

## Canberra City Farm: MEETING MINUTES

<b>Date:</b>	22 November 2015	
<b>Location:</b>	Canberra City Farm Turner Garden	
<b>Time meeting commenced:</b>	1.05pm	
<b>People present:</b>	Carole Ayliffe Cindy Steensby Danny O'Brien Gary Shapcott Jo McGilvray Jodie Pipkorn Keith Colls Linda Ayliffe Louise Choy Mark Spain Melissa Fellows Gilles Rohan	Ren Webb Vesna Stojanovska Walter Steensby Chris Curtis Walter Jehne Karen Dahl Sybil Free Georgie Murray Beatrice Kelly Peter Irish Kerry Wright
<b>Apologies:</b>	Liz Taverner, Fiona Tito Wheatland	
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Jodie Pipkorn	
<b>Proxies:</b>		



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### Agenda Items

*Introductions – something exciting about the project:*

- Potential of the site – vines and pruning effort such that we will get grapes.
- Licence for 10 years to create a national institution on food.
- Connect with other people and create a network and support team and learn from each other.
- Opportunities are amazing.
- Secret garden waiting to happen.
- Diversity of infrastructure.
- Attract other people who like growing food and doing things together.
- Chooks cackling in sheds will be exciting.
- Fruit and nut trees and market garden.
- Organic garlic and lots of potential.
- Industrial hemp possibility.
- Great opportunity for education although a bit daunting.
- Lots of weeds.
- We have land and infrastructure and time. There is lots of meetings and discussion about the local food economy and this is an integral part of it.
- Blackberries are a great opportunity and at least this year do jam.
- Canberra as a sustainable city – productive land set aside.
- Basket weaving.
- Food futures.
- Number of people here today is great, with lots of energy!
- Great to finally get our hands on this land and things to appear and reconnect with natural world.
- Indigenous connections and sustainable living with construction displays.
- Mushroom growing and opportunities.

*Brief overview of the intentions of the day. This includes:*

- CCF members are up-to-date and aware of the approach being taken with Dairy Road and Canberra City Farm more broadly.
- CCF members approve the proposed approach and documents so the Committee can proceed based on what our members want.
- A draft Master Plan is created.

*Overview of key questions to be answered for the day about the documents:*

- Is there anything missing from the vision?
- Is the proposed structure and governance clear and workable?
- Are there any enterprises that are missing?
- Are there any other risks or issues that are missing?
- Is there anything missing from the budget?
- Is there anything missing from the implementation plan?
- Where should things be located on the site?

*People break into smaller groups and discuss each of these questions.*

*Review each question and get feedback from each group.*

- Is there anything missing from the vision?
  - To learn from others and improve on what has already been done elsewhere – Lawton, Milkwood, Allsun, CERES.
  - Focus is education of urban dwellers.
  - 1-2 sentences and then objectives under.
  - Economic sustainability should be included in objectives.
  - Too long and written more concisely.
  - Creating demonstration of ecosystem function from the soil up.
  - Demonstrating economic viability.
  - Good. Thank you. Vision could be shorter and more concise.
- Is the proposed structure and governance clear and workable?
  - Site manager and enterprise coordinator as one role within the management committee - paid.
  - Aboriginal members – indigenous advice.
  - Advisory group as a group coming off the management team.
  - Indigenous children focus rather than adults.
  - Strong sense of money in and voluntary to start with.
  - Experimenting and R+D, examining.
  - Strong opportunity for crowd funding and how to package as playful, fun, resilient, resourceful and engage the community.
  - Dotted line from Dairy Road management team to Volunteer co-ordinator.
  - Seems to be a reliance on getting money in. Will need volunteers particularly in the beginning.
  - Contract and MOU with enterprise managers needs to be simple, friendly and open to research and experimentation. They invest their own money, but there are many opportunities for crowdfunding.
- Are there any enterprises that are missing?
  - Add worm farms with composting
  - Aquaponics / Aquaculture – experimental
  - Commercial flowers
  - Indigenous food
  - Crops - Industrial hemp, grasses – hire machine
  - Allotments



