OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS**

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Jacinda Short

From: Adrian Tyler (Kaipatiki Local Board)
Sent: Wednesday, 15 May 2019 1:12 PM
To: Jacinda Short
Cc: Paul Edwards; GRP AC Local Board Kaipatiki
Subject: Fwd: Kauri Point Reserve Management Issues

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Jacinda,

I would like to table the email forwarded below with my verbal report this evening. I have cc'd it to all KLB members.

Cheers,

Adrian

From: Adrian Tyler (Kaipatiki Local Board)
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 5:45:34 PM
To: Emma Hopkins
Cc: GRP AC Local Board Kaipatiki; Paul Edwards; Margot Mirbach; Leigh Radovan
Subject: Kauri Point Reserve Management Issues

Hello Emma,

I am writing in response to multiple concerns raised by volunteers working at the western end of Balmain Road with the Soldiers Bay/Kauri Point Domain Restoration Group in regard to the coordination and delivery of council park and ecological services. After a discussion with them on site they sent me an email, copied below, that details quite a list of issues, however a summary of the main concerns is:

• Contractors (Ventiia, Treescape and Wildlands?) are not being centrally coordinated resulting in duplication, inefficiency and omission.

• No cohesive approach to pest plant management resulting in patchy and inconsistent management with easily accessed areas being over managed and poorly accessed areas being neglected.

• Volunteers have observed contractors spending long periods getting little done – how are accountability and targets being managed?

• Lack of communication between contractors/council and volunteers.

• Generally a much poorer level of service than under previous contractors.

There is an obvious need for a central and easily accessible point of coordination and accountability and the volunteers and I hope that the new ranger, Dan, might be the ideal person to take on that role.

I was also advised that the volunteers are aware that Wildlands are currently preparing an environmental management plan for the whole reserve but there has been no incorporation of volunteers, nor the Local Board in this process. This may be a matter of timing but it would be good for all stakeholders to be aware of, and contributing to this project as early as possible.

With the Local Board’s focus on ecological restoration and promotion of placemaking I am concerned that we are
falling well short of ensuring that our volunteers feel valued and empowered in the task they have taken on for our larger community. To that end:

1. Could I please ask for investigation of the issues listed in the email copied below, specifically:
   a. What is now the timeframe for the removal of pines on the coastal cliffs and removal of pine and wattle from the bank alongside the council track?
   b. What is happening with the request for a compacted metal area at the end of the council track that would allow contractors vehicles to three point turn without cutting up the grass?

2. Could I please request that we now consider calling a meeting with all currently concerned stakeholders for the Soldiers Bay/Kauri Point Domain; volunteers, Pest Free Kaipatiki, KLB, Dan, council staff and contractors essentially to reinforce the network and to brief everyone on issues, progress and objectives for the management of the area. If possible it would be useful to get Dept of Defense there too as we will continue to face a significant issue with seed spread and pest movement if defense land adjacent is not also addressed. I am happy to convene/chair this if need be.

Thanks for your time with this Emma.

Regards,

Adrian Tyler
Kaipatiki Local Board

Copied email from volunteer group:

Thanks for your help on Friday and giving us the opportunity to share our concerns and thoughts with you.

The following is a recap of some of the issues I mentioned with respect to the current contracts and contractors, who are proving to be not nearly as efficient or effective as our previous local service providers were.

Lack of coordination, communication and continuity "within" service provider’s own companies as well as between other service providers, volunteers, council, PFK
Lack of knowledge/training
Lack of audit or accountability
Lack of priority for pest plant control allowing for cherry picking of easily controlled relatively contained pest plants over more invasive widespread plants.
Low productivity for a high cost.
Lack of collaboration or knowledge sharing
Lack of management/coordination of work being carried out in the reserve

Rather than adding value as was predicted for the new contracts, we are receiving far less service and value than we received from our previous local service providers. We have witnessed many hours spent doing very little.

We feel the lack of a single point of contact and on the ground for management of our reserves is also contributing to the current poor outcomes. We have suggested the Community Rangers could be ideal candidates for this role.

Recently we have been informed that Wildlands has been tasked with creating the Environmental Management Plan for Soldiers Bay/Kauri Point Domain. Considering the lack of satisfaction with the Wildlands service to date we were surprised by this decision. We have asked to be kept informed and hope to be able to review and have feedback on the plan.

Some examples:-
Ventia - fragmented dysfunctional services with four separate uncoordinated teams; hard track, 1m either side of
track, turf mowing and weed whacking edges, bin emptying.

Inefficient use of resource, lack of knowledge/training with regard to pest plants vs native plants, high turnover/lack of continuity of staff so any knowledge transfer is soon lost, lack of coordination/communication between Ventia teams and Wildlands, e.g. Wildlands sprayed weeds blue one day, and the following day Ventia weed whacked the same blue weeds. Other examples, 3-5 Ventia contractors with spray packs walk in formation the length of the hard track and back looking for weeds to spray where there were none, or 2 Ventia contractors visit to weed whack approx 20m edging, i.e. spent more time traveling and getting setup than doing the actual job, but said that was what they had on their schedule for that day.

Bins have only started to be emptied regularly in the past couple of months after more than 18months of having to constantly report overflowing bins via the helpline to get them emptied. There does seem to be a heightened presence of various Ventia contractors in the past couple of months. However, it seems to be either a feast or famine. e.g. We can have 2 people come to empty bins daily, then periods of up to a week where the bins are not emptied at all.

Wildlands - able to cherry pick which pest plants are controlled from a long list of 50++ that doesn't include Pampas our most invasive plant. It would be more beneficial if pest plant lists were either more reserve specific or more extensive and prioritised by how invasive particular plants are. e.g. tradescantia(wandering jew) vs pampas. Wildlands seem to be able to fulfill their contractual obligations but without being very effective especially long term. They are not willing/able to give details of what or where pest plants are being controlled. Very low productivity for any ground presence observed. There does not appear to be any useful reporting or auditing of what is done or is to do.

Treescape - Headland coastal pines still to be removed to prevent more cliff loss and erosion. Removal of marked(by Council in consultation with Treescape) wattles and pines on the side of main track. Both of these tasks were delayed last winter due to poor access for vehicles and after previous turf damage caused by Treescape using heavy machinery on sodden ground, but now we are nearing the end of the dry and still no marked trees have removed.

Facilities Maintenance

We don't want high maintenance solutions but rather simple, timely, practical low maintenance solutions. Especially as in the past few years we have struggled to have basic maintenance issues addressed e.g. track flooding due to blocked culverts took over 3 years to be addressed. Then when something was finally done, the implemented solution has since been deemed not appropriate for a reserve due to the disruption to fish passages. A simpler/cheaper more ecologically appropriate solution could and should have been implemented.

Last year's requests include:

1) a request for a simple compacted hard-fill turning bay(appendage to the main track at the Fitzpatrick Bay end of the track to allow service vehicles access and ability to do a 3-point turn in winter, not a high maintenance solution to become a council asset which is unlikely to be implemented.

2) Fitzpatrick Bay perimeter ditch has not been functioning for 2-3 years and requires maintenance so the field can be accessed all year round for both mowing and recreation. This could include a properly planted and maintained wetland area in the top left-hand corner with a long term drainage solution to keep the field usable all year round. Due to lack of communication and co-ordination of all interested parties within the Council, the last I heard Fiona from PFK was going to arrange a report detailing the recommendations for this area.

Council Helpline

Lack of continuity and historical value with issues reported to Council Helpline e.g. dozens of reports for the same issue not being flagged and escalated for permanent fix. Also there have been instances where the same issue being reported at different times has been assigned to different departments.