

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 4 APRIL 2022 MEETING

PRESENT

Jacqui Pinkava, Suzanne Pitson, Simone Gray, Miles Boak, Amit Barkay, Peter Carey
Quorum is 3, 5 committee in attendance.

GUESTS: Hedda Ransan-Cooper and Eliza Smyth- Downer Pump Track Project.

APOLOGIES: Leon Arundell, Patti Kendall, Robyn Rennie, Stephen Sedgwick, Sue Dyer.

The DCA committee acknowledged with sadness the death of “Doc” Rennie, husband of the Convenor, Robyn. Flowers and a card to be arranged. (Action: Suzanne)

Commenced 7.40pm, chaired by Miles Boak on behalf of Robyn. Concluded 9.00pm.

EXTRA ORDINARY ITEM- DOWNER PUMP TRACK PROJECT- Hedda Ransan-Cooper and Eliza Smyth

At the DCA AGM on 6 December 2021, Sam Hussey-Smith sought DCA support for a grant application for a children’s pump track (bicycle track with bumps). DCA agreed to support and be the auspicing body and to provide some funding (not specified).

A local group, lead by Eliza and Hedda, applied to the ACT Government for \$18,000 to construct the pump track. They were successful in being granted \$10,000. Additional fund raising will be required. They also plan to seek a Nature Playground grant and combine the two projects.

The site for the proposed pump track is near the Downer Scout Hall, covering an area of about 20 x 20 metres. The pump track is intended for young children, hence the small area. Further consultation with the Scouts is possibly needed.

The DCA made it clear that broader consultation with the residents near the corner of Melba and Bonython streets is also needed. This is likely to be done through Facebook, letterbox drop and possibly an event to present the concept and seek feedback. The pump track group will handle the community consultation process.

Discussed what is required for DCA as the auspicing body, ie. Receive and administer the grant on behalf of the community group. DCA did likewise for the Downer Urban Forest project at Cole Street park. Grant papers need to be signed by 15 April in order to receive the funding.

The DCA Committee agreed to auspice and authorises Amit Barkay (for deed purposes known as A/g President) to sign on behalf of the DCA to Execute the Deed.

1. DCA CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ISSUES RAISED- Jacqui Pinkava

One new membership request from The Bradfield.

Majura Women’s Group with an update on the mosaic project.

Sue Dyer- link to RiotACT article on the Bradfield St pines issue. Also mentioned the issue of endangered Gang Gangs and the importance of mature trees.

Responses from past stall holders invited by DCA to participate in the Party at the Square. Clare Doube, on behalf of David Pocock, inviting DCA and members to Pa Politics in the Park event.

Sue Dyer- notes on the New Planning Bill consultation session she attended online. Noting that comments are called on Have Your Say and that there are still a number of online sessions available.

Downer Centre received an email from the AEC wishing to hire the hall for the Federal Election.

2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS REPORT

Minutes from the 7 March 2022 meeting endorsed. Soft copy loaded on DCA website.

REPORTS:

3. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **DCA Website scoping document-** Committee unanimously agreed to “just get it done” using the outline document rather than waiting for a more sophisticated scoping document.

ACTION: Jacqui to progress. Contact Lyneham Community Association who are in the process of getting their website upgraded. Contact Gaffer Designs with current outline document.

- **New DCA contact signs** – completed. Signs with contact details for hall hire affixed to both ends of the Centre. Old signs to be sustainably disposed of. Thank you Amit.
- **Connecting the water tank to the gutter.** Amit continues to try to get an ACT approved plumber to come and do the small job. Frustrating process.
- **Public Toilets-** Jacqui contacted Brook Clinton from SEEChange and provided contact in ACT Property for her to pursue her idea of SEEChange taking “custodianship” of the decommissioned toilet block.
- **Majura Women’s Group mosaic project.** Rendering of the bricks is complete. Stephen not present to provide any further update.
- **NCCC** – Sue Dyer has declined Robyn’s invitation to be the DCA representative at the NCCC meetings. Unsure if Patti Kendall has been approached. **Item for next meeting.**
- Letter to ACT Heritage Council- due to the absence of Robyn, **item for next meeting.**

4. PARTY AT THE SQUARE - Amit Barkay

- A success with a great vibe! Stall holders happy and would like to run it more often, suggested monthly. Amit noted that possibly a Party twice a year- autumn and spring. If stall holders would like a more regular market, noted that members of the DCA who organise an event in the Square have insurance cover under the DCA policy and can therefore organise an event themselves. **THIS IS WHAT MILES SAID- IS THIS REALLY THE CASE ???**
- Felt that three hours would be ideal as the last hour was a bit quiet.
- Music and performance events a great drawcard.
- DCA stand- a big thank you to Aniko Carey for her long stint at the desk. Three new members signed up and one Downer@50 book sold. Suggest that the now out of date book be available for a gold coin donation.