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- Native flowers
- Native food seeds
- Biodiversity
- Kids as contributors
- Fire management, grazing management demonstration.
- Seeds
- Kids infrastructure – play equipment
- Soil Display (Pedogenesis)
  - Long term demonstration of soil and the methods for improvement
  - Would require approx 120 sq mt of space, plus access to a lab area (in the house)
  - Sponsored and set-up by Healthy Soils Australia
- Arts & Craft workshops & displays
  - Sculpture festival?
- Agro Forestry demonstration
  - Showing the impact that tree planting will have on the soil and surrounding microclimate
- Native flowers (linked to native plant society)
- Native food seeds (use booklet from ACT gov)
- Café
- A harvest festival every 15mths to get a celebration of the harvest from each season
- Sign-writing business
- Community art projects from sculptural gates, murals, walls, paths, seats,
- Kids environment - as valued contributors
- Are there any other risks or issues that are missing?
  - Management of the site while the site gets established.
  - Signage of where our area is.
  - Set up process until funds are available and burn out of volunteers.
  - Storm, rain, hail, drought, flood, fire, wind or other catastrophe damage – crop damage = insurance – leave to the enterprises? Run as CSA – pre buy produce.
  - Cancel licence?
  - Sharp edges – OHS.
  - Risk of not finding enterprise managers / lack of interest – COGS potential.
  - Product liability.
  - Water plan and people plan.
  - Use of equipment/tractor – accidents.
  - Theft.
  - A water Plan - Managing water and metering each enterprise, sourcing water from lake, recycle sewage for healthy soil.
  - A People Plan - gardening can help mental illness.
  - Provide training for use of equipment e.g. tractor.
- Is there anything missing from the budget?
  - Barter system – trading of time for costs
  - Volunteer work exchange for produce
  - LETS model
  - Water – particularly when hot
  - 10 year plan and run a loss in first 5 years or break even
  - Blackberry jam
  - Happy for budget to not go into debt and demonstrating a non-debt based structure, crowd funding and a gift economy. Fun and engaging. Include gift economy and crowd funding.



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- Document full natural capital benefits back to society.
- General maintenance – mowing, etc.
- Change bank fees to bank interest.
- No going into debt. Model an abundance finance system based on natural and social capital not a deficit model.
- Solar panels and batteries demonstration site and make money from electricity.
- Get donation of demonstration sustainable and regenerative home construction for lovely designed cafe and meeting place.
- Is there anything missing from the implementation plan?
  - Fixing up holes, fencing and head-height metal risks
  - Snake buzzers?
  - Have functional use for shed – mushrooms?
  - May need more than one water meter.
  - Insulation in sheds
  - Next event invites regional local community enterprises – people we know and those we don't know
  - Picking black berries and making jam
  - December at our gate – map with first aid, map, information, etc.
  - Buy our own first aid kit – snake bite kit and epe pen
  - Demo tractor day with historic tractors.
  - Add 'consider multiple meters' after deduct meter.
  - Invite who we know and who we don't know (advertisements).
  - Pick blackberries and make jam.
- Where should things be located on the site?
  - Water tanks
  - Cell grazing
  - Change gate location



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*Wrap-up the day and agree next steps.*

- KEITH, DANNY, MARK to send stuff to Jodie.
- JODIE to craft business plan.
- DANNY, LINDA, REN and WALTER J to flesh out EOI and road-test it within group.
- Master Plan, signage on site and stakeholder engagement are important key next steps.
- We need to further consider the compost location.
- A contour map and soil testing would be good – both of these are available upon request.
- CHRIS, PETER, KEITH, LINDA, JODIE, GILLES to craft master plan.
- Pencil in date for stakeholder engagement – Sunday 14 February 2016.
- Consider linking with Fenner School bio-centre.
- Send email out to everyone asking: 'who should we invite who may be a potential enterprise manager or young farmer?'
- JODIE to ask Walter about indigenous engagement.

**Next meeting date: Sunday 14 February 2015.**

**Time meeting closed: 3.35pm.**