

## **DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 5 JUNE 2023 MEETING**

### **PRESENT**

Robyn Rennie, Miles Boak (via phone), Jacqui Pinkava, Stephen Sedgwick, Peter Carey, Suzanne Pitson, Patrika Sheehan, Garth Jurd (Scouts), Leon Arundell, Simone Gray.

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Amit Barkay- but emailed a report on SEEChange liaison and heater upgrade.

Commenced 7.30pm, chaired by Robyn- Convenor. Concluded 9.20pm.

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

- 3 May- Jackson Bohlsen- Town Planner Spacelab. Invite to meet with DCA about redevelopment of 5-9 Melba St.
- 10 May- Darryl Johnston Clean Air Canberra- DCA support to ban wood heaters- write to politicians.
- 21 May- Holly Bareham (Patti Kendall's granddaughter)- interest in the Centre Coord position.
- 21 May- response to Garth/Scouts- see item 10.
- 22 May- Anne Stearman- kids library- missing knob- forward to Miles and Jim to fix
- 22 May- David Wong- wanting info about selling-off ACT Housing properties in Downer and fate of tenants.
- 26 May- Jo Clay (Greens), update on planning etc. – should we include in E-Newsletter ?
- 26 May- Sue D- alert to consultations on Managing Urban Open Spaces- YourSay- for E-Newsletter ?
- 1 June- Ken Ross Meridian Care Finder- info about Cwlth Gov Care Finder program- E-Newsletter ?
- 2 June- Sue D- SMH article on suburb names linked to frontier wars- focus on Downer- E=Newsletter ?

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

- Minutes of 1 May 2023- approved. Unable to be uploaded on DCA website as the website domain name has expired. Stephen asked to assist in restoration. Restored. Requested information on who and how for our records.

### **REPORTS:**

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

- Suzanne provided draft of initial and follow up emails to tenants focusing on “spring fling”, an opportunity for tenants to do a clean-up themselves with DCA providing a skip.  
Transpires that in the interim Stephen has written to the tenants seeking an audit of their storage needs.

**ACTION: Stephen to provide a copy of the email he sent to tenants and any responses he has received.**

**July meeting committee to consider using “spring-fling” as a follow up action.**

- Meeting with Kurrajong MLA- Rachel Stephen-Smith- 13 May  
A meeting was initially sought with Chris Steel Minister responsible for Transport and City Services, so a meeting with our local member sought and granted. Robyn, Miles, Amit, Jacqui and Patrika met with Rachel and her Adviser Jonny Goodwin at Gang Gang. Issues covered included: Centre lease, toilets, parking and infrastructure, planning. Minister listened, acknowledged some of the things and is willing to consider supporting petitions on the reinstatement of the toilet and possibly the lease. Notes on this meeting available.

**ACTION: Jacqui to follow-up with Jonny the Adviser to see about a lost letter from Minister Steel (the Minister responsible for most of the issues raised) and to see if there is any further action on matters aired.**

Miles mentioned about Transport and City Services looking at a review and something about a grant being available for roadworks?

**ACTION: Miles to check out the grant.**

## 5. CENTRE LIAISON- Stephen Sedgwick

- AED/ defibrillator- Stephen noted that he has run through the AED use and provided a key to the room where the AED is kept to Kim Godwin the Vet.
- Informed that the Raewyn Arthur, an earlier applicant, is still interested and available in the Centre Coordinator position. Committee agreed to offering the job to Raewyn as long as she was okay with using her own computer and subject to a three-month trial.

**ACTION: Stephen to check if Raewyn is okay with using her own computer and if so, offer her the position subject to a trial period of 3 months.**

- Jacqui noted that the sprinklers were still watering the cement. Miles to ask Greg to turn them off for winter as an interim solution!
- Jacqui has put a door knob on the kids library. Bolt needs to be shortened. Meeting with Arina from Scooby-doodles to discuss decorating the kids library door.
- See item 8 for information about the heater upgrade and SEEChange Centre security upgrades.

## 6. TREASURERS REPORT

- Current account balance in all three accounts (working, special projects and term deposit) has decreased slightly to \$87,061.18. Working account as at May is \$61,711. May saw a net decrease of \$442 in the working account from last month. Income of \$335 received of which \$145 from payment of room hire and \$200 for key bonds. Total expenses for May totalled \$777, made up of wages \$260, taxation \$180, general bills of \$237 for plastering and cleaning SEEChange due heater removal and installation.
- The following invoices require payment- \$2,500 invoice from SEEChange for part payment of the reverse cycle heater install and \$1,000 DCA donation to the Bike Pump Track. They have been outstanding for some while.
- Prepare an invoice for \$15,000 to send to The Tradies Dickson so that they can pay us the \$15,000 donation granted for the replacement of heaters at the Centre. Thank you Tradies!
- Currently grant monies on behalf of other groups is kept in the working account. Agreed at May meeting for this to be a separate line item. This has not been done.

**ACTION: Stephen to set up a separate line item on the Income and Expenditure Report to show grant monies that DCA auspice on behalf of others for the June and subsequent reports. To be tabled at the July meeting.**

**ACTION: Stephen- to pay the Bike Pump Track group \$1,000 and \$2,500 to SEEChange. As matter of priority- Prepare an invoice for \$15,000 for The Tradies so they can provide the grant money for payment of electric heaters. Robyn to provide the contact details to Stephen.**

## 7. NCCC MEETING REPORT- Leon and Robyn

- Met via Zoom on 17 May- a general meeting. Presentation by the Conservation Council on "Make the Switch". Gave report on DCA as per May meeting minutes.
- Robyn reported on a social gathering organised by Jane Goffman with NCCC members and other northside community association at Gang Gang 25 May. Robyn, Leon and Jacqui went along and got to meet folk from NCCC and Watson and Ainslie community associations. No reps from Lyneham or Hackett attended.
- Jane mentioned DCA's involvement in the Dickson to Downer National Trust walk she is planning for later in the year. DCA has offered to provide refreshments and talk about the CSIR Experimental Station period. Miles suggested that Jane had contacted Denys Garden. Denys says this is not the case!

**ACTION: Jacqui to contact Jane to ascertain date(s). (Done)- possibly set for August or September. Denys yet to be contacted by Jane or Miles.**

## PROJECTS AND ISSUES:

### 8. CENTRE ELECTRIC HEATERS- Robyn and Amit

- Robyn outlined the letter she wrote to the Tradies in response to their invitation to submit a bid to their Board for funding (hard copy of letter tabled). DCA requested a contribution to the replacement of the gas heaters at the Centre. The Tradies Club has generously agreed to donate \$15,000 towards the installation of electric reverse cycle system in the two halls. The Committee thanked Robyn for her well drafted letter.
- Amit has obtained a quote from the same company (Solar Hub?) used for the SEEChange heater replacement. A quote for \$19,000 received. These are for 2 x 7.1kw heater in one hall and 2 x 6kw in the second. The Committee agreed for Amit to proceed with this quote, though there was some discussion of the mounting of the units- ceiling vs wall vs floor!
- The ACT Business Energy and Water Program has approved a rebate of \$5,000.
- The Committee endorsed the heater replacement project noting that it is in line with the government's objective to make the switch from gas to electricity. Vote of thanks to Amit and to Robyn and The Tradies Club for bringing this to fruition.
- Suggests that this should be happening in the coming weeks which leave DCA to pay for repatching. Quote for that to be obtained following the installation.
- Committee agreed to get the old reverse cycle A/C in the East Room replaced with a new model at the same time. DCA to meet the cost.
- Question of who is paying for electricity use. Stephen and now SEEChange are both under the impression that DCA is paying for all the electricity use.

**ACTION: Stephen- to check with ACTEW to sort out who is paying for the electricity use at the Centre. Simone would like to see this in writing.  
Amit- authorised to accept quote for heater replacement and to additionally to seek quote for the replacement of the unit in the East Room and to replace it at the same time as the other heaters.**

### 9. SEECHANGE LIAISON – Amit via email

- SEEChange received a grant from the ACT government for security improvements. As a result, they have:
  - Installed CCTV to monitor the bike storage and their office as well as the entry to the Centre.
  - Installed power points to charge the bikes.
  - Replaced the gate near the bike shed with wider gate that allow for easier bike, still meeting the child-proof requirement.
- Confirm that they mistakenly said that they pay for electricity - ie. they don't pay.

### 10. SCOUT HALL DAMAGE- Garth Jurd, Wellstation Scouts

- Garth reported that a large branch from the pinus radiata had pierced the roof and ceiling of the scout hall. The tree is being checked re safety. Scouting activities have had to be relocated to other venues. Insurance will cover the repairs of the roof and ceiling.
- The Tradies Club Dickson have donated \$5,000 towards internal improvements with the undertaking to offer more in the next financial year- possibly for bathroom and kitchen upgrades. Garth thanked the DCA for alerting him to The Tradies as a possible funding source.
- Garth showed concept plans for the upgrade of the Scout Hall (building owned by Scouts ACT on leased land).
- Raised the wish for a \$5,000 grant from DCA for improvements such as insulation and flooring. DCA indicated it is supportive of providing some funding (not

necessarily the full amount of \$5000), subject to receiving a submission. Grant guidelines have been provided noting that they were not drafted with building works in mind, however, the DCA supports activities of the Scout Hall as consistent with the over-arching intent of the guidelines.

- Mention was made of the rejuvenated hall to be hired out for functions as a source of fund raising. Also looking at other fundraising opportunities.

#### **11. MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE – Jacqui, Robyn**

- 3 May - Spacelab (project managers?) invited DCA to meet with them regarding redevelopment of 5-9 Melba St. Met on 26 May. Likely a DA will be submitted for two/three storey terrace style-townhouse development across the 3 blocks. Currently at preliminary stage. No architect contracted. Two separate owners involved. Have eyes on 1-3 Melba and the vacant block in Blacket street.
- 10 May, Daryl Johnson from Clean Air Canberra wrote asking DCA to support their campaign to ban wood heaters by writing to politicians. Matter discussed. No consensus reached as noted that we could not speak for all the Downer community. This noted in reply but link to the Clean Canberra website provided in E-Newsletter.
- E-Newsletter. Number of topics and issues listed. Sent out on 7 June. At least 20 grapevine and homemail email addresses no longer exist.

<b>ACTION: What to do about dead emails affecting membership contact - July agenda item</b>
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#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **FLORIADE-**

- Miles, Patrika and Jacqui planted some 400 bulbs and violas in the Square around 16 May. Though Riley from Gang Gang is watering the beds close by, the beds at the clock pergola do need watering occasionally please!

#### **NEXT DCA MEETING**

Monday 3 July 2023, 7.30pm

Robyn Rennie- DCA Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava- Secretary