

AGENDA

TWELVE FINE ORANGES KINGS CROSS COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8 December 2022 at Reginald Murphy Community Centre,
19 Greenknowe Avenue, Elizabeth Bay NSW 2011

The meeting is scheduled to commence at 6.30pm.

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 2021.
3. Committee Reports
 - 3.1 Chair's report
 - 3.2 Treasurer's report
4. Questions
5. Declaration of committee vacancies and election of new committee

"TWELVE FINE ORANGES"
KINGS CROSS COMMUNITY GARDEN

MINUTES
Annual General Meeting
Reginald Murphy Community Centre, Elizabeth Bay
15 December 2021

Attendees:

Helen Panckhurst, Paul McNeilly, Santana Eidel, Terry Chesher, Maree Sheehan, Alison Mackay, Basilios Papaioannou, Beverly Morris, Bri Lee, Cathy Ryan, Catherine Grey, Charles Haege, Edwina Morris, Fiona Thompson, Fionnuala Heidenreich, Hannah Sabri, Jessica Jones, Phil O'Brien and Grant Doyle.

Apologies:

Kylie-Ann Sotiriou, Liz Silverstone and Michelle Cannane.

The meeting was opened at 6.00pm.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM were circulated for information.

2. Committee reports

The following reports were provided at the meeting:

Chair's report

Helen reported that 2021 has been a year of highlights and challenges for our garden community. Covid continued to create havoc, and the disruption was compounded for many members when we lost access to the garden during the upgrade of the Lawrence Hargrave Reserve, particularly as it coincided with lockdown. It meant the benefits of communing with the plants and other garden members were lost for a time, and we all suffered.

The garden on the other hand kept growing beautifully and even the plants that Liz & Paul hurriedly transferred into a new bed at zero notice did well. The fine growth of the garden is a testament to the work we've done in nourishing the soil and encouraging beneficial insects. The plants are strong.

The enforced absence reinforced how important the garden is to our wellbeing, and I continually give thanks to the original founding members and their vision for a community garden that would, loosely summarised, allow us to:

- Grow food using organic gardening methods
- Create a place for people to come together

- Foster a communal garden rather than individual allotments
- Share knowledge and skills and seek out opportunities to learn

The ongoing challenge is to ensure that all members have a chance to contribute in the way they want to, whether it's through gardening, increasing knowledge, or interacting with community. As we know, it's important to take care of everyone in our community and it can be difficult to manage our expectations and support each other no matter what.

The expansion of the community garden space, with a number of new areas to be planted, means 2022 will be a very exciting year for the garden. The refurbished park has been embraced and the new street library we installed has also been enthusiastically received.

We're especially delighted by the garden design suggestions Ali, Bas, Kylie-Ann and Merran came up with, and the positive responses to the member surveys Kylie-Ann designed.

One of the things the committee has grappled with during 2021 is how best to manage oversight of the garden – planning, planting, harvesting. This is complicated by different ideas of what a garden should ideally be, and we've recently arrived at a model of special interest groups working collaboratively that we hope will mean a number of different approaches can be supported.

The Indigenous planting group is the first group to start up, and they'll be co-ordinating the development of the new Indigenous food bed at the southern end of the garden. Other special interest groups are planned, and we're hoping many members will find a group they feel inspired to be part of.

I'd like to thank my committee colleagues – Maree Sheehan, Paul McNeilly, Santana Eidel, Liz Silverstone, Kylie-Ann Sotiriou and Grant Doyle for everything they've done this year, and give a special thanks to Terry Chesher for her continuing support.

Treasurer's report

Paul reported that, at June 2021, the garden had received \$12,510 in revenue, which comprised \$4,510 in membership fees (paid by 120 members), \$500 in donations (made by Bev Morris - \$100 and Ray White - \$400) and \$7,500 in community grant funding (from the City of Sydney). Total expenditure for the year was \$3,715, which was spent on garden supplies and other essential items to support operations.

At the time of the AGM, the garden has a cash balance of \$13,574 and has 85 financial members.

3. Discussion

Helen invited members to raise any topics for discussion and the following items were briefly discussed:

- The formation of special interest groups and their involvement in the management of the garden

- Communication with members
- Decision-making processes regarding garden management
- Incorporation of native bees in the garden
- Access to the garden shed
- Induction of new members
- Annual planting calendar
- Monitoring garden activity
- Colour coding and naming of plants.

4. Declaration of committee vacancies and election of new members

Helen called on Terry Chesher to coordinate the process of electing new committee members.

Terry asked that current members stand down and then invited each of the nominees for the new committee to provide members with a short summary of their background and reasons for nominating. The following nominees were elected without the need for a vote:

Helen Panckhurst
Maree Sheehan
Kylie-Ann Sotoriou
Santana Eidel
Alison Mackay
Basilios Papaioannou
Fionnuala Heidenreich.

Terry acknowledged the outgoing committee members (Paul, Liz and Grant), who did not stand again for election.

5. Next Committee Meeting

The first meeting of the new committee is expected to be held in January 2022.

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm.