

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

ANPS Canberra Region Inc.

5.00 pm, Tuesday, 9th October 2018 at ANBG

Attendees

Ben Walcott (Chair), John Carter, Garth Chamberlain (Minutes), Phillip Fradd, Greg Quinn, Naomi Boccola, Darren Boulton, Geoff Butler, Megan Dixon, Karen Brien, Gail Ritchie Knight.

Apologies

Lucinda Royston.

Welcome

The Chair welcomed those present.

Minutes of 10th September 2018 Meeting

Geoff Butler advised that Item 3 in *Other Business* should be amended to read as follows:

3. PLDB re Edible and Bee Friendly Advice

Council endorsed the approach that these two aspects would not be included in the Plant Label Data Base.

With this change included the acceptance of the draft minutes was:

Moved: Garth Chamberlain, 2nd Ben Walcott: Carried.

Matters Arising from Minutes

These matters are addressed under Agenda Items.

Correspondence In

1. Email from Rosemary Blemings proposing that we make substantial annual donations to CNM in future.
2. Email from Mary Slattery, Secretary ANPSA, providing the Agendas for November ANPSA meetings on 27th November.
3. Email from Rosemary Blemings about handouts for the coming plant sale.
4. Email Notice from ANPC re 2018 Conference 11-15th November "Moving House - A New Age For Plant Translocation and Restoration".
5. Email from Bill Willis re Conservation Council Spring Mingle on 26th October.
6. Email from Paula Banks re Bush Blitz Community Day on 2nd December.

Correspondence Out

Nil

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Ben Walcott, distributed a copy of the Treasurer's Report dated 10th October 2018 showing a current balance of just over \$128,000 which is similar to last month. He advised that the previous issues with PayPal had been sorted satisfactorily.

MOU with ANBG

Ben Walcott advised that he had met with Tiffeny Horwood and Phil Hurle of the ANBG.

The MOU has expired as it only ran for 3 years. They advised that they are revising the MOU but to date we have not received an update.

Ben advised that the MOU is with Parks Australia and the money we pay goes into a special account that ANBG can use. The MOU states that we can make a donation but does not specify the amount or the timing of the donation.

Ben advised that it may all be fluid until we get a new director of Parkes Australia which may take a while.

Debit Card from Bendigo Bank

Ben Walcott advised that he had ordered a debit card from Bendigo Bank to be used to pay Gmail etc. He advised that he will see if it is possible to put an amount limit on its daily usage for ethical purposes, however as accounts are all audited its usage will be revealed.

Payments to giraffe for web site

Ben advised that giraffe has been paid for the website development amounting to about \$15,000.

They are preparing quotes for ongoing training and development of an on-line membership system.

Treasurer's Report be accepted as circulated.

Moved John Carter; 2nd Phillip Fradd; Carried.

President's Report

No report by the President was provided as she is away on holidays.

Agenda items

1. Life Membership Badges and Certificates

John Carter advised that the badges were ready to be picked up.

Prior to the meeting he had circulated to Council two certificate options, one with the original logo and the other with the proposed new logo.

After considerable discussion on which logo should be used the approach to use the original logo was:

Moved; Geoff Butler, 2nd Gail Ritchie Knight; Carried.

Ben Walcott advised that he had requested the nominators to prepare a paragraph in support of their nomination.

Gail Ritchie Knight advised that it would be best to hold off until the first journal of next year to include material on the life membership awards.

2. Amendment to the Constitution.

John Carter noted that at the ANPS Canberra General Meeting held on 13th September the motion covering the proposed change to section 13.3 of the constitution was passed.

Ben Walcott advised that he will email to Council Members a revised version of the constitution incorporating this change.

3. Development of a Conflict of Interest Policy.

Geoff Butler had previously distributed a draft Conflict of Interest Policy to Council for comment.

It was agreed that this document should also be sent out to sub-groups for comment. Megan Dixon agreed to provide Geoff with the email addresses of the various sub-groups and Geoff Butler will then forward the document to these sub-groups.

