

Maribyrnong Edible Garden (MEG)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Sat. 28 October 2017 9.30am

At MEG, Hortense Street, Maribyrnong

Meeting opened: 9.35am

1. Attendance

Present: Dante Letteri, Peter Sibly (Secretary/minute taker), Lurline Lett, Jen Sloane (President/chair), Sara Coward (Treasurer), Chris Northey, Lauren Kenny, Vicky Smith, Elizabeth Drozd, Geoff Lethbridge, Joe Ballarin, Nazli Eryldrim, Tom Lucia, Damian Lucia, Jess Jacoben and Cameron.

Apologies: John Upsher, Julie McQueen, Michael Collin, Bert Jessup, Emma Jeffs, Dan Wellham, Lyn Halliday, Trish Weerdenburg-Sibly and Sharron Scott.

2. Introduction and Welcome – Jen Sloane

Jen welcomed those present and acknowledgement the Traditional Owners of the Land on which MEG is located and where we hold our meetings.

Jen also acknowledged Julie McQueen and John Upsher for the past work they had undertaken for MEG.

3. Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

3.1 Acceptance of Previous Minutes of the Previous AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the previous AGM held 5 November 2016 be accepted.

Moved: Sara Coward

Second: Geoff Lethbridge

Carried.

3.2 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Discussion of \$100 fee in lieu of attendance at working bees.

Action: Deferred to Committee for follow up.

4. Presentation of Annual Reports

4.1 President's Report – Jen Sloane (President)

Jen reported on a busy year including:

- Improved communications with members
- Good steady attendance at Working Bees with an average attendance of 12 – 14 with a maximum of 30 at the February Bee.
- Establishment of Works Sub Committee.
- Some big improvements around the place in terms of general organisation.
- Improved signage and security
- Mulching of orchard area
- Face book
- Membership Report (see attached).

Discussion of Web site and Facebook Page

Action: Chris volunteered to review and manage website.

Follow up at COM.

3.2 Financial Report 2016/2017 – Sara Howard (Treasurer)

Annual Financial Report tabled.

Sara presented the financial report for the 2016/2017 financial year and reported on MEG's solid financial position as of 30 June 2017.

Total Cash	\$12,696.00
Income 2016/2017	\$3,285.00
Payments 2016/2017	\$2,347.84
Total assets	\$2,746.50

Sara explained the reimbursement process and informed members they were able to check any finance records upon request.

Unpaid Membership Fees as of today – 2 members

Peter reminded members that at this time Maribyrnong CC did not charge MEG for water usage however according to the lease they are able to do so in the future should they choose.

Action: Committee to follow up and investigate better utilisation of tank water.

Motion: That the financial report for 2016/2017 be accepted.

Moved: Sara Coward

Second: Lurline Lett

Carried.

5. Confirmation of Updated Rules – Peter Sibly (Secretary)

Peter presented updated draft rules for consideration by the membership, the first draft of which had been presented to the Committee.

Amendment to Rules 2.2 to limit the number of members from outside the municipality to 10.

Amendment to Rule 3.2 - to include: "... that where demand for plots from new members grows it may result in those with a second plot being required to vacate the plot at the end of the growing season negotiated with the plot tenant"

Amendment to Rule 6 – Use of Insecticides and Pesticides

A number of members expressed their concern about the use of round up (glyphosate) in and around gardens due to its harmful affects and suggested that this be banned from use at MEG and use alternative herbicides such as Slasher or Pine Oil or even whipper snipping between plots. Agreed this requires broader consultation.

Action: Committee to re-view the use of glyphosate

Amendment to Rule 8 - Visitors

That in situations where unaccompanied visitors visit MEG to water members gardens the member should email megcommittee@gmail.com prior to the visit.

A further suggestion was that we utilise "please water" signs on plots where members require assistance.

6. Confirmation of Membership and Plot Fees – Sara Howard (Treasurer)

Clarification of membership fees.

Proposed that membership fees are attached to plots and that only one \$20 membership fee is payable for shared plots.

Clarification required for members who have two plots

Action: Committee to clarify

7. Election of Management Committee 2017/2018 - Peter Sibly (Public Officer)

7.1 All positions declared vacant

7.2 Call for Nominations for Six Committee Positions.

Nominations received:

John Upsher (absent)

Sharron Scott (absent)

Geoff Lethbridge

Vicky Smith

Sara Coward

Jen Sloane

Peter Sibly

Peter withdrew his nomination and be on the Works Sub Committee.

It was felt that the President should speak to John prior to finalising the Committee.

7.3 Confirmation of Nominations for Management Committee 2017/2018

John Upsher

Sharron Scott

Geoff Lethbridge

Vicky Smith

Sara Coward

Jen Sloane

Lauren Kenny

Members thanked Lurline for 3 years of service on the Committee.

Other matters deferred to Committee meeting.

8. Close Annual General Meeting 10.35am.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 1/10/17

TOTAL PAID UP MEMBERS: 38
TOTAL UNPAID MEMBERS: 5
TOTAL PLOTS: 60
TOTAL OCCUPIED PLOTS: 42 plus 7 Communal Plots
COMMUNAL PLOTS 5 permanent near Pizza Oven and 2 temporary 47 and 49
TOTAL VACANT PLOTS: 11
VACANT PLOT NUMBERS: Plots No. 4, 18, 22, 25, 30, 32, 35, 36, 37, 42 and 50.
PLOTS UNDER REPAIR: Plot 10.
MEMBERS WITH TWO PLOTS: 3

Peter Sibly
Secretary