

## **DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 6 MARCH 2023 MEETING**

### **PRESENT**

Robyn Rennie, Miles Boak, Jacqui Pinkava, Stephen Sedgwick, Amit Barkay, Simone Gray, Patrika Sheehan, Pam Behncke (resident), Garth Jurd (Group Leader Well Station Scouts), Bob Bylo (resident), Abdul (new resident)

#### **1. APOLOGIES:** Leon Arundell, Suzanne Pitson, Sue Dyer

Commenced 7.35pm, chaired by Robyn- Convenor. Concluded 9.35pm.

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

- 6 Feb- Fran Parker re : Anne Clark – Centre Co-ord recruitment- see agenda item 8
- 7 Feb- David Glavonjic- state of Downer footpaths
- 8 Feb- Rob May- Jimble- raising money for community organisations- see agenda item 17
- Alison Percival- Dickson Tradies- settling on a meeting date- see agenda 14
- Sue Dyer, Leon- concerning District Strategy input and media articles- various
- 22 Feb- Paula Mance- new SEEChange CEO- re EV station partnership- see agenda item 13
- 22 Feb- Fiona Veikkanen- Canberra Environment Centre= Adopt a Park- want DCA letter of support and money – see agenda item 12
- 23 Feb- Elizabeth Lee- meet with us in March- see agenda item 15
- 3 March- Suzanne- copies of submissions by other associations re District Strategy. FYI
- Copies of newspaper articles commenting on district strategies penned by Miles Boak and Sue Dyer.
- OUTGOINGS- to DCA members and friends- re Have Your Say, Clean up day x 2.

#### **3. MINUTES AND ACTIONS REPORT**

Minutes of 6 February 2023- approved. Loaded on DCA website.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **4. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

- Amit- accessibility report from ACT Property Group, provide copy if available-
- Amit reported that document has not been received. **Amit will chase up.**
- Amit to buy hose for tank and affix- Hose is affixed to tank. **Need to alter to deal with low flow/ gravity fed only.**
- Miles to liaise with Fiona Dickson re working bee to weed pond/garden.
- Miles and the DORCs (Downer Off Road Cyclists) lifted wire cover of pond and weeded and removed excess pond vegetation. Pond needs topping up with tank rain water.
- Miles- report that ACT Gov promptly fixed sprinkler heads for lawn area!
- Jacqui- advised Jane Goffman that DCA happy to participate in Heritage walks. Miles to talk to Denys? (Done)

#### **5. CENTRE LIAISON- Stephen Sedgwick**

- Contact made with ATO, re employer superannuation contribution for Adele Cameron and direct payment of Ann Clark's (new Centre Co-ordinator) wage into superannuation fund.
- Single Touch Payroll (STP) for tax purposes to be installed using something called Clock-On Employment System.
- East hall fire exit door blocked by client materials. Stephen has written to the Majura Women's Group and they are aware of the issue and will comply.
- Table-stackers- Miles. **Jim Dehlsen to follow up with information about a possible provider (in the suburb of Beard).**

- **Amit- pricings on storage cupboards and dimmable lights for Centre- ongoing.**  
Amit to provide photos of existing storage and provide info on what required, ie. fixed (load bearing) and adjustable shelving.
- Stephen reported that there had been issues (doors left open, excessive use of paper towels and toilet paper) with Gang Gang's use of the DCA toilets during their renovations. Miles noted that Gang Gang has given the cleaner \$100 as a thank you for her extra effort required during this period and she was happy.
- New carpet sweeper purchased.
- Smell problem has been tracked down to dead rats behind the fridge. Now sorted.

**ACTION: Storage room to be cleaned out and contents rationalised to fit in a second BBQ- Miles et al**

#### **6. TREASURER'S REPORT- Stephen Sedgwick**

- Current account balance in all three accounts (working, special projects and term deposit) is \$87,247. Working account as at March is \$61,918.
- February saw a net increase of \$1,115 in the working account.
- Income from payment of room hire amounted to \$1,827.
- Total expenses for February totalled \$768, made up of wages \$260, PAYE tax \$240, super \$134 and reimbursement of \$38 for plants.
- Grant payment of \$12,890 for bike pump track made in March.
- DCA continues to administer grants for the Berry St park and the Bike Pump Track from the Special Projects account currently at \$18,343 (unchanged from January report?)

#### **7. BIKE PUMP TRACK- Amit**

- Amit reported that the earthworks have been completed and the track is now open for use.
- \$18,000 provided for the project which includes \$10,000 from the ACT Gov and an unbudgeted donation from the Dickson Tradies Club.
- Currently round \$3,000 is unspent with the project coordinators wishing to spend it on plants and landscaping. Stephen has requested the project coordinators prepare a budget before the final amounts are released.

**ACTION- Amit, as DCA contact for the project, to seek a budget so that Stephen has something to acquit against and be happy.**

#### **8. NCCC meeting report- Leon**

- First meeting of 2023 was on 15 February. Leon is an apology so no report.  
**Requested post-meeting update from Leon.**

### **PROJECTS AND ISSUES:**

#### **9. CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR RECRUITMENT – Stephen**

- Reported that Ann Clark has been appointed as the Centre Co-ordinator. Expected to commence in April once payment into her super account is sorted with input from Fair Work Australia. Noted that though she does not live in Downer, she has a daughter who does.

**ACTION: Committee requested that Ann be invited to our April meeting.**

#### **10. DOWNER CENTRE LEASE RENEWAL**

- The five year lease of the community halls in Frencham St expires on 31 March 2023. DCA has not received any notification of lease ending from the ACT Property Group. It is understood three months notice is required.

- DCA wrote to ACT Property Group on 27 February 2023 requesting a new or extended lease. No response as yet received.
- Those involved in the lease renewal in 2018, feel fairly confident that it will be renewed as there was a public petition and the direct involvement of the Chief Minister resulting in a loss of face for Property Group.

#### **11. DCA SUBMISSION FOR INNER NORTH DISTRICT STRATEGY**

- Miles and Suzanne prepared a detailed document focussing on the reasons why Downer should not be included in urban intensification. It was loaded on the Your Say website (including the ludicrous requirement to indicate the gender and the age of the submitter!) on 2 March, 3 March being the deadline.
- The submission was also emailed directly to Planning System Review and Reform Project team in EPSDD, to Jo Clay MLA- Greens spokesperson for planning/conservation etc. Copies shared with other resident associations in Canberra. Posted on DCA Facebook, DCA website and emailed to DCA members and friends.
- Miles Boak and Suzanne Pitson were given a vote of thanks for their efforts in putting the submission together. A detailed submission was also sent by Sue Dyer. Copies provided to the DCA for information.

#### **12. CLEAN UP DOWNER 5 MARCH – Miles**

- It is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of DCA participation. On the day Miles provided a laminated copy of the DCA Newsletter from 2003 and Jacqui bought chocolates to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- 19 people registered, including local Green MLA Rebecca Vassarroti. 10 bags of rubbish, two bags of recyclables (now more limited to containers and paper products), an office chair, a vacuum cleaner carcass, a car wheel, a bicycle frame and other big bits of junk were collected.
- The Well Station Scout group of 25 also participated in the clean-up. Many thanks!

**ACTION: Jacqui- draft good news story with photo to be included in E-Newsletter.**

#### **13. DCA COMMUNITY GRANTS GUIDELINES- Robyn**

- DCA community grants offering to support appropriate and meaningful community projects and activities.
- Robyn, Miles and Jacqui met on 24 February to write up brief guidelines.
- Draft circulated with a deadline of **Friday 10 March for comments from the Committee.**

**ACTION: Jacqui to finalise guidelines. Then include invite to submit proposals in E-Newsletter.**

- Canberra Environment Centre requested a letter of support from the DCA for their submission for an Adopt-a-Park grant for the Cole St urban forest park. Overlooked at this meeting. Out of session, Amit reported that the letter had been signed by Robyn with a maximum DCA contribution of \$2,000. Submissions were due on 3 March.

#### **14. SEECHANGE PARTNERSHIP ON EV CHARGING STATION- Amit**

- Paula Mance, the new CEO of SEEChange wrote to the DCA to see if we are interested in- "championing an EV charging station near the community building. " In follow up discussion, Amit informed the Committee that SEEChange would like a charging station for their exclusive use to power a van to be used to transport their E-bikes.

