

CANBERRA ORGANIC GROWERS SOCIETY INC.

Committee Meeting - May 2020

Minutes

A meeting of the Committee of the Canberra Organic Growers Society Inc. was held on Tuesday, May 12, 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

Bev McConnell

2. Minutes of meeting 7 & 14 April 2020.

The minutes were confirmed.

Accepted Moved Terry Williams Seconded Jo McMillan

3. Standing Reports

3.1 President's Report

- The Dispute Resolution Process document has been circulated to members of the Committee and other interested COGS members for their review and comment. Review period will be extended until June meeting.
- Jo McMillan has distributed information on the ACT Government Community Garden Grants scheme to garden convenors. Agreed that a COGS sub-committee comprised of Michele Barson, Andy Hrast, and Jo McMillan will review applications and make recommendations to COGS Committee.

Accepted Michele Barson Seconded Andy Hrast

3.2 Treasurer's Report

- The committee noted the report of 30 April 2020 and the major expenditure item being water. This line item is up on 2019. Given the impact of the increasing water usage, it is likely that a very modest fee increase of 50 cents will be required in 2020. The Treasurer is also projecting that other gardens such as BC and Crace will be required to pay water charges which will also impact 2020 expenditure.
- The Treasurer also reminded garden convenors that he will shortly circulate details of their current garden members in order for invoices to be prepared and sent for 2020 fees. These details should be checked and lists returned as soon as possible.

Accepted Moved Peter Weddell Seconded Terry Williams

3.3 Membership Secretary's Report

There were 18 new members, with a total of 454.

Accepted Moved Peter Weddell Seconded Jo McMillan

3.4 Information Officer Report

- Currently on Facebook, we have 3026 likes and 3263 followers.

- Thankyou to members who post to the Facebook site. There is good traffic on the site and the moderator noted some dissenting comments.

Accepted Moved Peter Weddell Seconded Michele Barson

3.5 Garden Coordinator Report

- Jo continued to liaise with the Yarralumla Community Garden Working Committee. Much work on their behalf still needs to be undertaken including a resident's consultation process and agreement on the release of the land for the proposed site. The Committee also wishes to submit an application to the Garden Grants Scheme to support the garden's establishment.
- Jo was to meet with the ACT Government on the proposed Moncrief garden. For the present, they are seeking COGS advice.

Accepted Moved Michele Barson Seconded Peter Weddell

3.6 Magazine Editor's Report

- The proof for the next edition has been sent to the printer. Rebecca sought advice on what to do with spare hard copies and Terry proposed way of distribution.
- A hard copy would be sent to Garden Convenors.
- Members can always access a copy through the COGS website.
- The President congratulated Rebecca on the splendid winter edition.

Accepted Moved Terry Williams Seconded Peter Weddell

4. Official correspondence

Request to Secretary and President from member of O'Connor garden seeking permission to use chickens for purposes of dealing with pests in garden.

This request was considered by the Committee and it was agreed that current policy position of the Society would be conveyed to member. That is, 'Garden members are not permitted to keep live-stock in a COGS garden' - see <https://www.cogs.asn.au/gardens/garden-rules/>

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 June meeting will be the deadline for comments and a revised draft will be circulated with the meeting papers.

8. Other business

- Joanne requested advice on Lawson garden. Advised that COGS was consulted some years ago but there was no further action. She was advised to direct request to suburb developer.
- Request from Charnwood garden for financing a security cage. Convenor was asked to submit a request to the Committee for consideration.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm