

CANBERRA ORGANIC GROWERS SOCIETY INC.

Committee Meeting - February 2020

Minutes

A meeting of the Committee of the Canberra Organic Growers Society Inc. was held on Tuesday, February, 2019, commencing at 7.30 pm in the Seminar Room, Block E, Gorman House Braddon.

Attendance

Michele Barson, Shirley Bolton, Minh Chu, Julie Gorrell, Bev McConnell, Narelle McLean, Jo McMillan, Rebecca Travers, Peter Weddell

Apologies

Andy Hrast, Terry Williams, Joanne Widdup

1. Welcome

The President welcomed two members of the Oaks Estate Garden, Karen James and Ewan Maidment. Both were present to discuss a budget request and the renewal of COGS garden license with the ACT Government.

2. Minutes of meeting, 7 October, 2019

These minutes had been confirmed by those present via email in December 2019.

3. Standing Reports

3.1 President's Report

Peter Weddell provided a report on the following matters.

- Congratulations to Garden Convenors for maintaining gardens during summer's difficult conditions;
- The Wybalena Grove members meeting was not as well attended as would hope but it was a very pleasant afternoon and all those there enjoyed the amenity of the garden and the pizzas;
- The Christmas Party and members meeting was reasonably well attended and those there appreciated the talk from Canberra Seed Savers and there have been a number of our gardens that continue to engage with this very worthwhile activity;
- The Autumn edition of the magazine will be published shortly and it looks wonderful. Congratulations to the editor and all those who have contributed;
- Oaks Estate Garden held an open day and this is a great initiative to demonstrate the value of that garden to its local area;
- The COGS website will be undergoing a renewal over the coming months with the intention to enhance its functionality and to undertake urgent and necessary maintenance. We are grateful to Cathy Morison for undertaking this work and for guiding us through this process.
- Water conservation is and will become a significant issue for the Society. All members need to ensure that they are practicing the Society's rules.

3.2 Treasurer's Report

The committee noted the report of 31 January 2020.

Accepted Moved Peter Weddell Seconded Michele Barson

The committee also noted the audited annual statement of income and expenditure. It was noted that the Society operated with a loss in the 2019 financial year but that the Society still had an operating surplus.

Accepted Moved Peter Weddell Seconded Michele Barson

3.3 Membership Secretary's report

Bev reported that there are 13 new members, with total membership of 454. 17 new member applications have been received since December 2019.

Accepted Moved Peter Weddell Seconded Jo McMillan

3.4 Magazine Editor's Report

Rebecca advised that the Autumn edition of the newsletter is ready to be published. She received more articles than could be published but will hold these over for the Winter edition. Rebecca also raised the issue of advertising in the magazine. Did the Society want to pursue this as a means of raising income? Agreed that matter would be discussed at March meeting.

3.5 Garden Coordinator's Report

Jo advised that -

- The graphics for the garden signs has been completed.
- A draft of the updated Convenor's Kit has been circulated to Garden Convenors for comment. It is hoped that this version will be finalised after the annual general meeting in March.

4. Official correspondence

Invitation from National Parks Association of the ACT to attend 60th birthday celebrations to be held on 2 March 2020.

5. Project Reports

Note update.

6. Action Items

Note update.

7. Holder Garden HRC report.

An update was provided by the Secretary. COGS is currently awaiting a response from the HRC on the progress of this matter as no further communication had been received since December 2019.

8. Preparation for AGM

It is hoped that at the next meeting of the Committee, all agenda items will be finalised for the upcoming AGM. This should provide the necessary timeframe to advise members if there is to be a special resolution to amend/alter the constitution.

9. Renewal of COGS Garden Licenses.

Peter advised that a preliminary meeting has been held with the ACT Government in relation to renewal of COGS Garden License and that he had requested a further meeting in March.

Members of Oaks Estate Garden were keen to progress this matter and agreed that they would provide Peter with a briefing paper on the current and future issues relative to their garden. It was agreed that it might assist these negotiations if the Oaks Estate Garden was promoted more widely to their community and the Magazine Editor offered to provide assistance to progress this.

10. Other business

Oaks Estate funding request. \$390 has been requested to replace screening attached to the exterior fence that has been stolen.

Approved Moved Peter Weddell Seconded Nacelle McLean

Charnwood funding request. \$700 has been requested to finish irrigation works in the Charnwood Garden. It was noted that the plot holders at Charnwood had undertaken the majority of the work associated with installation of irrigation but that an amount was requested to engage a professional to instal the necessary connections.

Approved Moved Peter Weddell Seconded Rebecca Traverse

Member's meetings. Peter requested that Committee members consider topics for future member's meetings. Those scheduled for May, June and October are yet to be finalised. The March meeting would be held at the Charnwood Garden to coincide with their open day. Other suggestions included inviting a grower who specialises in garlic and the Hackett Compost Collective.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm