

REVIEW OF PLAN of MANAGEMENT

1 Ambiguity Between PoM & Constitution

(a) Clause 2.5.1

At first glance, Clause 2.5.1 of the PoM is at odds with the constitution. This is because the PoM specifies a committee comprising the four Executive positions plus **up to 5** elected Committee members. What the PoM does not explain is that, under the Constitution, the **up to** provisions only click into place when the 4 executive positions are filled by only 2 people.

It is a simple oversight but one which has caused friction within the Community Garden in the past. It is suggested that Clause 2.5.1 of the PoM be amended as follows to remove the apparent ambiguity between the two documents:

“2.5.1 Management Committee

The operations & activities of the MCG are managed by the Management Committee which is elected annually by the membership. In accordance with the Constitution, the Management Committee shall contain a maximum of 7 members & comprising:

- President;
- Vice President;
- Secretary;
- Treasurer; and
- Elected committee members

In accordance with the Constitution, a committee member may hold any two positions on the Executive except the positions of President & Vice President. Other MCG Members may be appointed in accordance with the Constitution to assist the Committee as required.”

(b) Clause 3.3

Clause 3.3 specifies that the AGM will be held “ in September each year in accordance with the Constitution”. In fact, the Constitution specifies a 6 month window of opportunity for the AGM extending from July to December each year.

As with last year, it is not always possible to schedule the AGM to be held in September & the PoM should therefore be amended to accurately reflect the requirements of the Constitution. The following wording of Clause 3.3 is suggested:

“3.3 Membership

An Annual General Meeting will be held each year in accordance with the Constitution, preferably in September.

A General Meeting for members will be held prior to the AGM each year to enable the Management Committee to report to members & to seek members' agreement to the Work Plan & Budget for the coming Financial Year (see 7 below) & to any amendments to this Plan of Management.

Under the Constitution other Special General Meetings may be called either by the Management Committee or by the Membership.”

Any amendment to Clause 3.3 will require a complementary amendment to the last paragraph of Clause 7. The following wording is suggested for that paragraph:

“ The Budget & Work Plan for the coming financial year will be presented at the General Meeting of members held prior to the AGM (see 3.3 above).....”

2. One Plot per Person Discretionary

This proposed amendment is best achieved by giving discretion to the Committee under the 10th dot point of clause 6. The suggested wording is:

- Except as approved by the Committee, only one plot per person or two plots per household is permissible.

3. Changes Relating to the Communal Area

There are divergent &, in some instances, strongly held views within the membership as to how the communal area should be run & any discussion on the matter at a General Meeting is therefore likely to be fraught.

I have therefore elected not to propose any specific amendments to the PoM in order to accommodate the communal area. Rather, I have listed the issues in dot point form that I believe the Committee needs to consider. I have included my own thoughts in brackets after each dot point but those thoughts are not intended to be a recommendation.

The list is not intended to be exhaustive & all committee members should add to it as they see fit. The actual wording of any resultant amendments should be decided by the full committee.

List of Suggestions for New Clause relating to Communal Area

- Attach a plan of communal area (yes)
- Show rough location of gates, access track, beds, fruit trees etc on plan (yes)
- Specify other important preparatory works to be carried out as determined by the Garden Manager (?)
- Specify the expectation that all members will participate in working bees arranged for the communal area (yes)
- Specify that the cost of netting etc required for communal produce (fruit trees etc) is the responsibility of MCG (yes)
- Allocate specific beds to specific groups of members who wish to work together growing produce nominated by them (?)

- Specify that any such allocation of communal beds to specific groups be agreed to by the committee (?) or by the Garden Manager (?) on a first come first served basis (yes)
- Specify rules regarding care & maintenance of allocated beds & the removal of rubbish (yes)
- Specify rules for forfeiture of allocated beds if bed or produce is being neglected (yes)
- Specify that Management Committee can authorise removal of produce which is flyblown or rotten (yes)
- Specify that Garden Manager will determine when communal produce is ready for harvesting (yes)
- Specify rules for distribution of produce from allocated beds (Luci had previously proposed that the specific group responsible for an allocated bed be entitled to take a specified % of produce from that bed for free with the remainder being disposed of on the same basis as all other excess produce from the communal area. I personally think there is merit in that proposal)
- Specify rules for communal care & maintenance of communal produce such as fruit trees, fruit vines, exotic plantings, eggs etc (yes)
- Specify rules for distribution/disposal of communal produce including excess produce (yes)