ACTION: Amit to prepare a contact list of stall holders and performers for future reference. Provide copy to Secretary.

5. GOODWIN DA UPDATE- Anecdotal information only.

- Suzanne mentioned that she was told by people who expressed interest in buying into the Goodwin development that development approval was expected in July 2022.

6. CENTRE LIAISON- Stephen Sedgwick

- No report as Stephen not present- previous action items still current.
- Amit reported that he purchased the additional tables on the morning of the Party at the Square. He has been reimbursed.
- Amit has undertaken to remove the pile of fluorescent tubes atop the storeroom and dispose of them sustainably.

ACTION:

Stephen to talk to Miles about lawn mower storage in the outdoor shed.

Stephen to write to tenants about clearing out their rubbish and provide a checklist of what is expected when hiring rooms.

Working Bee to be organised.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Income and expenses report for March 2022 was provided electronically. Current account balance in all three accounts (working, special projects and term deposit) as \$51,161. Working account is \$20,738
- March saw a net decrease of \$1,213.
- Income from payment of room hire amounted to \$2,865 (\$300 key bond included).
- Invoices were sent out at the end of March. \$1,345 already received to be recorded in April.
- Total expenses for March were \$4,078 which included general bills of \$1,916, \$780 cleaner's wages, reimbursements for lawnmower, corflute signs, metal sign for hall hire contacts totalling \$1,282
- Miles noted that Berry St park group had received \$500 from the DCA.
- Stephen was not present, so no further information or elaboration.

PROJECTS AND ISSUES:

8. RECRUITMENT OF CENTRE-COORDINATOR

- Stephen had carriage of this item, however was not present and no update provided.
- Miles provided a copy of the wording used previously to advertise the position. Committee agreed to the wording, adding Stephen as the initial contact as agreed at last meeting.
- As Miles will be away for the next two months and Patti is unlikely to be available, Amit and Suzanne volunteered to be part of the selection committee with Stephen.
- Committee agreed to low key and local 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.
- 29 April agreed as the date at which expression of interest are due.

ACTION: Stephen to put together terms and conditions of employment and duty statement in consultation with Suzanne and Amit. Jacqui has sent draft ad to Stephen for his consideration prior to advertising.

9. UPDATE OF THE DCA CONSTITUTION

- Prior to the meeting, Leon provided further updates to the 2002 version of the DCA Constitution.
- Committee needs to devote some time to finalise the draft before it goes out to the membership.
- As Leon was not in attendance, detailed consideration of this item deferred to the next meeting.

ACTION: All committee members are encouraged to read and provide comments on the draft (attached) in readiness for May meeting discussion and draft finalisation.

10. POLICY ON ELECTION CANDIDATE INVITATIONS

- DCA has received two approaches inviting DCA and its members to either come along to a political gathering or to have a candidate speak.
- In the spirit of neutrality, the Committee agreed that DCA would not host or broadcast individual political candidate events. The residents of Downer have the opportunity to seek out these events of their own accord.
- It was noted that in the past, some community associations host panel events at which all local candidates are invited to speak. DCA does not intend to organise such an event.
- As the Downer Centre will be a polling centre, DCA/ Majura Men's Shed will host a sausage sizzle on Election Day.

11. OTHER BUSINESS- Suzanne Pitson

- Suzanne has prepared witty statements to encourage Downer residents to contact Fix My Street to get infrastructure improvements, some as simple as pot holes filled. These will be affixed to the five corflute signs purchased recently and currently housed in the DCA office.
- These signs will be placed in strategic areas where issues exist. It is hoped that multiple requests for fixing may result in positive outcomes.

ACTION: Amit to laminate the statements to ensure longevity. Suzanne to arrange (with others) placement of the corflutes for maximum impact.

NEXT DCA MEETING

Monday 2 May 7.30pm

Miles Boak – acting DCA Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava- Secretary