4. Status with Website Development and Acceptance of New Logo

Megan Dixon advised that the note to members explaining the new website and the basis for the incorporation of the new logo was still in draft form. Ben Walcott proposed that it be sent out to Council for comment giving Council members a week to respond then it could be finalised and sent out to members.

Megan advised that all the required archival material should now have been dragged across to the new site and it was planned to make the current web site blind.

Ben Walcott advised that he would circulate to Council the quotes from giraffe for support and maintenance of the web site and for development of an ANPS Membership platform. He advised that when we go to the new membership management system people will have to go through this system to join. However we will still need to mail out to the people that do not get emails.

5. Proposal by Rosemary Blemings for ANPS Canberra to make annual donations to CNM in future.

Ben Walcott advised that we have donated this year to Canberra Nature Map (CNM) as well as given support to STEP and grants to Flora Foundation and Landkeepers Trust.

Greg Quinn expressed the view that as CNM was effectively a one person operation, there was the risk that it could fail. Geoff Butler expressed the view that it was likely that another person would take it over if the current operator withdrew. Ben Walcott noted that if it ceased to operate we would stop donating.

It was agreed that we would add CNM to our list of organisations to which we intend to provide ongoing support and that we would report to the AGM on the support that we have provided to these four organisations this year.

It was agreed that Ben Walcott would advise Rosemary Blemings of the \$10,000 donation that we have made to CNM this year and that Council has agreed to include them on our donation list.

6. Having adequate Council Members and Office Bearers next year.

Ben Walcott advised that the President, Vice President and Treasurer will not be nominating for their positions at the AGM. In addition, John Carter said that he would not continue as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer and Naomi Boccola, Darren Boulton, Megan Dixon and Phillip Fradd advised that they would not stand for Council again.

It was agreed that this was a significant issue and that members needed to realise the need for new members to fill these vacant positions.

It was agreed that Ben Walcott would prepare advice to go out to all members advising them of the coming vacancies on Council and the need for new members to step forward to nominate for Council positions. Ben will also raise this matter at the Thursday Members Meeting.

7. 2018 Spring Plant Sale and Handouts as suggested by Rosemary Blemings

Rosemary Blemings had requested that Council authorise the printing of the Where To Buy brochure and the sale plant list for handing out at the plant sale.

Council view was that we need to move away from paper documents and provide the information on the website which will be accessible on smart phones and tablets and whilst we could do paper copies this time we would not do so in future.

That we print 300 copies of the Where To Buy brochure as well as 250 copies of the plant sale plant list by categories for handing out at the sale.

Moved; Geoff Butler, 2nd Gail Ritchie Knight; Carried.

8. *Reprint of our book “Australian Plants for Canberra Region Gardens”.*

Greg Quinn advised that ANU was proceeding with the book reprint and it is expected that they will be completed this week.

Other Business

1. *ANPSA Teleconference on 27th November*

John Carter noted that at this teleconference meeting on 27th November there will be special resolutions put forward to change Rules and Byelaws and that Council needs to decide if we support these changes and formulate a response.

2. *Mature Native Trees Conservation Advice*

Geoff Butler advised that on 27th September 2018 the ACT approved the *Loss of Mature Native Trees (including Hollow Bearing Trees) and a Lack of Recruitment* as a Threatening Process in the ACT. The ANPS was a lead author with Friends of Grasslands of the original draft nomination. Other community group involved in the review of the draft and submission of the final nomination were ANPS, Friends of Grasslands, Canberra Ornithologists Group and Field Naturalists Association of Canberra. The nomination was sent to the ACT Flora & Fauna Committee from the Biodiversity Working Group of the Conservation Council ACT Region.

3. *ANPS Garden at the Aboretum*

Ben Walcott advised that there had been problems with the local architect producing incorrect drawings and in the field with location of a service trench.

However, plans are to have the garden completed by 25th November.

Closure

At 6.40 pm, the Chair closed the meeting.

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday, 6th November 2018 at 5.00 pm Dickson Room, ANBG.