

Garden of Tane RC meeting minutes

Tuesday May 14, 5:30

Held at Madeira Hotel

Present: Suky Thompson, Lynda Wallace, Jeremy Buchanan, Ron Birch, Steffan Kraberger

In attendance item 2: Hollie Hollander, Ollie Rutland-Sims – Pest Free Banks Peninsula

1 Apologies

- Apologies from Leigh Hickey, Alan Hemsley, Bryn Thompson, Nigel Harrison, Steffi Brightwell and Hannah Murdoch (Community Partnerships Ranger)

2 Declarations of Interest

- None

3 Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting on February 13, 2024 are approved.

Wallace/Buchanan

4 Long Term Plan submission

- Thanks were recorded to Suky Thompson for the submission she had presented to the Council on behalf of the Garden of Tane requesting that the \$100k under CPMS 3113 in 2030 is brought forward at the rate of \$10k per year to enable the committee's Three Year Plan to progress, and that the Community Parks Team is funded for the maintenance.
- A copy is to be sent to Steven Gray.
- The committee was disappointed that after presenting the Three Year Plan to the Community Board with the request that the bring forward be included in the Board submission, the Garden had not been mentioned.

5 Pest Free Banks

- Hollie Hollander and Ollie Rutland-Sims from Pest Free Banks Peninsula explained that after a successful possum poisoning knockdown carried out in the residential areas of Takamatua, they now wished to conduct a similar campaign in Akaroa Township in conjunction with the campaign in the surrounding rural area
- Access agreements were needed with all landowners, both private and Council, where bait stations would be located. Approaching the Reserve Committee was a first step before approaching the Council.
- As Garden of Tane is an ideal possum habitat, they were asking the Committee for permission to use brodifacoum bait stations in the Garden during the late winter months. Stations would be set in trees above where children or dogs could access. The main concern is secondary poisoning of dogs who might eat carcasses. To minimise the risk a lower dose toxin would be used meaning a dog the size of a Labrador would need to eat 6 large possums to be in danger. The bait is scented with cinnamon and spices that attract possums, but not cats. If a pet does get secondary poisoning, symptoms which included mouth bleeding and lethargy take several weeks to appear, and the antidote Vitamin K is held by local vets. There is little risk to birds of

prey as dying possums tend to hide in holes or their nests.

- Pest Free will run a public education campaign to inform the community of the project prior to laying bait stations, and signs will be posted at the entrance to the town.
- After discussion the committee passed the following resolution:

The Garden of Tane Committee supports Pest Free Banks Peninsula's initiative to reduce possum numbers in Akaroa including the Garden of Tane through the use of brodifacoum in the winter of 2024 as part of the wider area control initiative. We understand that the bait boxes will be placed up high in trees away from tracks and where they are inaccessible to dogs, and request that signs informing pet owners of the poison and to keep dogs on leads are posted at all main entrances during the pulse to minimise the risk of secondary poisoning. The Committee will provide a map of the main entrances.

Thompson/Buchanan

6 Sequoia

- Suky Thompson to request a replacement sequoia from the Council nursery via Steven Gray. We will try a potted one this year, as it is thought the previous one may have died being a bare rooted tree. The dry weather in September probably also contributed.
- Lynda Wallace has now obtained the plaque for the sequoia planted to commemorate the Coronation. This was paid for by the Council Parks group.
- Steffan Kraberger volunteered to manufacture the plinth.
- The Committee will arrange the replacement planting and install the plinth and plaque once the tree arrival date is confirmed, but without a ceremony as this was done last year.

7 Issues in the Garden

7.1 Bernie's Track

- The old stub of Bernie's Track, now redundant since the track was re-routed to avoid the slip, needs to be better blocked off. Steffan Kraberger volunteered to do this, and to also move the signpost to a better location. It was agreed that Tui Loop Track is worth keeping, so the steps leading to it are to be retained.

7.2 Don Wright's list

- Jeremy Buchanan had met with Don Wright who had some concerns as follows:
- The Yellow Pine in the playground should be discussed with the arborists with a view to removing some lower branches on the east side to remove weight from it
- A wasp nest on Pacific Way is still there. Jeremy will re-report this to Council
- To lengthen the life of the sequoia tables, and stop water soaking into the good wood, the edges should now be trimmed back. Jeremy volunteered to attend to this.

7.3 Broken direction signs

- Vandals had broken 2 of the timber directional signs – one at Macrocarpa Ridge and one at Big Pine Lookout.
- Jeremy has recovered the one from Macrocarpa Ridge.
- He will ask Paul Newport to make a replacement for the Big Pine one, and to include a longer

stub for mounting. Paul will be asked to invoice the Civic Trust for payment from the funds it holds on behalf of the Garden of Tane.

7.4 Cemetery access road puddle

- Roding to be asked to remediate the huge puddle at the bottom of the access road to the car park adjacent to the Catholic and Dissenters Cemetery and the Garden of Tane.

8 Map and Asset list

- Suky and Lynda have nearly completed the work of checking all the assets against the City Care list. One more site visit is needed.
- Once the survey is complete any corrections and the dates for asset creation (where known) will be sent to City Care and then the list uploaded to the Council system to become part of the capital renewal system.

9 Any other business

- Chair Suky Thompson will be away from mid-June to mid-September. The Committee opted to cancel its August meeting
- Lynda Wallace volunteered to become Minutes Secretary from the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 6:52

Date of next meeting: Tuesday November 12, 5:30pm at Garden of Tane if fine