- The Committee did not support the exclusive use a charging point on the building as there would be no value to the rest of the community. It was also noted that it would require a dedicated car parking spot for SEEChange.

**Action: Amit to speak to Paula Mance to look at pricings of electrics for a “trickle down” charging port??**

#### **15. MEET WITH DICKSON TRADIES CLUB**

- Robyn, Patrika and Jacqui met with Alison Percival, General Manager Clubs on 23 February. The Community Contribution Scheme requires clubs to make a portion of their gaming revenue available to assist the community in a number of ways. The Tradies recently provided funding to the new bike pump track on the Downer oval and are keen for to assist in other projects in Downer.
- Robyn outlined three projects of value to the Downer community. In order of priority/importance and possibly cost:
  1. Public toilets
  2. Solar panels and two EV charging stations
  3. Permanent BBQ area
- Alison did allude to the possibility of up to \$30,000 could be available. To access funding, DCA would need to put in a proposal outlining a bit about DCA and its role in the community, evidence of the need for the infrastructure and its sustainability/maintenance, benefit to the community and costings. This proposal would be put to the Tradies Board who meet monthly (at the end of the month).
- DCA noted that we would first need to get approval from ACT Property to use the existing, but defunct toilet block for this community lead project.

**ACTION- Jacqui to follow-up with Rebecca Vassarotti, and “toilet campaigners”- Andrew Selth and Peter Comasari.**

**Input/guidance from Amit on how to proceed re ACT Property Group please!**

#### **16. MEETING WITH REBECCA VASSAROTTI (Member for Kurrajong) - Jacqui**

- At a Saturday pop up at the Downer Square, Jacqui raised the subject of the need for a public toilet, made all the more apparent during the Gang Gang cafe extensions. Mention was made of the Dickson Tradies Club interest in contributing the project. Rebecca reported that she had already had a number of people discuss the same matter. She undertook to arrange a meeting with Minister Chris Steele with the DCA to discuss the issue.

**ACTION: Jacqui to follow up with Vassarotti’s office.**

#### **17. MEETING WITH ELIZABETH LEE (Liberal Opposition Leader)- Jacqui**

- Elizabeth Lee’s office wrote to the DCA requesting a meeting with a number of dates in March suggested. Robyn reported that she is away on all the dates.
- Jacqui and possibly Amit available on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March and Jacqui and Patrika on Friday 17 March.

**ACTION- Jacqui to inform Lee’s office of our availability. (done)**

#### **18. JIMBLE INVITATION TO BE PART OF MERCHANDISE FUND RAISING**

- Rob May a local downer resident has set up a fundraising venture selling mugs with designs to depict the community group to benefit from the fund raising.eg. Hackett Community Association apparently on board to support money going to Blue Gum school.
- DCA suggested that the Well Station Scout Group may like to investigate this possible fundraising opportunity. Correspondence from Rob May passed on to Garth Jurd, Group Leader.

**DOWNER SCOUT HALL- Garth Jurd, Group Leader Well Station Scout Group**  
Contact made with Garth through the Scouts participation in the Clean Up event. Garth explained that his Group is looking at building relationships within the broader Downer community to ensure that the Scouts are community focused. He explained that due to a lack of government provided facilities in the Gungahlin area, the group have been offered a home at the previously vacant Downer Scout Hall. The Well Station Group therefore has a catchment area beyond Downer. He did note that there is already a number of local Downer participants. To increase the participation of local children, Garth provided a short item to promote the activities now taking place at the Downer Scout Hall.

**ACTION: Jacqui to load Scout item on the DCA website (done). Kerry-Ann has posted it on DCA Facebook. Jacqui to include in the next E-Newsletter.**

Garth also noted the rundown condition of the Hall and may look to the DCA's community grants offer for some improvements as well as other means of raising funds. He also expressed disappointment about how close the bike pump track is to the building, reducing space for outdoor scout activities- such as practicing tent erection.

## **NEXT DCA MEETING**

Monday 3 April 2023, 7.30pm

Robyn Rennie- DCA Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava- Secretary