

Watsonia Neighbourhood House - Annual General Meeting Minutes of Meeting – 18 October 2017

Meeting opened: 7:00 pm, Katherine Barling Chairperson.

Present and Apologies

Present: Cr Rick Garotti, Ghariza Bakir (representing The Honourable Jenny Macklin Federal Member for Jika Jika), Jeff Percy (Chairperson NENHN), Julie Johnston (Manager NENHN), Phil Strode, Bob Regan, Lucie Holden, Lia Caelli, Nikki Burden, Katherine Barling, Pamela Walker, Rose Perera, Cheryl Findlay, Julie Pegg, Leslee Sparke.

Apologies: The Honourable Colin Brooks, the State Member for Bundoora.

Welcome

Katherine Barling acknowledged the original custodians of the land.

Katherine Barling welcomed CR Rick Garotti and he was invited to address the meeting.

Rick mentioned that Banyule City Council (BCC) had recently approved expenditure to construct an awning outside the Banyule Room and had recently sent a letter to that effect. It was acknowledged that the letter had been received and he (and BCC) were thanked for this.

Katherine Barling welcomed Julie Johnston (Manager NENHN), Jeff Percy (Chairperson NENHN), the welcomed staff (Lucie Holden, Rose Perera and Julie Pegg) and all others present. All were thanked for their contribution throughout the year.

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting 12 October 2016

It was mentioned that a correction was needed: under those present: Susan Carer should be Susan Carew.

Motion: that the Minutes be confirmed as correct with the above correction.

Moved: Lucie Holden, seconded: Rose Perera. Motion carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

Annual Report (including Financial Statement)

Katherine Barling commended the report and acknowledged the efforts of Lucie Holden (the Manager) in preparing it.

Lucie Holden presented the report. As an example of a Program in the report, Lucie discussed the "Survive and Thrive" Program. This Program provided support for women who have experienced Family Violence. Lucie showed a short video about this Program.

Bob Regan (Treasurer) presented the Treasurer's Report.

At the end of June we had a total equity of \$62,138. Bob congratulated management (Lucie Holden and Rose Perera) for this. The increase in our staff from 1st July will make a further increase in our equity unlikely in the 2017-2018 financial year.

Katherine Barling asked why we need to have reserves (ie our equity of \$62,138). Bob Regan said that we need to discuss this further.

A brief discussion was held as to the need for a reserve. It was said that we need an amount to cover unexpected contingencies. However it also pointed out that Workcover would cover many things and provision has been made for long service leave.

Jeff Percy provided an example in the Network of going from a profit to a \$40,000 loss in a matter of months.

Cr Rick Garotti asked if our utility bills (especially power) have been increasing. It was answered that this has not affected the House greatly as we have solar panels installed. These were installed when the House was part of the Greener Houses Program about 5 years ago.

Lucie Holden said that she was worked hard over the past three years to increase the equity. The volunteers and Committee also contributed to this.

Phil Strode (Secretary) commended the Report.

Motion: That the Annual Report and Financial Statement be approved.

Moved: Pamela Walker, seconded: Julie Pegg. Motion carried.

General Business

Membership Fees

There was a brief discussion of the level of the Membership fee.

Motion: That the Membership Fees for 2018-2019 be continued at the same level.

Moved: Bob Regan, seconded: Julie Pegg. Motion Passed.

Election of Committee of Management

All positions were declared vacant and the floor handed over to Julie Johnston to act as Returning Officer.

Five nominations had been received:

Katherine Barling for President

Pamela Walker for Secretary

Bob Regan for Treasurer

Nicola Burden for ordinary member

Lia Cialli for ordinary member

Julie asked if there were any further nominations (for ordinary members) from the floor.

Cheryl Findlay nominated as an ordinary member.

Julie declared all those who had nominated as duly elected.

The floor was handed back to Katherine Barling and Julie Johnston was thanked for acting as Returning Officer.

Lucie Holden thanked Committee and volunteers for their contribution. She particularly thanked Phil Strode for his contribution as volunteer and as Committee member and for his advice and support.

Katherine Barling thanked all present for coming and those who have contributed throughout the year.

Meeting Closed: 7:32pm.