

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 7 FEBRUARY 2022 MEETING

PRESENT in person - masked

Jacqui Pinkava, Robyn Rennie, Suzanne Pitson, Amit Barkay, Stephen Sedgwick, Leon Arundell.

APOLOGIES: Miles Boak, Simone Gray, Patti Kendall, Peter and Aniko Carey.

GUESTS: Robyn Sirr, Robin and Tess. Residents of The Bradfield and members of the Bradfield tree group.

Commenced 7.40pm, chaired by Robyn Rennie. Concluded 9.25pm.

1. DCA CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ISSUES RAISED- Jacqui Pinkava

Ought to cover period 1 November 2021 to 7 February 2022- for brevity, agenda item generating correspondence only recorded in minutes.

15 Dec 2021- (and follow up 2 Feb)- Majura Women's Group.

Seeking approval and providing information about a mosaic project for the Downer Square- See Agenda Item 9.

11 Jan 2022- Sue Dyer- photos of the pine tree planting on Bradfield Street. 17 Jan- follow up on what the Heritage Commission had to say about the trees- see next.

17 Jan- Robyn Sirr, The Bradfield residents tree group with a copy of their second correspondence with the ACT Heritage Commission. 15 Nov- we received copy of their first proposal for alternative to the planting of pines.- See Extraordinary item below.

27 Jan- Amit Barkay- Cole St Park working bee last Sunday of the month schedule. Email to members sent out -but (sorry) too late for last Sunday in January.

4 Feb- Susannah Howen from the Little B.I.G Foundation <https://littlebigfoundation.org/> Request to have a chat to find out what DCA is doing in creating community connections. Stephen and I met with her at the Square on 8 February. Showed her around, talked about DCA activities. She told us about Relationships Australia's Neighbour Day and suggested we get involved- see Item 11.

EXTRA ORDINARY ITEM- BRADFIELD STREET PINE TREE REPLACEMENT

Robyn Sirr, Robin Bennett (ex Downer Primary school teacher) and Tess Vines, residents at The Bradfield were invited to update the DCA on their discussions with the Heritage Council about the type of tree to be planted on Bradfield Street. Explained that some 30 residents are members of an informal group of residents who would like to retain a winter sun-filled northern aspect and not have two rows of evergreen pines planted as a replacement of the former CSIR windbreak (circa 1947).

Opened by emphasizing that these discussions aim to be collaborative, flexible, and respectful, but so far have only succeeded in getting the Heritage Commission to suggest that the already planted saplings be uprooted and moved some 3 metres further to the roadside. The Heritage Council appear adamant that the pine windbreak planting must be reinstated, albeit with Canary rather than Radiata pines.

NB. DCA met with the ACT Heritage Council on 6 August and it was firmly stated that the replacement trees are to be Canary pines.

DCA invited to visit the site on 12 February to meet with an arborist. Jacqui to attend. Also undertook to provide copies of all correspondence with the Heritage Council. Robyn offered to post community news updates from DCA onto the Bradfield Residents Facebook page.

<p>ACTION: DCA undertook to contact the Heritage Council and request that the DCA be included in correspondence pertaining to the Bradfield tree matter given our earlier involvement/ discussions.</p>
--

Robyn Sirr noted that the group is very keen to be a part of the Downer community and very much believe in the importance of a well treed suburb- they just have to be the right trees for

these times- ie. Let in light and warmth in winter, non- allergenic (pines shed pollen), and sympathetic to the surrounding suburb.

As an aside, Robin, the former teacher, raised the issue of the school time capsule which is buried in the area earmarked for the Goodwin development. She indicated that the whereabouts are known and would like to make contact with Goodwin before any work commences. Suzanne Pitson noted that this matter was raised in the DCA's DA submission.

2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS REPORT

Minutes from the 1 November 2021 meeting approved. Soft copy loaded on DCA website.

Though Minutes from the 6 December AGM meeting are not required to be approved until the 2022 AGM, the matter of Office Bearers for the 2022 DCA Committee is.

