Canterbury Community Gardens Association

October 31st 2019

Venue: New Brighton Gardens 5.00pm

# Present: Catherine, Amanda, Zane, Annette, Cathy, Robyn, Di, Niki, Hayley, Rachel, Debbie

# Apologies: none received

# Minutes of last meeting: received at the meeting. Ratified by those present as true and accurate record of the September 26th meeting.

# Matters Arising: tabled for discussion, perceptions about ongoing collaboration with the Food Resilience Network. Included with these minutes is the correspondence between the sitting Chair of the FRN Board and the sitting Chair of the CCGA. (see below)

FRN/Edible Canterbury interchangeable identities.

School Huis no date as yet

# Agenda Items:

**Grow Otautahi Festival planning**

1. **Design Plan**: for the new members of the Committee, Hayley showed them the design drawing for the “#WeToo” PopUp garden in Cathedral Square. –A CCC competition to brighten Cathedral Square.
   1. **Cathy** has asked draughtsman Laurence to produce a scaled drawing of the sites hardware. 2.5m x 1.2m, 2 tiered (40cmH x 40cmW shelved ) quarter circular racking system for the plants to stand on. And follow on with a carpenter, Zane, Annette, Niki to continue on with Cathy?
   2. 2m pathways crossing in the middle of the stand for easy access for wheelchairs mobility scooters etc.
   3. 2m “Willow” woven person, in phlax woven clothing
   4. A mosaic bird bath?
   5. A green growing couch – grass/ edible herbs ie sorrel, dandelion?
   6. TV embedded into greenery?
   7. Covering for outside the stand< screen-printing mentioned?
   8. Table & Chairs for information stand outside the display stand
   9. Actual Site plan (not display site) to be sent by **Rachel** for the committee to see how to get the commodities on-site.
2. **Hardware:** for the stand includes the above mentioned plant stands
   1. Plywood which will bend into 45o  form a perfect quarter circle.
   2. More plywood to make the shelves
      1. MENZSHED was mentioned as a possible source of carpenters
      2. **Niki** was asked if he could inquire to the carpenters at UC.
   3. Willow/flax
   4. TV set(s) if following through
      1. Electricity supply for TV
      2. Hazard Safety plan for trip hazard, yellow stripy covers for cabling depending on how far the cable has to go hidden from sight and into the tiered stands?
   5. Storage for watering cans
   6. Extra plants (stored off site?) to replace fading and worn out ones
3. **Grow Plan** 
   1. **Rachel** has offered to make a growing plan for the stand.

Robyn was mentioned that plants which grow up, will grow down

This will cover a lot of free standing pots and help with the water as they will cover the plywood (if it is unpainted)

* + 1. Possible Number of Plants needed for a 2.5m X 1.2m tiered stand x4 = *(240ish)*
    2. Plus extra for replacements?
    3. Outside the stand – trees mentioned \_Bigger nicer pots?
  1. **Seeds** to distribute to other gardens who would like to grow for the Show
  2. **Pots 4.7Litre** for all the plants including extras. Distributed/or collection point for all the gardens who would like to grow for the show
  3. **Infill plants** in a smaller pot size? Depends on what infill?
  4. **Potting mix** for the plants/seeds

1. **Funding Proposed by Hayley, seconded by Rachel, carried unanimously.**
   1. **Hayley** offered to apply to some funding streams ie Rata and Lotteries Funding
   2. Any other possible sources of funding please direct to **Hayley**
2. **Sponsors** 
   1. Mentioned by **Zane** that Mitre10 could be approached as a Sponsor.
   2. Possible sponsors could be the pot supplier, Tui, seed suppliers, grass seed supplier.
3. **Logistics**
   1. Ask other gardens for help, if they wish to be involved in some way
      1. This has been set in motion on the Newsline
      2. Secretary to send a reminder email asking of anyone wishes to get more involved – and how to, which could include a grow list.
   2. Distribution for the growing of plants including seed, pots, mix.
   3. Define a storage point for all the hardware, accessory paraphernalia and plants to be stored somewhere close to the Botanic Gardens, with watering capabilities.
   4. Hire/borrow a trailer to move everything to (and from) site.
   5. Sign up volunteers for 2 days build up.
   6. Build display stand to plan,(never the case, but 4 quarter stands - less to improvise with ☺)
   7. Sign up volunteers for 3 days on Show days *Times of open & closing?*
   8. Signage, billboards, pamphlets from other Community gardens
   9. Printing up CCGA business cards/or a Corex board with an indication of who we are, how you can contact us? Facebook page/CCGA website
   10. Sign up volunteers for breakdown. When? Are we selling stuff?
   11. Liaise with 360o events about above timings.
   12. Liaise with Grow Otautahi Show comms/media

# General business

**November 13th 5-7.30pm Film 2040 @ Turanga Central Library**

Volunteers for the night: Zane, Catherine, Cathy, Hayley, Annette

Hardware? or just talk about the CCGA and the Community Garden you represent.

“Kia ora Catherine,

I am getting in touch as I am coordinating a screening of the film 2040 on behalf of Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch and we were wondering if you  would be interested in hosting a stall on behalf of the Community Gardens Association, or if you have a colleague that may be interested? We are wanting to provide opportunities for attendees to find out about local initiatives that they can get involved in after the event.

For more details on the event see: <https://events.humanitix.co.nz/2040-film-screening-sustainable-otautahi-christchurch> “

# General business cont.

For the generous donation of Tui potting mix and Bernard’s time several Community Gardens brought to the table, baked goodies, for Rachel to give to the staff at Tui Products.

Please see CCGA Facebook page for more Thank Yous from Community Gardens.

A few members of the CCGA spent a pleasant and absorbing afternoon at Deans Mosque, on Saturday the 19th of October to weed and reset up their garden beds and plant out for the summer season.

Urban Farm would like to see a few more volunteers help out. Contact CCGA and can put you in touch with Zane Crofts.

Rachel, Debbie, left about 6.30pm

Meeting finished, 7.00pm

Minutes A O’Carroll

*From Matt Morris FRN Chair of the Board.*

Dear Catherine and the Canterbury Community Gardens Association,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 30 September 2019.

We very much appreciate this communication as it has helped clarify some issues which our board has been navigating since the recent FRN AGM held on 18 September 2019.

As you have mentioned, there are certainly issues relating to the Otakaro Orchard, and these have been consuming most of our energy.

However, the FRN’s involvement in the school gardening space has also been a cause for concern by the board.

The board is well aware of the important, indeed crucial, role that individual community gardens play in creating a robust, resilient food system in our communities. We are also aware of the excellent work that the Canterbury Community Gardens Association does in supporting these efforts. Please be assured that the FRN views the CCGA as a highly valued member of the wider Food Resilience Network. In our view, it is essential that we get our working relationship back on track, and so your letter has been received by us in that spirit.

We are deeply concerned that the CCGA has felt shut out of conversations relating to this schools initiative. This has been observed at our board meetings and expressed clearly by Rachel Vogan in particular who I know sits on the CCGA committee and has spoken up about the work the CCGA is doing with schools and its intentions. Hayley Guglietta has also recently joined our board and has spoken up about this strongly as well. The FRN board has directed its Network Manager to engage directly with the CCGA on more than one occasion but we do see that this has not been actioned. We are very sorry for the effect this has had on both your work and our relationship.

In addition, the board is not convinced yet about the proposed approach taken by the Network Manager in developing a schools programme. We have seen very little detail around this.

I need to inform you, in confidence, that the Network Manager contract has been terminated with an immediate stand down (except for tidying up loose ends). This relates primarily to our current financial situation. In addition, the board feels that any role relating to schools needs to be advertised.

However, before this step is taken, we also need to revisit the purpose of this programme. If the FRN does accept the grant you have mentioned in your letter, we would only do this with involvement from the CCGA (and other key stakeholders such as the CHS).

From my perspective, it is essential that our organisations meet to discuss possible ways forward – not just regarding schools, but in other areas as well. The spirit in which we wish to work is of collaboration and transparency. We see the FRN as being a support and adding value to the excellent work being done by member organisations, and we definitely do not wish to get in the way of this, or try to take over this work in any way. We couldn’t agree more with your view that the network should be supportive and value everyone’s work.

Thank you again for the great work you are doing to build a more food resilient region, and I look forward to hearing again from you.

Kind regards,

Matt Morris

Chair

Food Resilience Network

From: Catherine O'Neill <greentips@xtra.co.nz>

Sent: Monday, 30 September 2019 7:45 PM

To: Matt Morris <matt.morris111@live.com>

Subject: Writings from CCGA to FRN

Dear Matt and the Food Resilience Network Board

It is good to hear you have taken the role of chair for the FRN. You have passion for community gardens and sustainability. All the time you have given the CCGA in the past should see our organisations working well together.

The CCGA held a board meeting on 26 September. I am writing to you to express the disappointment and most of all frustration that was shown around our table on hearing the CCC has approved funding for a School project to be run by the FRN. The feeling at our meeting was this school project funding has been given to advance the FRN's objectives with no consideration or consultation of other key organisations who are involved in school gardening. I see this funding application was made 25 August and approved within less than one month!

We are aware of the Orchard's problems and that the project is on hold and we feel the FRN's energy and concentration should be on seeing this project happen before other ideas are launched.

The CCGA applied to the CCC for funding to employ a Community Development Capacity Builder in early July, 3 months ago. We now have been told this fund application is on hold. Can you understand our frustration! This fund which we need will help the CCGA achieve our vision of strengthening and nurturing our existing gardens and support new initiatives.

We have needed someone in this connecting role for years. It has been talked about for years. It is crucial for all our gardens and coordinators who work tirelessly creating food resilience and healthy strong communities. Some gardens have strong connections and education programmes with schools already and more outreaching will be achieved with our community capacity builder role.

There are gardens run voluntarily who have been struggling and asking for support for years. Christchurch has the vision of being the best edible garden city in the world. The CCC and FRN have adopted a Food Resilience Policy to guide and support this idea tho how does supporting community gardens fit into this?

The FRN has the ability to connect and support key organisations with your paid network manager appointed to this role, instead the feeling of the CCGA is the FRN are delivering benefits only for themselves.

We all have a role to play in creating food resilience. We need a supportive network that see's that everyone is valued.

Kind regards

Catherine O'Neill

Chair

Canterbury Community Gardens Association