

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 1 MAY 2023 MEETING

PRESENT

Robyn Rennie, Miles Boak, Jacqui Pinkava, Stephen Sedgwick, Amit Barkay, Peter and Aniko Carey, Suzanne Pitson, Patrika Sheehan, Garth Jurd (Scouts), Jeanette (Resident).

1. APOLOGIES/ ABSENT: Leon Arundell, Simone Gray.

Commenced 7.30pm, chaired by Robyn- Convenor. Concluded 9pm.

2. DCA CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ISSUES RAISED- Jacqui Pinkava

Corro of significance:

- 5 April- Robyn Sirr- Update on Bradfield trees petition- tabled by Elizabeth Lee
- 9 April- Sue Dyer- link to Advertorial on Goodwin Downer in Canberra Times 50 Plus lifestyle.
- 20 April- TCCS- Project updates, esp Inner North Placy Space- put in E-Bulletin
- 20 April- Jo Clay (Greens), update on planning etc. Bit about planning put in E-Bulletin
- 27 April- Sue Dyer- Minister Gentleman's response to 49 recommendations from the Assembly Committee's inquiry into the draft Planning Bill- article in RiotAct. He noted and rejected some 20 of them. Mention of the « Holy Trinity » - Chief Planner, Planning Minister and Chief Minister. Raised concerns about governance.
- **27 April- OUTGOING-** E-Bulletin cut and paste- bike track planting, playspace update, Green's comments on planning
- Members updating their grapevine/homemail emails.

3. MINUTES AND ACTIONS REPORT

- Minutes of 3 April 2023- approved. Loaded on DCA website.

REPORTS:

4. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Amit- storage cupboards (see agenda item 8)
- PumpTrack DCA contribution (see item 10)
- Jacqui – clarified DCA grant guidelines regarding duration. Noted that no one has responded to our offer to give money for projects.
- Amit- SEEChange liaison (see item 9)
- Miles provided copy of correspondence with Ben Ponton's (ACT Chief Planner) office stating once again that no one is available to speak to the DCA. Allegedly too busy dealing with over 400 submissions on the District Strategies and other planning reforms.

5. CENTRE LIAISON- Stephen Sedgwick

- AED/ defibrillator- Stephen noted that the Vet is away until 4 May and will make contact.

ACTION: Stephen to follow up with the Vet and explain AED use, notification of use to DCA (hopefully not) and key bond.

- Informed that the successful candidate for the Centre Coordinator position has retracted her acceptance possibly because DCA expected her to use her own computer to undertake the duties.
- Centre Coordinator position is once again vacant. Stephen noted that Raewyn Arthur, who had applied a year ago, may be interested. Noted that she lived nearby. Amit raised the possibility of SEEChange providing the Centre Co-ordinator service. Apparently SEEChange has undertaken the role in the past.

ACTION: Amit to talk to to SEEChange CEO Paula Mance to sound out possibility. ACTION: Stephen to contact Raewyn to ascertain her interest in the role. Jacqui to send her application and CV to the Committee.

- Storage issue at the Centre is an issue for the Machine Knitters who use the West Hall. Simply there is no storage in that room and they have to disturb users of the East Hall to gain access to their cupboard or have been using the DCA office for storage. **See item 8**
- Reported that the door swing in the men's toilet has been reversed making the toilet more accessible. Door needs to be painted. DCA required to pay ACT Property.
- Amit reported that the drain has been cleared up to a point. There is a problem with blockage at the mains, which is the responsibility of ACTEW. Stephen to check with Amit before paying any invoice for this job.
- Miles noted that Crankys Bicycle Worx are moving into the vacant commercial tenancy. Jacqui has update website to list Crankys as a new tenant at the "Shops".

