

FERN BOARD MEETING - MINUTES
Tuesday the 2nd of August, 2016 at FERN
Start Time: 7.04 End Time: 8.45pm

Board Members Present: Katrina Love, Catherine Thompson, Thom Scott, Tom Draffen, Simon Peterffy, Nimmi Carlose, Karen Bartz, Carl Wilson.

No absentees.

Agenda

Bikes/Kurt:

Karen explained the circumstances of the bike incident but did not want to say a lot given the cease and desist letter. Simon and Thom said they would be happy to mediate with Kurt and come to a resolution.

Carl mentioned that he had tried to get in contact with the lady but she had not responded. Thom mentioned he thought the bike was at his house. The main issue was the need for mediation with Kurt to resolve the issue quickly.

This was seconded by board members who agreed that no further action should be taken till the mediation occurred.

Nimmi suggested that perhaps as part of the process of mediation there could be a policy developed that made things clear regarding bike shop processes and policies.

Katrina also requested that the bikes in front of her office area are removed. Simon mentioned that he would do this.

Karen: Karen provided a letter to the board advising of her decision to step down as co-Convenor. Simon volunteered to be Co-Convenor a motion was passed and accepted by all board members via show of hands

All board members present agreed with the motion for Simon Peterffy to be the new Co-Convenor of FERN.

Action: Simon is now co-Convenor with Thom Scott.

Karen will remain a signatory to the accounts till the next AGM as co-signatories are required for all transactions.

Fremantle Council/Kitchen:

Fremantle Council visited FERN after a complaint from someone about the food in the café. They inspected the café and recommended some renovations be done. The kitchen will be closed to allow for these renovations to be made. It is

hoped that all funding will be provided from the existing WFTD program at FERN.

Request re Flowform at FERN:

Nimmi was sent a request from Louise Edmonds regarding the use of the Flowform at FERN. The request was sent to all board members prior to the meeting. The entire request was then read out at the meeting again for the benefit of board members who had not read their email.

Board members had some questions in relation to the request which included:

- Could the flowform be used on site instead of moved. There was some board members who thought that moving it regularly would result in damage.
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Thom suggested that it may be a better for Louise to set up the flowform at FERN and for Louise to use it at FERN. Any costs or donation to FERN for the periodic use was to be decided and discussed after the board gained more information on the project including whether or not the program for the use of the flowform was funded.

Thom seemed to know the most about the use of the flowform and offered to liaise with Louise on FERN's behalf to discuss this matter further.

Action: Thom to contact Louise about the use of the flowform.

FERN Website and Transparency:

Carl mentioned that he would like this updated so his details and Sarge's details and phone numbers are removed. He also mentioned that some members would like minutes uploaded and financial provided.

Nimmi mentioned that financials will be provided at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) as per usual and that the reports will be audited.

Karen mentioned that the password had been lost for the website due to the virus on the FERN computer. Nimmi mentioned that the password could be recovered by contacting the hosting provider and she would be happy to update the website once Karen provided her with the password and she had the time to do so. Nimmi will also upload all minutes that she has copies off to the website.

Computer at FERN:

The computer at FERN has had a virus recently. In the past admin users have allowed other people to use it. However there have been torrents downloaded, and viruses.

Katrina put forward a motion that the computer should be used just by admin staff i.e. Ben and not general community members.

This was carried by the board.

Carl mentioned that WIFI access was provided to community members.

Meeting with Fremantle Council:

A meeting was held with Fremantle Council to ask for a contribution for the large costs recently in regards to sewerage works and maintenance at FERN.

Fremantle Council outlined that they have to be contacted in the first instance so they can decide if the maintenance issue is their responsibility in which case their contractors will be engaged to fix the issue promptly. Failure to do so will mean that in the future the City of Fremantle will not consider contributing to any repairs or maintenance that they have not been notified of.

A letter was sent that has been forwarded to all board members that outlined the procedure to deal with all future maintenance requests at FERN.

Composting Toilets:

Kathy did a lot of research on composting toilets and on the occupational health and safety requirements at FERN. The folder of information on the composting toilets was provided to Thom Scott.

Food Not Bombs:

Carl asked if he could prepare Food Not Bombs at FERN on Sunday morning in the café kitchen.

Karen responded that the weekends was when she made money and that she would prefer for this not to happen and she had found them an alternative venue at Hampton Road.

Carl mentioned that this would not suit the group due to having to organize insurance and people would have to register which did not suit the group as they wanted to encourage as many people to help out as possible spontaneously e.g. travellers as well.

Nimmi mentioned that organizing insurance would be a good idea, they could organize it to cover a number of people and suggested that FERN could pay for this as a donation towards the group. All board members seem to agree to this but no official motion was moved.

It was also mentioned that as Karen pays rent to FERN any limitation on her working there on the weekend should be factored in to that months rent payment.

The LORAX was considered as an alternative venue but it lacked the necessary space to accommodate the members.

Carl mentioned that Food Not Bombs would continue and they could cook at his house for now.