

# CANBERRA ORGANIC GROWERS SOCIETY INC.

Committee Meeting - 14 July 2020

## Minutes

A meeting of the Committee of the Canberra Organic Growers Society Inc. was held on Tuesday, 14 July, 2020, 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, Julie Gorrell, Neville Jackson, Bev McConnell, Jo McMillan, Cathy Morrison, Teresa Rose, Rebecca Travers, Peter Weddell, Terry Williams, Joanne Widdup

1. **Apologies.** Narelle McLean

2. **Minutes of meeting 9 June 2020.**

The minutes were amended to include Joanne Widdup as attending. The minutes were confirmed.  
Accepted      Moved Peter Weddell      Seconded Andy Hrast

3. **Standing Reports**

#### 3.1 President's Report

- Health Emergency - COGS Garden Convenors have managed the protocols well. Messaging about current guidelines should be reinforced to all gardeners when opportunity arises. Despite this, COGS has received media exposure with Minh, Jo and Peter being interviewed.
- Three grant applications were submitted by COGS to the ACT Government's Community Garden Grants Program.
- A draft of the Licence Agreement is being prepared for our consideration. This process has been slowed by the health emergency. The Agreement will not apply to some of the gardens under the COGS umbrella, such as O'Connor. The Authority has information on the Charnwood garden boundary and will include this in the Agreement. It is also likely that there will be restrictions on parking, keeping of livestock and lighting of fires.
- The Treasurer will be sending out invoices for annual fees shortly.
- 2020 AGM. It is proposed to hold the AGM on 23 August at the Kambah Garden. This assumes that there will be no restrictions imposed as a consequence of the health emergency. It is intended that nomination forms and the agenda will be available from the COGS website. The meeting will be limited to 1 hour. Peter will liaise with Shirley to organise the meeting.
- Garden AGMs. The same process COGS adopted in 2019 will be used for 2020. I would be grateful if all Garden Convenors could advise Jo of the dates of these meetings.

Accepted      Moved Julie Gorrell      Seconded Andy Hrast

#### 3.2 Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer provided the monthly financial statements and reconciliation. He also confirmed that invoices to members will be issued week beginning 20 July 2020.

Accepted      Moved Peter Weddell      Seconded Joanne Widdup

### **3.3 Membership Secretary's Report**

. The Secretary's report was noted and also that total membership dropped by 10, however, this is usual for this time of the year.

Accepted      Moved Bev McConnel      Seconded Peter Weddell

### **3.4 Garden Coordinator Report**

- The ACT Government grants program generated a lot of interest. Four applications were prepared but only 3 were submitted. They were Charnwood (for a shelter); Cook (upgrade of irrigation); Oaks Estate (plants for boundary).

Accepted      Moved Michele Barson      Seconded Peter Weddell

### **3.6 Magazine Editor's Report**

- Report was noted and there was discussion on advertising. It was agreed that the Editor should follow through on any possible leads. Currently, income was minimal but that COGS would also welcome any additional funds generated from this activity.
- The Committee agreed that Canberra Seed Savers should be encouraged to provide content for a regular column.

Accepted      Moved Terry Williams      Seconded Peter Weddell

### **3.7 Web Manager's Report**

Cathy advised that she is in the process of upgrading the site and has a pilot site almost prepared. She is in the process of consolidating content. She has advised that COGS will require new software to enable development of a member's registration page. Cathy has a timeline for the work to be completed by beginning of August.

Agreed that there would be a small working party formed to guide the development work. Michele, Rebecca and Julie would work with Cathy.

Accepted      Moved Julie Gorrell      Seconded Peter Weddell

## **4. Official correspondence**

None received.

## **5. Project Reports**

Noted and updated. There are no current projects.

## **6. Action Items**

Noted and list updated.

## **7. Other business**

**7.1** ACT HRC. The President advised that he and the Secretary undertook a conciliation meeting and we were now awaiting a determination by the HRC. As the matter is confidential, no detailed information could be provided to the Committee.

**7.2** ACT Community Garden Grants Program - see advice provided above.

**7.3** Charnwood Garden request for funding - security cage. The Garden Convenor, Teresa Rose, spoke to the papers, outlining the request for funding to enhance/replace the Garden's existing storage facility. The Garden is concerned that there may be future attempts to steal equipment and want adequate security arrangements to prevent this. The Committee considered the amount

requested was not justified given the value of the materials. However, other suggestions were offered based on practices at other gardens and the Committee would welcome a reconsidered proposal from the garden.

7.4 Website renewal. See 3.7. In addition, Michele has offered to draft a guide to assist individuals and groups interested in developing a new garden. There are a number of existing sites that provide this information and COGS website could provide links to these, including the ACT Government's guidelines at [https://www.planning.act.gov.au/planning-our-city/planning-studies/community\\_gardens\\_in\\_the\\_act/guide\\_to\\_community\\_gardens\\_in\\_the\\_act](https://www.planning.act.gov.au/planning-our-city/planning-studies/community_gardens_in_the_act/guide_to_community_gardens_in_the_act) There was further discussion on the potential to develop additional gardens throughout Canberra, especially given the renewed interest for gardening during the health emergency. However, the Committee was generally of the view that it may be more effective to increase the size of some existing gardens, such as Cook, where land was available. Further, additional gardens would increase the pressure on the human resources of COGS.

7.5 2020 AGM planning. See 3.1 above.

7.6 Erindale Garden Rules. The Garden Convenor, Neville Jackson, spoke to the paper provided to the Committee. He noted that these rules were based on those prepared for Kambah. The Rules were ratified by the Committee.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm