

Canberra City Farm: PLANNING MEETING MINUTES



36 Bambridge Street
Weetangera ACT 2614

T: 0400 865 535

Date:	20 March 2016	
Location:	Turner Garden	
Time meeting commenced:	4.10pm	
People present:	Danny O'Brien Kerry Wright Nicole Salier Jodie Pipkorn Rachel Parsons Andrew Carole Ayliffe Alec Thornton	Walter Steensby Linda Ayliffe Keith Colls Neil Parsons Paul Lau Liz Taverner Baihua Fu
Apologies:	Mark Spain, Eric, Ondrae, Seniors	
Chairperson:	Jodie Pipkorn	
Proxies:		

Matters/Actions Arising from the previous Meeting

ACTION	STATUS
1. MARK and Stefanie to engage with Questacon people and progress human cut-out to idea.	Underway. Plywood and design.
2. VESNA to speak to Country Women's Association and ask: What's important with the work you are doing and how could the Canberra City Farm help you? What gifts do you have that you would like to contribute to making the Canberra City Farm work?	COMPLETE
3. VESNA to do letterbox drop before March workshop.	COMPLETE
4. DANNY to draft a site safety briefing document for Dairy Road.	
5. JODIE chase work for dole – noting 12 month growing all seasons workshops.	Underway
6. DANNY to put in application for Harvest Festival.	COMPLETE
7. JODIE organise roster for Harvest Festival.	COMPLETE
8. GALINA to photograph and film Turner Garden for history if it doesn't continue.	
9. JODIE to see about filming volunteers.	COMPLETE
10. DANNY to write up policy of food sharing.	
11. JODIE to get COGS member and tell about change of time for March workshop.	COMPLETE
12. JODIE to email Galina, Vesna and Alec about map for flyer drops.	COMPLETE

Agenda Items

- *Welcome and purpose.*
 - Purpose of meeting is to paint the picture of the future for CCF Turner and to plan how to bring it about.
 - We have a permit for Turner until October this year and we need to work out where to go from here.

- *Check-in: Each person says name, why they are here, and one image of the future for the CCF Turner Garden.*
 - Nic – Is keen to establish Nature Play activities at the Turner Garden, where people bring children and they do learning activities in the Turner Garden on a weekly basis.
 - Neil – Turner Residents Association (TRA) noted some residents think the Turner Garden is unsightly and not what this parkland is about. It looks less good from the outside, although it looks great from the inside, and it would ideally be open parkland, not locked/fenced. TRA is concerned about what will happen to the site if CCF move. There is also a strong resistance to having allotments and nervousness, as allotments lock out the rest of the community and they are mixed in terms of their appearance. If the Turner Garden became CERES they would be keen. This park needs more government input. Using this site for a small group is not about having this as a community asset, which is the TRA focus. Having a CCF Garden as part of a whole parkland should be looked at, as at the moment this area is part of an urban wasteland with constant applications to put carparks. The Government have a master plan for the area, but have not done anything about implementing it.
 - Walter – Canberra Organic Growers Society (COGS) and CCF complement each other. The Charnwood garden is a wonderful example of a nice looking garden. The Turner Garden needs signage and green on the outside if it is to continue.
 - Keith – We need to see what local residents want, but Keith's focus will be the Fyshwick site. We need local residents involved, or the Turner Garden will not work. Without support from local residents it cannot continue.
 - Kerry – Would like to see it continue, but difficult to see how it can without local residents getting engaged. Keen to see green spaces maintained for community enjoyment and urban agriculture.
 - Carole – There are a few substantial problems with this garden and it has not been easy to get to this stage, particularly with a lack of water and toilets. Unless the local residents are interested in moving it forward and those issues are overcome, then it is difficult to see how it can continue.
 - Danny – Is keen to know what would need to be here for locals to come down. It is probably about coming with others and if this is going to survive it needs to be bigger (with more to do) and have enough activities for a day a week. To engage locals there needs to be something for them – possibly produce and social interaction and this would need to be scaled and solve the water issue.
 - Liz – There is a level of interest to enjoy and take bits, but not to take on the ownership. This is a fantastic initiative and would be great to continue. Water is a big issue. It is however a nice extra, but not a solid commitment as many locals have gardens. Liz would have thought more people in apartments would have gotten engaged, but they don't seem to be, noting that the locked gates is an issue.
 - Alec – Is now a local in the area and is interested as an academic. It is up to the community and what they want. There is a case for an open garden and vandalism is quite low in the area. While Alec was handing out flyers for the event, comments were made that 'I don't have time' and 'I have my own garden'. We need to make these gardens as an extension of our own garden and create our own space, which may be food or non-food. It would be great if the garden could stay, but it is up to the community. A cultural mind-shift is needed.
 - Baihua – Has had only occasional engagement as lives in Gungahlin. For this to continue we need locals here to want to keep it alive. With an allotment here it could be attractive to live here, but it is really up to the locals.
 - Andrew – Local resident and only been to a couple of local activities. Is keen to be more involved than he has been, but not keen to drive it or commit to taking on too much.



