

CANBERRA ORGANIC GROWERS SOCIETY INC.

Committee Meeting - April 2020

Minutes

A meeting of the Committee of the Canberra Organic Growers Society Inc. was held on Tuesday, 7 and 14 April, 2019, commencing at 7.00 pm. The usual meeting format was suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic and members of the Committee met via the video-conferencing platform, Zoom.

Attendance

Michele Barson, Shirley Bolton, Minh Chu, Fiona Hemmings, Andy Hrast, Patricia Georgee, Julie Gorrell, Jo McMillan, Teresa Rose, Rebecca Travers, Peter Weddell, Terry Williams.

Apologies

2. Minutes of meeting 9 March 2020.

The minutes were confirmed.

Accepted Moved Peter Weddell Seconded Fiona Hemmings

3. Standing Reports

3.1 President's Report

- Peter Weddell thanked convenors and all members of the Gardens for responding co-operatively to the consequences of the health crisis, including the postponement of the AGM.
- The Gardens remain open and it was noted that COGS had cooperated with the ACT City Farm in approaches to ACT Health in establishing protocols for the Gardens' continued operation and he was thankful for their support.
- The Dispute Resolution Process document has been circulated to members of the Committee for their review and comment. The document has been developed in response to the requirements imposed by the revised ACT Associations Act. Once finalised, it will be available on the COGS website and will be included in the Convenor's Kit.
- Congratulations to the Charnwood Garden for their successful Open Garden, noting that several ACT politicians were also in attendance.
- COGS has been in discussions with the Oaks Estate Residents Association. The Association supports the COGS Garden and we will highlight this supportive relationship in our discussions with the government on the licence renewal.
- Cathy Morrison continues to work on the website. Patricia would pass on her observations about COGS Facebook user's interests, notably practical tips on growing.
- Susan Parsons from *The Canberra Times* wants to do an interview with Peter to highlight the COGS gardens.
- Ainslie Urban Farm has contacted COGS to advise they have vegetable seedlings for sale.

Accepted Michele Barson, Seconded Andy Hrast

3.2 Treasurer's Report

The committee noted the report of 31 March 2020 and noted the summer water costs.

Accepted Moved Andy Hrast Seconded Terry Williams

3.3 Membership Secretary's Report

There were 6 new members.

Accepted Moved Peter Weddell Seconded Jo McMillan

3.4 Information Officer Report

There are now 3,171 visitors to the COGS Facebook page.

3.5 Garden Coordinator Report

3.6 Magazine Editor's Report

4. Official correspondence

Letter from COGS in response to Yarralumla Community Garden Working Committee on the establishment of community garden at Yarralumla.

Letter from COGS to Oaks Estate thanking them for their support.

5. Project Reports

Noted.

6. Action Items

Noted and list updated.

7. Dispute Resolution Procedure

As noted in President's report, a draft has been circulated for comment. The May meeting will be the deadline for comments and a revised draft will be circulated with the meeting papers.

8 & 9. Current situation regarding COVID-19 emergency

As noted in the President's report, the majority of the COGS Gardens remain open and feedback indicates that members are adhering to guidelines. Members of the O'Connor Garden questioned some of our guidelines but this has been resolved. Erindale garden is closed but this is not a position of COGS or the ACT Government.

10. Possible closure of gardens - financial ramifications

This item was not discussed and it was agreed to delay any further discussion until the position is clearer as it relates to the health emergency. It was noted that the Treasurer has undertaken some analysis of the implications of this action where it to happen.

11. Planning for the immediate future

Our next meeting in May will probably be in the same format, i.e. by video-conferencing.

The Magazine will be produced according to the current schedule.

The ACT Government has acknowledged and approved the move of the AGM. The possible date of 28 June has been suggested but this is subject to approval.

The response from the ACT Government on licence renewal has requested additional information on the Oaks Estate boundary. A new licence will be required for Erindale and Crace. A fee of \$1,600 will be required for the renewal but for the moment, matters are on track but noting that all departmental staff are working from home.

12. Other business

12.1 Advertising in COGS magazine

As Rebecca was not able to speak to this item, it will be held over for further discussion. It was noted that income currently received from advertising is \$100 and it is difficult to chase advertisers.

12.2 Kaleen garden brochure

Joanne advised that their garden wants to produce a brochure promoting the garden.

Agreed that a draft would be sent to Jo McMillan.

12.3 Garden hoses

Andy asked if it was possible for COGS to establish a benchmark for the type of hoses used in COGS Gardens. It was noted that there appeared to be a wide variety of hoses in use and that safety was often an issue with hoses overhanging gardens. There was no consensus on this matter.

12.4 Erection of new Garden signs

Shirley sought clarification on the budget available for the erection of the new signage, noting that Charnwood had spent \$86 but that this also involved work undertaken on a voluntary basis. Jo agreed to circulate photograph of the Charnwood installation.

Agreed that individual gardens should cost the work and seek advice from Jo.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm