

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Barbara Lindsay, Community Secretary
Corporate Plan Output: Community Activities	

The purpose of this report is to remind the Board of their involvement in of Neighbourhood Week 1999, 1 – 7 March. This report is to be considered by all Community Boards.

Background

In October 1997 a report was considered by the Shirley/Papanui Community Board on ways to encourage better neighbourhoods. Other Community Boards gave their approval in principle to the idea and it was agreed that a joint Board committee be established to progress the ideas raised and to work towards the holding of Neighbourhood Week.

It was envisaged that a number of initiatives would be launched during this week and, through a publicity campaign and networking with community spokespeople, people would be encouraged to make themselves known to their neighbours.

In a partnership with the Papanui Police the Shirley/Papanui Board provided a subsidy for a person to work on updating the city-wide list of neighbourhood support groups contacts on the Police database. Letters went to the co-ordinators of these groups throughout the city, advising them of the philosophy of neighbourhood week. Some Boards provided subsidies for these and other neighbourhood groups to hold informal get-togethers during Neighbourhood Week 1998 and a lot of positive feedback was received as a result.

Joint Board Committee

This Committee met on several occasions, the last being during September 1998. The Boards will now need to nominate representatives from the new membership.

The Committee decided that it would promote the concept of Neighbourhood Week and would encourage members of the community to undertake events and activities that are appropriate for them. Individual Community Boards would be tasked with encouraging and sponsoring local initiatives.

Ideas put forward for consideration by Boards were as follows:

Sponsorship of small neighbourhood events, eg BBQs, street parties; balloons displayed on letter boxes; bumper stickers; fence/letterbox stickers; static displays in Malls; 'neighbours who care fairs' in local parks.

Walk a Child to School Day

On 3 March 1999 the road safety advocates from the City Streets Unit are planning to hold a 'Walk a Child to School Day'. This aims to promote walking as a safe, healthy way of getting to school and is to be 'sold' in terms of safety, health and environmental benefits.

School Involvement

The Council Children's Advocate had been included in early planning. She agreed that anything done at local level builds good relationships and that a leaflet could be distributed from her office giving a number of activities that could be engaged in.

Each Board representative was asked to get the name of a follow-up person from their local schools (or the board of trustees), the objective being to define a programme to be run in the area during Neighbourhood Week.

Shopping Malls

The Committee formulated a list of ideas to be circulated to the major malls, with the management of each being asked to indicate which of these they would be prepared to adopt. Committee members agreed that malls should be encouraged to provide amenities for the public, such as seating and that an award recognising the 'Most Neighbourly Award' might encourage this.

Window Display

The Committee has the east window of the Civic Offices booked for a display to promote Neighbourhood Week, between 15 – 22 February 1999.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Board nominate a representative to the joint Board Committee and that a meeting be held during February to plan for Neighbourhood Week 1 – 7 March 1999.
 2. That the Board give consideration to setting aside a small fund to promote Neighbourhood Week.
 3. That the Board consider ideas to promote local community events.

THE CHAIRMAN COMMENTS:

The principle of supporting community activity of this type has merit, particularly in accord with the Board's ongoing role in "strengthening communities". I am a little concerned, though, that there is not a lot of time available for groups to co-ordinate any events which could be appropriate.

Given that the dates (1 to 7 March) have already been designated, and publicity already planned is programmed toward this period, it would appear that the option for a later period is not available.

The Board now needs to consider whether its support should be for events which are co-ordinated under short notice, or whether, on this occasion, support should be

provided for other opportunities arising from its “Community Action Plan”. Have said that, I think that the Board should be in a position to support any groups that consider that events can be arranged at such short notice.”

Chairman’s

Recommendation:

1. That the Board nominate a representative to the joint Board Committee and that a meeting be held during February to plan for Neighbourhood Week 1 – 7 March 1999
2. That the Board resolve as to the appropriateness of supporting the event on this occasion or to supporting other initiatives which may arise through the development of its “Community Action Plan”.
3. That, if support is agreed to for the 1999 event, the local residents groups be contacted regarding the option for them to co-ordinate appropriate community events.
4. That, if support is agreed to for the 1999 event, the Board resolve to financially support any such events up to a total sum of \$1,500 with this fund to be limited to costs relating only to promotion.