

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 6 FEBRUARY 2023 MEETING

PRESENT

Robyn Rennie, Miles Boak, Jacqui Pinkava, Stephen Sedgwick, Amit Barkay, Simone Gray, Patrika Sheehan, Peter Carey. Alan (resident at The Bradfield).

1. APOLOGIES: Leon Arundell, Suzanne Pitson

Commenced 7.35pm, chaired by Robyn- Convenor. Concluded 9.05pm.

2. DCA CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ISSUES RAISED- Jacqui Pinkava Corro of significance:

11 Dec 2022- Letter from DCA to Ben Ponton, ACT Chief Planner, inviting him and members of his staff to address a public meeting on the planning activities impinging on Downer and to answer questions.

11 Dec- polite noncommittal response from Ponton directing his staff to respond.

12 Dec- response from the Planning Review and Reform Project group, no to attending a public meeting, make your views known on-line or at engagement "pop-ups".

30 Jan 2023- Sue Dyer, alert about DA for Yowani development. Plus various emails updating DCA on planning matters. (Agenda item13)

2 Feb- Jane Goffman, Dickson Residents Group, inviting DCA to participate in schedule of heritage walks planned for 2023 in the inner north. (Agenda Item 17).

2 Feb- outgoing – DCA E-newsletter to members and friends alerting them to the Inner North and City District Strategy and the opportunity to comment, on-line and visit engagement "pop-ups". Also Clean Up Downer 3 March invite, (Agenda items 9 and 12).

3. MINUTES AND ACTIONS REPORT

Minutes of 5 December 2022- approved. Loaded on DCA website.

REPORTS:

4. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Website improvement- Stephen.** 2023 room booking schedule link put on website. Minor format changes. Actions remain-

ACTION: Someday...

Stephen to follow up with Denys Garden about updated photos for the website.

Stephen to send link to a website copy to the Committee for review and input.

- **Solar Hub meeting- Amit-** Reported that to get a 10KW system the cost would be nearly \$30,000. This is a commercial rate and would come with a 25 year warranty. EV charging station (not linked to solar panels) would cost \$6,500 for two stations. Noted that we would need to get ACT Gov approval for either or both PVC or EV charging as the building is ACT Gov property.
- **DCA grants program – Robyn-** Not progressed. Miles and Jacqui offered to be on a sub-committee to draw up guidelines for Downer residents to submit bids for meaningful community projects.

ACTION: Robyn to convene an out of session meeting of the this sub-committee.

5. CENTRE LIAISON- Stephen Sedgwick

- Bookings for 2023 locked-in. Centre is well utilised. 2023 Booking Schedule is now loaded onto the DCA website.

http://www.downercommunityassociation.org/uploads/1/2/4/3/12436620/downer_schedule_2023.pdf

- Centre Co-ordinator recruitment. No action undertaken. See Agenda item 8.

- No contact made with ATO, so action item remains-

ACTION: Stephen to contact the ATO to see what has to be done re employer superannuation contribution for Adele Cameron.

- East hall fire exit door blocked by client materials. Issue persists as action item remains-

ACTION: Stephen to contact the Majura Women's Group to move their materials and to keep the fire exit doorway clear.

- Table-stackers. Commercial ones are not suitable. Miles has been in touch with Majura Men's Shed. Will advise them that one stacker required for the East Hall only, no wheels.
- Missing new BBQ- Miles reported that he bought only one BBQ, so action:

ACTION: Miles to buy a second BBQ once issue of storage is sorted. Storage room to be cleaned out and contents rationalised.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT- Stephen Sedgwick

- Current account balance in all three accounts (working, special projects and term deposit) is \$999,354. Working account is \$74,031.
- January saw a net increase of \$1,291 in the working account.
- Income from payment of room hire and key bonds amounted to \$2,601 of which \$300 was for key bonds.
- Total expenses for January totalled \$2,368. The significant expenses were-\$1,283 for ACTEW bills, \$490 payment for the AGM audit, cleaning products \$235 and wages \$260.
- DCA continues to administer grants for the Berry St park and the Bike Pump Track from the Special Projects account currently at \$18,343.

7. NCCC meeting report

- Prior to the meeting Leon advised that the NCCC did not meet in January. First meeting of 2023 will be on 15 February.

PROJECTS AND ISSUES:

8. CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR RECRUITMENT – Stephen

- Robyn has facilitated some activity on this project. Stephen is to meet with Anne Clarke (candidate suggested by Fran Parker, a local resident) next week. Anne provided her application/CV in December.

9. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SURROUNDING DOWNER

- **Goodwin Downer Reconsideration DA-** now approved by ACT Planning.
- **Public Meeting on Development** activities affecting Downer and surrounding areas – request to Ben Ponton, Chief Planner to address a meeting on 6 February 2023. A invitation was sent on 11 December. Response was essentially no to a meeting and all means of feedback was to be via the Have Your Say website or to visit pop up sessions to be held in February. Anecdotal reports suggest the pop-up engagements are token only.
- **Comments/Feedback on the Inner North and City District Strategy.**
Miles and Suzanne prepared a detailed document focussing on the reasons why Downer should not be included in urban intensification. Miles to finalise document by making it clear that Downer is not a greenfield development, real people live here already and suggesting co-housing (age in place) as an alternative densification option rather than high-rise. Also to add an extensive list of reference documents supporting the DCA case.

ACTION: Miles to circulate final document to committee by 17 February. Deadline for submission is 3 March.

10. DISABILITY INCLUSION GRANTS

- Raised by Leon. After discussion it was decided that our disability access needs are constrained by being in a heritage building (circa 1943) and insurmountable. While we could benefit from sound deadening in the East Hall, we do not have access to the appropriate disability tenants/users to consult with in the time available. See next item

11. ACCESSIBILITY MEETING WITH ARCHITECTS- Amit

- Met with architects. Waiting for ACT Gov to agree to make their report available to DCA. Essentially, nothing in the building complies with modern safety standards. As the building is heritage listed it is exempt from present day codes and remains compliant with the building standards at the time of construction (circa 1943).
- It was noted that the lease of the community centre is up for renewal in 2024. As an aside, mention was made of potential moves by Goodwin to bid for taking over the lease from the DCA. Speculation that this would relieve them of the need to build a community area on their site. This would free up space for more money generating apartments to offset the loss incurred by the amended DA on the Bradfield St border.

ACTION: If report received, report back at next meeting,

12. CLEAN UP DOWNER-Miles

- Downer registered for Sunday 3 March- 9am-12noon. Miles informs this is probably the 20th year of DCA participation. Miles has volunteered his son to assist. Suggestion to buy some long-handle pickers, especially for discarded face masks.

ACTION: Jacqui volunteered to be on the registration desk with help from Patrika and Simone. Miles to co-ordinate.

13. DA ON TP DYNAMICS BUILDING ON YOWANI

- Raised in correspondence from Sue Dyer. She will be submitting comments. DA includes the extension of Swinden street into the re-development. Noted that the land is on the Sullivans creek floodplain yet some 1,200 units are expected to be built. Insurance implications for all dwellings in the postcode 2602!
- DCA do not intend to put in a submission but will check with Sue Dyer that she checks if the DA meets the guidelines of the NCA set in the City and Gateway Urban Design Framework.

ACTION: Miles to liaise with Sue Dyer.

14. PROJECTS FOR 2023

- \$74,000 is in the DCA working account.
- DCA community grants offering to support appropriate and meaningful community projects (see item 4- terms to be drawn up). Possible ones could be, Fenton St park biodiversity plantings, playground in Cole St, rejuvenation of the triangle park on corner of Antill and NB Ave.
- Improvements to the Centre such as duplication of the storage cupboards in the West Hall, replace lights with dimmable lights.

ACTION: Amit to get pricings for cupboards and light replacement.

- Energy efficiency projects such as split system electric heating to replace gas heaters, solar panels and EV charging stations (see item 4)

- Caution suggested for Centre improvements given lease renewal in 2024 is not guaranteed. (See comment at item 11). Note: Since meeting it was discovered that the lease expires on 31 March 2023!

ACTION: Agenda item for March meeting.

15. MEET WITH DICKSON TRADIES CLUB

- Set up a meeting time in February/March. Likely DCA reps- Robyn, plus one of the following Amit, Patrika, Jacqui depending on availability on the agreed date.

16. FROG POND WATER TANK AND SQUARE

- While the tank is now connected, there is not hose connection to refill pond with rain water. Pond and garden in need of attention.

ACTION: Amit to buy a hose and affix. Miles to liaise with Fiona Dickson about a working bee on pond and garden.

- Sprinklers in the Square are spraying erratically watering more of the pavement than the grass.

ACTION: Miles to contact the ACT Urban Services people to get them fixed.

17. HERITAGE WALKS

- Jane Goffman, Convenor of the Dickson Residents Group, has invited DCA to once again be a part of a suite of heritage walks in the inner north area. She has suggested 24 June for the CSIR Experimental Station tour.

ACTION: Jacqui to contact Jane to say DCA will participate. Miles to talk to Denys Garden as a possible speaker. DCA will offer to do refreshments at the end of the walk.

18. PUMP TRACK UPDATE -Amit

- Reported that construction has commenced on 6 February with 300 tonnes of soil dumped. DCA is administering two grants on behalf of the community group, it is expected invoices will begin to flow in. A mid-March opening of the bike track is anticipated.

NEXT DCA MEETING

Monday 6 March 2023, 7.30pm

Robyn Rennie- DCA Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava- Secretary