

Watsonia Neighbourhood House - Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Meeting – 17 November 2021

Zoom Meeting opened: 7.33 pm

Opening of Meeting

Sally O'Meara (President) welcomed members and special guests with an Acknowledgement to Country.

Present and Apologies

Attendees:-

Cr. Rick Garotti, Sally O'Meara, Cheryl Findlay, Luke Nelson, Bec Schillaci, Lucie Holden, Katherine Barling, Julie Johnston, Beth Ware, Stephanie Dallas, Lynne McHutchison, Jane Belfrage, Val Gaskett, Beryl Rantall, Kath Creagh, Evan Butterworth

Apologies:-

Bob Regan, Shayne Collins, Silvia Peacock.

Cr. Rick Garotti (Grimshaw Ward) was invited to speak.

Cr Garotti stated that Watsonia Neighbourhood House is now in Bakewell ward and is highly regarded within Banyule local government area. Because of this, Council often works with WNH to trial projects with the community, for example the After Dark program which provides activities and a safe space as an alternative to gambling. He thanked the House for its hard work with its food drive and successful trivia nights and can see the House going from strength to strength in the future.

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting 18 November 2020

Motion: Sally O'Meara moved that the previous Minutes be altered prior to being confirmed.

Amendment- Under the heading President's Report, the last sentence reads-

Changes to Governess is a decision for the Committee, as in Lucie's roll name change to manager. to be altered to-

Changes to employment arrangements are a decision for the Committee, as in Lucie's role name being changed to 'Manager'.

Moved: Lucie Holden

Seconded: Cheryl Findlay

Motion: Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

see amendment above.

Annual Reports tabled

President's Report – Sally O'Meara.

Sally gave thanks to the previous President, Katherine Barling for her work and support throughout the year, and for preparing a President's report which can be found in the annual report. Sally explained the strategic planning process the Committee of Governance has just concluded. We are looking forward to exciting times ahead as we build on the great work of the past five years. Sally thanked Lucie for her hard work and positivity especially through covid times.

Manager's Report – Lucie Holden.

The Manager tabled her report and said it's been a tough year with silver linings. Lucie gave a short presentation on her work throughout the year with the support of her staff. Including the upgrade of the community garden being almost complete. It has been fully landscaped with garden beds and a dry river bed and walkways. Hundreds of indigenous plants have been planted and with the help of the community a habitat has been created with a community space to share, gather and learn. Many thanks going to Shayne and Sophie. The two new Community Development Workers both spoke of their achievements and work goals.

For more information on our achievements this financial year please refer to the Manager's Report in the Annual Report.

Treasurer's Report

Unfortunately the Treasurer was unable to attend the AGM so Watsonia Neighbourhood House's bookkeeper, Evan Butterfield kindly said a few words about the House's financial position. He stated that it has been a strange couple of years and with the support of JobKeeper and other State Government grants, Watsonia Neighbourhood House has been able to stay in a good financial position. Having money in the bank allows the House to offer future events. All the fine details of the House's financial position are shown in the Annual Report.

Moved that the Annual and Financial Reports be approved.

Moved: Sally O'Meara

Second: Jane Belfrage

Motion: Carried.

General Business

Membership Fees

Motion: That the Membership Fees for 21/22 be continued at the same level of \$10.

Proposed: Sally O'Meara

Second: Lucie Holden

Motion: Passed.

Any other Business

Lucie announced that she had just received an email from Banyule City Council stating the House was to receive a \$10 000 grant to complete capital works in the outdoor space. This money will go towards an outdoor sink and seating area.

Election of Committee of Management

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

Six nominations had been received:

Sally O'Meara for President

Cheryl Findlay for Secretary

Bob Regan for Treasurer

Luke Nelson for ordinary member

Kath Creagh for ordinary member

Julie declared the positions elected and handed the floor back to Sally. Katherine and Bec were thanked for their efforts, support and valuable contributions during their time on the committee.

Close of Meeting.

Lucie shared her screen so all attendees could watch a video showing the song writing and singing skills of the VALID group. This project was completed during covid lockdown and reflected the participants feelings.

Afterwards Jane mentioned that her Harps for Happiness and Health is now a part of Watsonia After Dark and the first workshop commences next week. Other activities to soon commence at the House will be ceramic painting, trivia nights and gardening basics.

Sally closed the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 8.14pm