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- Paul – Has joined part way through the process. More trees could make it more sightly, but questions whether there is the person-power in CCF to do both sites. The focus should be on the big project and this garden could be given to COGS.
- Jodie – Would be great to keep this garden going, as it is central and offers something quite different to Dairy Road.
- *Lessons learned*
 - Refer to the previous 'check-in' section.
 - COGS update – There are 12 COGS allotments in Canberra, with 400 members, 250 garden plots and a backyard gardeners group. COGS is not favourable at the moment to take on this garden and are not keen to take on anything with a finite future. It is also the wrong time to start a garden and they are not sure who will take it up. The membership of the O'Connor garden waiting list was 30 and it is now down to 4, which can be housed at O'Connor. The demographic in O'Connor is different to Turner as well. COGS does not have any confidence in making it into an allotment garden and getting enough interest is difficult, they are also not keen to take on the management. Consolidating at Dairy Road and making it into a CERES is probably easier. It is important to keep the urban agriculture theme in front of the politicians, but there are not a lot of resources for this.
 - There is a compost toilet in the park near Oaks Estate garden.
 - It is amazing what you can do with not much water.
 - People are keen to learn and when the Turner Garden gates are open, people do visit and are keen to engage with the Garden.
 - Engagement of other local groups has worked well, with the Scouts and a graduate event using the pizza oven, and when the childcare centre children have come over, they have found it to be a wonderful resource.
 - Seniors Centre are keen to get more engaged and there are opportunities to let local organisations know this space is available.
 - There is effort in organising a workshop and to make it worthwhile for the participants, as it takes a fair amount of effort.
- *To move forward CCF needs:*
 - 1. Commitment to continue from local residents and local community - as expressed by the voice of people at this meeting.
 - 2. Secure a new lease for 5+ years - this requires a coordinator (elected at this meeting or within one week) to arrange new lease with ACT Government with support from CCF committee.
 - 3. Secure a connection to Icon water mains supply - this requires a coordinator (elected at this meeting or within one week) to arrange new connection from Icon Water with support from CCF Committee.
 - 4. Create individual garden allotments in collaboration with COGS providing mentoring and guiding - this requires a coordinator (elected at this meeting or within one week) to arrange new garden allotment with support from CCF Committee.
 - 5. Build and sustain the community shared CCF Turner garden facilities - this requires a coordinator (elected at this meeting or within one week) to establish a CCF Turner Community Garden Committee with support from CCF Committee
 - To know what does it need to look like for you as a local resident to get engaged.
- *Small group discussions and report back of where CCF should go from here.*
 - Nic – Is very keen to hold a playgroup here once a week, open 2-3 hours on a weekend (once every 6-8 weeks) and run a couple of evening activities utilising pizza oven and education, and gather as a community base. Keen to see the site continue and run a trial for 6 months.



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- Neil – Local residents are broadly supportive of CCF Turner Garden, but none are able to commit to put any significant volunteer capacity towards it. As an aside, there at least 3 residents who are vocal and would possibly lobby hard against allotments.
- Alec – His group talked about a range of things, including the scale of the community – is it Canberra, or should the garden be scaled down to benefit the immediate Turner community with the compost and a few planter boxes continued.
- Walter – If we advertised plots here, there may be interest attracted from elsewhere. However consolidation at Dairy Road is a better idea.
- Keith – Cannot see this site has a future unless people put their hands up and are prepared to do a lot. It is an inaccessible site, as you have to pay for parking during the week if a park can be found. If there is a demand, then Keith is prepared to keep it going, but without enough local support Keith is keen to remove it.
- Kerry – Keen to consolidate at Dairy Road unless a real commitment is generated soon.
- Carole – Consolidate with Dairy Road unless real commitment is generated soon.
- Paul – CCF have tried at this site and should embrace Dairy Road. However this could be a picnic area, with some herbs and a few tables that people could use the facilities. An urban amenity.
- Liz – It is really nice to bring a group here, but she would not want to come every week and can only commit every now and again to opening it, but not too often. If it is just watering it could be covered, but lobbying Icon Water and other big issues is not possible. It has been really inspiring to learn all the techniques and if the garden was changed to be very simple with no walls and a few wicking beds that could be filled up every so often, along with compost, then maybe that is enough.
- Alec – As a local he would commit to come out here and use a stripped down version for compost and planter boxes. He would walk in and poke around regularly.
- We could leave 'x' amount here. There is a 'Paradise Garden' in Brisbane that has plantings of native and food species intertwined. It is a Council Garden run by the community, with 5 core people who garden there once a week and keep it maintained.
- We could have a simple sign-board noting this is an open space and garner interest from different parties. It would need a core group of people who create an awesome garden if it is to work.
- *Next Steps: Summarise the agreements and decisions made and plan and agree the immediate next actions.*
 - Nic will plan a program for the next few months to engage children in Nature Play and test using the garden for regular activities.
 - Alec will bring students down.
 - As soon as possible, the display should be whittled down to focus on compost and a few gardens.
 - Eric, Andre and the Seniors Centre could not be at the meeting but are keen to get an allotment if they are available.
- *Check-out: Each person says what is one thing they have learned and one thing they found most valuable from this meeting.*
 - Nic – excited to give it a go for 6 months with a maximum of 20 children for each weekly playgroup.
 - Neil – pizza! It is great to see the energy.
 - Alec – Unfortunate there is not more uptake, but there is potential in this nucleus and breaking down the garden needs consideration.
 - Walter – If we can turn fortress Turner into CCF Turner Garden that could be good. COGS has had sags and interest may still come.
 - Keith – happy we have worked out a way forward.

- Kerry – good there is a way forward.
- Baihua – had an awesome time with all the workshops and the people we meet here are amazing and really valuable. People power – who have put in time and made things happen with not much money – we should celebrate!
- Liz – amazed at what has been achieved and positive that there is a middle ground that is simple and can fit with what local people can contribute with.
- Paul – in a little over 2 hours we have worked out a new strategy for CCF and whatever we do will add value to the community.
- Andrew – opening it up is worth a shot. Some signs next to the gate to welcome people.
- Danny – trying to work out a way to keep it going is positive, as we don't have to move things and we do want to see it going in town, so long as we can make it work sustainably for everyone.
- Linda – if we keep it, we must keep it up to a certain standard. It is essential to keep it well maintained. And getting water connected would make it much easier, as it takes ages to water during summer.
- Galina – came at end of discussion. Would be good if we could promote ourselves more. It is disappointing with all our efforts that no one came from the surrounding apartments. Who will be doing the work is the key question. There are mutually beneficial collaborations that can be made and we can promote more.
- Jodie – it is great that we have a way forward.
- *Thank you and close*

Actions:

1. JODIE to send minutes to everyone.
2. CCF COMMITTEE to discuss and agree level of risk that can be accepted by CCF if the garden is opened up.
3. NIC to plan a program for the next few months to engage children in Nature Play and test using the garden for regular activities.
4. ALEC to bring students down and look after the garden.

Next meeting date: Sunday 17 April 2016.

Time meeting closed: 6.00pm.



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