

Murramarang Community Garden

MINUTES

MCG COMMITTEE

Friday 15 February – 4PM at the garden

Chair: Marg Hamon

1. Present: Harley Delves, Cathy Delves, Neil Brown, Judith Carroll, Sybille Davidson, Don Davidson, Barbara White, Ewen Sussman, Jocelyn Sussman (left the meeting after tending her resignation).

2. Apologies: Barbara White

3. Business arising from Minutes of previous meeting:

It was agreed that several matters arising from the Minutes would be dealt with in general business.

There being no other business arising, it was moved that the Minutes be accepted:

Moved: Judith

Seconded: Sybille

All in Favour: carried

4. General Business

1. Harley reminded the committee that the next Murramarang Market would occur in about nine weeks. Discussion ensued about planting crops that will grow within this time frame: lettuce, tomato, beans all take about 8 weeks to bear crops and will be planted in the communal area within the next week.

3. Harley advised that the first planting of early garlic will occur in early March – he has placed a sign on the bed adjacent to our tea shed where this crop will be planted – HANDS OFF!

4. Sybille has planted more silver beet and beetroot, plus radish in the long bed adjacent to the small gate. The weather has been difficult for newly planted seedlings.

5. Jocelyn has herb seeds available for planting. It was decided that the two vacant plots adjacent to the compost bins be used for herbs (formally belonging to the Pengeley's).

6. Jocelyn announced that this would be her last meeting of the MCG Management Committee. She has resigned her position as Co-Garden Manager and will not renew her MCG membership. She cited overwhelming pressure in other areas, such as maintaining her own large garden. Jocelyn then left the meeting.

7. Richard reported that we currently have \$7,848.07 in our bank account. As of 15 February 38 members have paid their fees, with a few more expected before the final

cut-off date of 28 February.

8. Discussion ensued about our spending priorities, as follows:

Soil: A truck and dog load of soil from SoilCo costs \$1,600. There is still a little soil left to top-up plots and Don suggested we undertake an audit of how many beds need soil, then make an order. We will contact SoilCo about the feasibility of ordering a truckload only, rather than a truck and dog.

Sleepers: Don proposed that we order 12 sleepers for the blueberry orchard and a few communal plots that require edging.

Don proposed a motion that we purchase 12 sleepers

Seconded by Cathy

All in favour: carried

Toilet: The committee has discussed the matter of the deterioration of the toilet on several occasions. The ramp and the structure of the toilet “tepee” are disintegrating and therefore deemed to be unsafe – they will have to be replaced. Both Don and Harley have undertaken costing of the materials required. Harley’s estimate of the cost of floorboards, stainless steel screws, joists and decking oil would be approximately \$1,714.60. Don’s withdrew his earlier suggestion that we use a composite material for the ramp because of the cost and recommended we support Harley’s suggestion that we use hardwood.

Don proposed that the structure of the toilet shed consist of a simple timber frame, clad in Colorbond corrugated iron, with a skillion roof with guttering feeding water into a small water tank, fitted with a tap for hand washing.

Don also noted that “timing is everything” in dismantling and rebuilding the toilet and ramp structure. He advised that nothing should be removed until we are ready to build i.e. all the materials are on site. There are still many details to work out, he said.

Don and Harley will coordinate the control of expenditure in consultation with Richard.

Neil moved: that we adopt the joint proposals put forward by Harley and Don for the replacement of the decking, handrail and toilet “shed”.

Seconded: Ewen.

All in favour: carried

9. Discussion about the existing “tepee” structure – Don proposed that the structure be relocated somewhere else on the site, perhaps to function as a trellis for climbing plants or as a sculptural decoration.

Moved: Don

Seconded: Cathy

All in favour: carried

10. Don proposed purchasing materials to build a brick and concrete pit around the tap in the communal area. It is currently overgrown with weeds and is a “snake hazard”.

Moved: Don

Seconded: Cathy

All in favour: carried

11. Ewen raised the matter of the compost “not working as it should”. Our “composted-in-chief”, Barbara, has been away from the garden for over a month, hence the current situation. Sybille suggested that there is plenty of dried grass around to provide carbon and that the mower should be used more frequently to cut up material *before* it is placed in the bins.

The compost situation will be monitored.

12. Date of next meeting: it was agreed that Friday afternoon at 4PM suited everyone. The date of the next meeting will be advised.

Meeting closed at 5.20 PM.