

Minutes of the annual general meeting of the Friends of Dunedin Botanic Garden
held at the Botanic Garden Centre, Lovelock Avenue, Dunedin on Tuesday 13
October 2010 at 12:27pm.

Present: Frank Buddingh' (chair) and 24 members of the Friends

Apologies

Graeme & Margaret Collie
Jayson Kelly
Emma Leith
Alan Matchett
E. E. MacFadyen
Mick Reece
Lisa & Alan Wheeler

Agreed: That the apologies be accepted (Buddingh'/Shearer) Carried

Minutes of the last meeting

It was noted that flowers were sent to honour Barbara Calvert, not Hilary Calvert.

Agreed: That subject to the correction noted the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2009 be declared a true and correct record of proceedings (Buddingh'/Shearer) Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Annual report

Frank spoke to the annual report for 2008, which had been prepared by Jayson Kelly for presentation at the previous meeting, which was inoperative. The highlights have been the appointment of a person to manage the Information Centre; progress made on the proposal to realign Lovelock Avenue; and arranging funding for the Mediterranean Garden. Frank also noted that Jayson had thanked various people for their help, notably the volunteers.

Agreed: That the report of the President for 2008 be accepted (Wheeler/Shearer) Carried

Financial report

Agreed: That the financial report for 2008 be adopted (Buddingh'/Woods) Carried

Election of officers

Jeremy Shearer took the chair and called for nominations for the position of President. A nomination was received for Frank Buddingh'; there being no other nominations, Jeremy declared Frank elected and handed the chair back to him.

No nominations were received for the positions of Vice President or Secretary.

Frank called for nominations for the position of Treasurer. A nomination was received for Emma Leith; there being no further nominations, the Chair declared her elected.

The Chair called for nominations for five general committee members. Nominations were received for Jayson Kelly, Jeremy Shearer, Neville Stewart, Kim Thomas and Jan Hindson. There being no further nominations, the Chair declared them elected.

Appointment of Auditor & Hon. Solicitor

Agreed: That Wai Piggott be appointed Auditor and that David More be re-appointed Hon. Solicitor (Buddingh'/Shearer) Carried

Constitutional amendments

Frank Buddingh' read the proposed constitutional amendments which had been circulated.

Agreed: That Rule 9(d) be deleted and replaced by a new Rule as follows:

Voting by proxy at any Annual General Meeting is allowable, provided that:

- i. Proxy votes must be made on the form provided by the Secretary, signed by the member;
- ii. Proxy voting forms must be submitted to the Secretary prior to the commencement of the general meeting;
- iii. Votes from any late or incomplete forms are disregarded;
- iv. Proxy votes can be submitted only for specific motions notified to members before the general meeting;
- v. Members voting by proxy have clearly declared their voting intention on the specific motion;
- vi. A member has nominated either the Chairperson or another named member present at the general meeting to submit the vote on their behalf on the proxy voting form.
- vii. The Secretary shall determine the validity of any proxy votes. General authorisation for another member to make a decision on the member's behalf will not be permitted.

(Hindson/Donaldson) Carried unanimously.

There was discussion on the second amendment. A member asked whether enough is being done to attract members to the meeting and whether a healthy and buoyant organisation would require a provision allowing it to operate without a quorum. Frank said that the intention of the amendment was to allow flexibility, not to exclude members, and that efforts would still be made to encourage members to attend. To the question of whether the quorum is too high, the Chair replied that it should probably have been adjusted as the membership declined. Jeremy Shearer noted that there was some discretion for the Chair to decide whether an adjournment is

appropriate. It was recommended that the committee should propose an amendment to the quorum rule at the next annual general meeting, including some data showing the fluctuation in membership in recent years.

Agreed: That a new paragraph be added to Rule 11 as follows:

If within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for a meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place, or to such other day (not being more than fourteen days after such meeting) to such time and place as the Chairperson may appoint, and if at that meeting a quorum is not present, those members who are present shall be a quorum and may transact the for which the meeting was called.

(Weaver/Woods) Carried

Agreed: That Rule 12(c) be deleted and replaced with the following Rule:

Payments made by cheques or electronic payments drawn on the Society's accounts shall be signed or otherwise authorised by the President or Treasurer and one other authorised Committee member.

(Shearer/Hindson) Carried

General Business

Members were updated on the progress of the Mediterranean Garden, which is under construction for a planned opening in February.

Frank explained that the Friends have undertaken an administrative review make sure that indication that communication with members is more effective. A new database system has been installed to manage membership records, and the website has been updated with more improvement still to come. The Friends are now on Facebook with nearly 300 fans registered already. These improvements will allow the Friends to reach towards a society and regenerate the organisation. We are also surveying other friends organisations to get ideas.

Arrangements have been made to host Dan Hinkley, a renowned American plantsman who will be giving a public address in March 2010. The Friends and working closely with the Rhododendron Group on this project and will advise other kindred groups close to the time.

Frank also welcomed Clair van Loon-Sim, the New Information Centre officer, who told members of the proposed Halloween tour on 31 October at 2 PM

There being no further general business, the Chair thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 1:24pm.