



Murramarang Community Garden
Growing Food Together

Special/Extraordinary Meeting

12 October 2013 @ 10.30am

Meeting opened at 10.35

Chairman: Outlays Terry Snow's proposal and states there has been some concerns voiced by members then opens the meeting to general comments

General Comments/discussion by Members

Leon: would like to state that this meeting is not constitutional and indicates more serious matters such as a vote of no confidence in the committee which has previously met twice and made the decision unanimously. Also the constitution does not allow for proxy voting and the appropriate notice of a special meeting was not given, I propose vote of confidence in the committee or not and therefore either the current decision stands or the members vote in another committee.

Kirrilee: reads Steve's e-mail to the members of the MCG members, main paragraph below:

"My position on Terry's proposal is purely that the MCG members should give Terry and the proposal a fair and unbiased hearing and decide if they want to commit the time required for potting on etc of the trees in order to gain the asset of the greenhouse, which would enable propagation and raising of seedlings etc earlier on in the season. I think it would be a good opportunity for Terry to be able to become involved with the local community. The ANU does not seek to derive any benefit from the proposal and if it were to go ahead it would be managed by the MCG Committee as per its original arrangement with ANU."

Robyn: One matter is the number of days notice, but this meeting is not a vote of no confidence, but it's about making decisions.....

Issues – communication, left in the dark, only in the last week minutes been available, will always be hiccups, terry's proposal – more detail as not definite. Trees will take 6 – 10 months, shoulder height, care taken to transplant tube-stock , Terry could supply 6-10 weeks worth \$10,500 of employment over that period. Is garden taking employment from the community, is the MCG setting a precedent for others to use garden, we already have system, embarking on fantastic adventure and has been challenging with crops and positioning, struggling to get people to working bee and wondering whether work proposed would detract from our main aim of growing food together. Whether the work should be given to Milton Rural Landcare. Thinks proposal should have been brought to the membership, would

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like to say that I would have expected general discussion, concerned the initial potting on work pays in full for the assets the garden gain..

Sybille: Milton rural Landcare is under pressure for space and does not have the capacity to take 400 tree pots, suggest if people vote they indicate the amount of hours available.

Official proposal to be circulated to the members

Jocelyn: Originally against proposal, now for the proposal, outline the benefits, especially the watering system, has operated small commercial nursery, propagating plants and had an auto system from tank, 4 min 2x a day to stay alive, took a year to plant out, I am prepared to do the transplanting and have a friend who will also help, don't believe you need to get to shoulder height, can be planted out earlier than that. Must be an automatic system, we should make sure we have enough water.

Harley: in favour, don't think 400 a great amount of trees, 20 people could pot 20 trees and there is the 400 trees, we need to make sure we don't fail from then on, I worry about a failure with the system of watering and they all die.

Kirrilee: Malcolm also offered his student help to pot out.

Doug: Not only students will learn but the members of the garden.

Sharon: the committee thought would be beneficial as the assets become the property of the garden, we can grow crops out of season. We could start with the weekend market and we could do this out of season as we have a lot that needs to be built, have an asset that can produce an income

Sandra offered to help pot and come during the week to check everything working, needs to be constructed properly for wind and weather.

Lets meet Terry, get proposal in writing

Kirrilee: offered to write to Terry, invite to address the group and put the proposal in writing, was reminded that at the committee meeting that task was appointed to Malcolm & Steve, to check with them that they are writing it.

Member: Suggest if the members are in favour write as per the constitution we have voted in favour and ask for proposal in writing,

John: Goes to more than just proposal, goes to whether the committee will function how it functions and whether there is confidence in the committee

Do we need this facility? Yes, ours did not stand up to the weather and it will be at least 12 months before it will be re-erected, potting shed is heading the same way. Do we have the sufficient people to do work?

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Is it a commercial proposition? We seem to be losing sight of the fact that we got the tick of approval for the proposal by Steve & ANU, Steve happy that it is not commercial, we are guests here of the ANU and if they are happy then we also should be.

Leon brought up constitution, confirmed by Kirrilee and she has proxy votes, Robyn's issues that the committee would have teething problems, we have started to put processes in place so as not to have the many hold ups which delayed previous committee meetings and decisions, if you have any issues, decision will be decided on the day of the committee meeting, if this happens will be able to make this work and move things forward, there is a lot to do, we are getting older and we want to hand the garden on to the next generation, want to start mentoring program, still don't have management plan for Easter fair and we need to get back on track and keep momentum, have a problem, have confidence in your committee to make the right decision, if not then vote for another committee.

Malcolm offered his students help to pot on the trees. Our not responded to Terry, very rude, we may be able to salvage this situation if Steve and Malcolm talk to Terry to progress this proposal if it is still on offer.

Crystal: proposal could be arranged – put in writing, Moira seconded this.

Sharon: confirmed on completion of this we do get these assets.

Committee struggled with this and have taken it personally, members must give us the opportunity to run efficiently otherwise there is no future for this garden and would go the way of other ventures of this sort.

Ewan: talk about committees being dysfunctional, would like to say the original steering committee have worked pretty well and we need to recognize this.

Sandra: thinks we need to decide. Spent a lot of time, decide to go ahead or not

All the concerns were brought up and discussed over the 2 meetings.

Jocelyn: would like to endorse the last committee and this one, like to back up Robyn that general members need to be included in discussion.

Sybille: appreciated Leon's initial comments anything decided today is unconstitutional

Leon: tried to speak again about the constitution & the meeting but was stopped by chair and told to keep quiet. If you don't want to keep quiet, leave the meeting, I am running the meeting.

Moira: I am confident that committee will follow up all the concerns.

This is a huge donation for a small payment of potting.

Thanks to Robyn for being devil advocate, helped me understand.



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Vote was taken by show of hands - majority agreed to the proposal (proxy votes were not counted or needed)

A lot of the problem has been because we did not have access to the website.

Leon: if we want government grants we should put forward to change the constitution of the garden and set up the mechanism for postal/proxy voting, we cannot be taken seriously and given money if we are not constitutional.

Robyn: I think the committee has done good work and the website only just functioning, propose to the committee that the members be informed and consulted via e-mail.

Correspondence

Kirrilee read a letter from the Garden Club regarding a fundraising event at the MCG and the members voted on whether to accept.

General consensus is that we accept the offer if they could provide the date and particulars, a letter to be sent to the Garden Club by the secretary.

Meeting concluded at 11.30am