Office Bearers for 2022 Committee are:

Public Officer- Simone Gray

Convenor- Robyn Rennie

Secretary- Jacqui Pinkava

Treasurer- Stephen Sedgwick

General Committee Members: Miles Boak, Amit Barkay, Patti Kendall, Suzanne Pitson, Leon Arundell.

Simone, the Public Officer, has already submitted the required paperwork to Access Canberra. A vote of thanks to Simone for her efficiency.

REPORTS:

ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (1 November 2021)

- **DCA Website scoping document-** Stephen noted he has not progressed it
- **New DCA contact signs** – Amit to order two. Placed at either end of the Community Centre providing up to date contact details for booking the Centre.
- **Connecting the water tank to the gutters.** Amit reported that he has made numerous calls to ACT Property Group. Basically the job needs to be done by plumbers that are certified by the ACT Gov. These plumbing firms are too big and too busy to do the simple job. Small operators could do the job but are not certified to do so. A stalemate. Amit to valiantly pursue.
- **Purchase of a BBQ-** agreed at AGM. Miles has purchased two BBQs (one for meat, the other for non-meat) and is in the process of assembling. Miles to sort out reimbursement.
- **Centre spruce-up Working Bee-** Stephen reported that he has spoken to Miles and will need to follow-up. Mentioned that he and Miles had painted over graffiti on the eastern wall of the Centre recently.
- **Public Toilets-** Suzanne promises to work on the petition process and report at the March meeting. Leon noted that he had written to various Ministers pointing out that the Downer public toilet and showers! are listed on the ACT website for public toilets, as well as making targeted points about the lack of toilets in the area and the issues this causes for young and old. He has provided a copy of the correspondence.

ACTION: Public toilet petition agenda item of March meeting.

3. **GOODWIN UPDATE-** Suzanne reported no notification from the ACT Government. The ACT Planning site is showing the DA as closed. No contact/communication received from Goodwin. Noted that sales marketing activity has commenced with

advocatorial articles in City News and the RiotACT. Suzanne responded to the on-line RiotACT article with a link to the DCA DA submission.

4. **NCCC** – Geoff Francis has stepped down from the committee so is no longer the DCA representative on the NCCC. It was mentioned that Sue Dyer usually Zooms in on the NCCC monthly meeting.

ACTION: Robyn to contact Sue to see if she is willing to be the DCA representative on the NCCC. Need to check with NCCC if an ex-officio person can be the rep. Done

5. **CENTRE LIAISON-** Stephen Sedgwick
 - Flooding of the carpark. Amit has reported the issue including on “Fix My Street” 3-6 months ago. Need to get ACT Property Group to clean out the drainage pipes around the building. Car park needs to be re-surfaced as it is badly potholed.
 - Stephen and Miles painted over the graffiti on the western wall.
 - Most of the pre-Covid clients have returned. This includes a Pentecostal church group from Sydney who have at last paid their overdue fees. SEE-Change and other Covid interrupted clients will be charged pro-rata based on ability to use the Centre during the lockdown.
 - The Warrior Yoga group were unable to use the Centre due to a timetable clash, but two new blinds were installed in anticipation.
 - New keys to be cut. Stephen raised the idea of having separate toilet keys not reliant on the main door keys as a more flexible approach. It was noted that the toilets are only available for those that have booked use of the main rooms. Unresolved.
 - Noted the build-up of client “rubbish”.

ACTION: Stephen to write to tenants responsible for build-up of “rubbish” to remove their stuff in preparation for a DCA working bee, or risk these items being jettisoned.

6. **TREASURER’S REPORT-** Stephen
 - Income and expenses report for January 2022 was provided electronically. No report for November or December. Current account balance in all three accounts (working, special projects and term deposit) as \$46,034. Working account is \$20,738.
 - January saw a net decrease of \$1,451 with expenses (bills and cleaners wages) totalling \$1,602.
 - Income of \$151 received, largely from key deposits.
 - Invoices have been sent out and already \$1,087 received in the first week of February. Expect \$2-3,000 to be received.

PROJECTS AND ISSUES:

7. **CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY- Sunday 6 March**
 - Miles has offered to organise registration and bags etc. Committee agreed for DCA to continue its long-standing involvement. Jacqui happy to do desk duty but may be away on the day. No one else available to volunteer.

ACTION: Robyn to contact Miles to go ahead with registration and suggest he seek back up volunteers. Done

8. **RECRUITMENT OF CENTRE-COORDINATOR-** Stephen
 - Provided a duty statement. Committee noted that applicants also need to have some information about terms and conditions- hours of work and pay.
 - Noted that there is an employment contract that has been previously used. This has not been circulated to the committee.

- Robyn noted that Patti has volunteered to be on the interview panel. Stephen likely to be the other member. Stephen to be the contact person for inquiries and information.
- Low key advertising- via DCA Facebook page, email, notice on the Centre noticeboard and Gang Gang and also on The Bradfield group Facebook page (via Robyn Sirr)... and word of mouth.
- Stephen emphasised that the job calls for a people person with patience as client service is paramount.
- Job to be ready to be advertised by the next meeting- 7 March.

ACTION: Stephen to put together terms and conditions of employment that will be used as part of the job ad. Miles and Patti to collaborate with Stephen on final wording of the ad. Jacqui to distribute job ad.

9. MAJURA WOMEN'S GROUP MOSAIC IN THE SQUARE- Robyn

- The Majura Women's Group (MWG) have been clients of the Centre for some 40 years. They have approach the DCA with a project to create a mosaic that shows and shares visually the impact the MWG has had on the lives of so many Canberra women over the years.
- The project will be funded by the MWG, designed by local artist Tina van Raay. It will be constructed of tile, ceramic and found pieces. Likely to approximately 34cm in height and covering the bottom 4 bricks around one side of the central raised lawn area.
- Fabrication expected to happen in term 1 and affixed to the central retaining wall during term 2. The installation area will need to be cordoned off for a few weeks to allow for adhesive and grout to cure.
- The DCA committee fully support this initiative as it will continue the rejuvenation of the Square and celebrate the achievements of a valued community group.

ACTION: Robyn to contact MWG to give DCA endorsement to go ahead with this project, noting the need to safety considerations given the popularity of the central grass area and boulders with young children.

10. ELECTRIC MOWER PURCHASE

- Raised at the AGM. Noted that Greg Mulvaney has very generously not only regularly mowed the rather magnificent central lawn, he has transported his own lawn mower to do so.
- Miles provided a quote of \$380 to purchase an 18volt Ryobi electric mower. Need to determine if this size is capable of mowing both the central lawn and the grassed area to the north east of the Centre within our lease curtilage.
- Committee agreed to the purchase a suitable mower (and extra battery) up to the cost of \$500 as there are sufficient funds to do so. Concern expressed about finding space to store the mower.

ACTION: Miles to go ahead with buying the mower. Robyn to advise Miles. Done

11. OTHER BUSINESS- PARTY AT THE SQUARE- 20 MARCH- Amit

- Arose out of correspondence from SEE-Change wishing to hold a clothes swap. Committee decided to host the 2022 Party at the Shops. Sunday 20 March 11am-2pm. BTW- 21 March is Harmony Day and 27 March is Neighbour Day.
<https://neighbourday.org/get-involved/>
- Amit volunteered to get things moving, having done such an excellent job in 2021- ACT Covid approval, contact the commercial tenants, contact last year's participants/stall holders (Lara Doolette), etc.

ACTION: Amit- as above and more. Stephen to contact current tenants to invite participation. Robyn to contact the Pre-School, Men's Shed. Suzanne to investigate new corflute street signs. Jacqui to send out email about the event and ask Kerry-Anne to put on Facebook. Agenda item for 6 March meeting.

NEXT DCA MEETING

Monday 6 March, 7.30pm

Robyn Rennie- DCA Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava- Secretary