



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY GARDENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD 12 MARCH 2014

NOTE: All minutes are subject to confirmation at a subsequent Council or Planning and Strategy Committee meeting.

PRESENT:

Councillors

Clr Cathy Griffin

Manly Council (Chair)

Other Representatives

Leah McKenzie

Community member

Myrian Pitre

Community member

Libby Bubb

Community member

Patricia Griffen

Community member

Keelah Lam

Community member

Council Staff

Ed McPeake

Manager, Environmental Programs

Angela Andrews

Climate Change & Sustainability Education Officer
(CCASEO)

Invited guests

Peter White

President, Baringa Bush Community Garden

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Garden Advisory Committee** met on Wednesday 12th March, 2014 to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 6.05pm

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mayor Jean Hay

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ACTION

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Nil to confirm.

MATTERS ARISING**Short St Plaza**

The Committee expressed extreme disappointment that no garden bed of any description had been installed and that the space looks barren.

The Committee seeks that Council consider the construction of a community herb/vegetable garden and the planting of fruit trees. A raised garden bed is preferred as it will be more easily accessible. Garden beds that are supported by lockable wheels are also preferred. The garden bed should also include some aesthetic public art/sculpture elements.

Perhaps abandoned dinghies on the foreshore could be used as garden beds. Provision would need to be made to ensure they are non-toxic and lined with water-proofing materials.

Martin Place in the CoS is a good example of a successful garden bed installation in a high thoroughfare public space.

It is also hoped that Council will pursue the concept of vertical gardens in this area.

2013 Manly Food Wine and Sustainability Fair garden beds used to create the Senior Citizens Centre herb and flower garden

Garden beds from the 2013 Manly Food Wine and Sustainability Fair were relocated to the Senior Citizens Centre.

Myriam Pitre was acknowledged for the time and effort she invested as a volunteer to help establish the garden.

Perhaps abandoned dinghies on the foreshore could be brought here and used as garden beds here as well. Again, provision would need to be made to ensure they are non-toxic and lined with water-proofing materials.

The Committee proposes that a volunteer based gardening group be established at the Senior Citizens Centre to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the garden beds and to expand them in the future.

This proposal should be raised with Eric Poulos and the volunteer coordinator to ensure it is co-ordinated and managed by the Human Services team.

The Senior Citizens Centre herb and flower bed could also be used as a site for a future DIG Manly event on home gardening and composting/worm-farming.

ACTION

Ed McPeake to approach Beth Lawson to discuss the possibilities of incorporating a community herb/vegetable garden at Short St Plaza

Ed McPeake to ask Eric Poulos if there is any interest in creating a community gardening group from amongst the clients at the Senior Citizens Centre

ITEM 4 **Verge gardens**

Council's Climate Change & Sustainability Educator Officer, Angela Andrews outlined that she has been informed by the Risk Manager that the current barrier to the implementation of a verge gardening policy is the public liability insurance risk to Council

The committee believes Council is being too conservative and cautious in assessing the risks associated with verge gardens.

Open information exchange with precinct representatives.

Council's Climate Change & Sustainability Educator Officer, Angela Andrews informed the committee that she and the Precinct Coordinator have already hosted two round-table discussions this year with representatives from local precincts.

Angela Andrews outlined that the purpose of these discussions was to promote an open dialogue and information exchange about:

- the policies council has already established which support community gardening
- the support council can provide groups of local residents interested in establishing a community garden
- the practical issues that groups must be cognisant of and must address when undertaking preliminary planning

The documents found here could be useful to groups of residents wishing to establish a community garden:

<http://www.communitycentressa.asn.au/sector-development/community-gardens/>

Representatives from Baringa Bush and Seaforth Public School Kitchen Garden were invited to the second meeting to share the experiences, challenges and successes they have encountered on their journeys thus far.

Other potential community garden sites & community engagement strategy

Council created a matrix table of potential community garden sites in 2013. If community groups are interested in other sites not already listed (such as Brimbecom Reserve or Hilltop Crescent), then information could be collected by interested local residents and council staff. The collated information could then be added to the information matrix by staff for future reference.

Precinct noticeboards could be used to gauge interest about who is interested in joining a gardening group.

Open working bees could be held and local residents could be invited.

ACTION

Angela Andrews to seek written advice from the Risk Manager re: verge gardens and PL insurance risks to council

Recommendation:**ACTION**

- i) that Community groups interested in establishing a community garden should refer to Manly Council's Community Garden policy for details about factors to consider when selecting sites. They are encouraged to seek assistance from the CCASEO; and
- ii) That Community groups can approach the Precincts Officer if they wish to place information on Precinct Noticeboards

ITEM 5 GENERAL BUSINESS**Recommendation**

Keelah Lam informed the committee that International Permaculture Day will be held on Sunday 4th May, 2014.

Permaculture Northern Beaches will be promoting a range of events and activities on the day.

Baringa Bush may possibly run an event on this date - TBC

ITEM 6 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: June 11, 2014

Time: 6pm

Venue: Council

Meeting closed at 7pm