6. TREASURER'S REPORT- Stephen Sedgwick

- Current account balance in all three accounts (working, special projects and term deposit) has increased to \$87,082. Working account as at April is \$62,183
- April saw a net increase of \$2,241 in the working account from last month.
- Income from payment of room hire amounted to \$4,513.
- Total expenses for April totalled \$2,246, made up of wages \$260, ACTEW bills of \$1,208, business insurance of \$528, dog poo bags \$256 and cleaning products \$14.
- Jacqui raised the question of what was the Special Projects account for as it has remained unchanged for a rather long time. She was under the impression that this account was the "holding" account for the grant money that DCA auspices on behalf of such groups as the Berry St park, bike pump track and in the past, the Cole St micro forest. Informed that this is not the case. Special Project apparently holds "reserve" money for when times were tough and DCA had no money in the working account. Money from the ATO for Covid relief was placed in Special Projects.
- Currently grant monies on behalf of other groups is kept in the working account.

ACTION: Committee agreed that the grant monies that DCA auspice on behalf of others should be kept separate from the DCA working account with its own line item. Stephen to set this up for the May report to be tabled at the June meeting.

7. NCCC MEETING REPORT- Leon

- Leon not present therefore no report.

PROJECTS AND ISSUES:

8. CENTRE STORAGE- Amit

- Amit put forward the need for a system to take stock of the storage and have a managed approach to the allocation of storage for the tenants that require storage. SEEChange has requested an additional shed and the Machine Knitters would like storage in the West Hall. It was noted that some time ago there a plan for a monthly storage rent charge of \$5. It was never implemented.
- Stephen some months ago was actioned to draft a letter to all tenants who have materials in storage with his preferred option of how to manage the storage issue.

ACTION: Suzanne has undertaken to draft this letter, outlining a possible storage management system. The letter will also invite tenants to consider decluttering and possibly offer that DCA provide a skip for a clean-up. Draft to be provided at June meeting.

9. SEEChange LIAISON- Amit

- Reported that the reverse cycle electric air-conditioner is installed. Rebate from ACT Gov received.
- DCA had previously agreed to meet 50% of the cost of the A/C for SEEChange office. This amounts to \$2,500.

ACTION: Amit to ask SEEChange to provide an invoice for \$2,500.

- Reported that no electric bikes will be charged overnight so no risk of fire.
- SEEChange will pay for a bigger gate and sensor lights to secure their shed behind the Centre as they have received \$5,000 from ACT gov for a security upgrade.
- SEEChange are to get a free electric charging station but are required to pay for the installation. Possibly may put it near the water tank.
- Question if SEEChange has their own metering for electricity? Stephen is under the impression that DCA is paying for SEEChange electricity use.

ACTION: Stephen to check if DCA is paying for electricity used by SEEChange.

Amit confirmed that SEEChange are aware that their lease is also on a monthly basis until such time the ACT Government does their review.

ACTION: Miles volunteered to contact the Government (presume appropriate Ministers) to ramp up the issue of the Centre lease and the need for certainty. Miles has since arranged to meet with local Kurrajong member and senior Minister, Rachel Stephen-Smith to discuss this and a range of other issues. Meeting set for 13 May.

10. BIKE PUMP TRACK- Miles

- Planting bee set for Sunday 30 April was washed out. No indication of new date.
- DCA still to provide \$1,000 donation towards plants.

ACTION: \$1,000 from the DCA Working Fund to be provided to the Bike Pump Track project. Stephen to arrange.

- Garth Jurd, Wellstation Scouts, reported that the landscaper had been in touch with him to discuss the plantings. He suggested soft plantings and native grasses for safety reasons. He noted the need to maintain emergency access to the site.

OTHER BUSINESS

11. FLORIADE- Miles

- DCA has once again been given an allocation of bulbs and annuals for a Floriade display in the Square. Planting to take place in the first week of June. Volunteers to be sought. Patrika expressed an interest in being involved.

NEXT DCA MEETING

Monday 5 June 2023, 7.30pm

Robyn Rennie- DCA Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava- Secretary