

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 6 JULY 2020 MEETING

Via Zoom on-line and at Downer Centre

PRESENT

At the Centre- Sam Hussey-Smith, Jacqui Pinkava, Peter Carey

At home via Zoom- Stephen Sedgwick, Robyn Rennie, Kerry-Ann Hugo, Patti Kendall, Simone Gray, Fiona Dickson

Apologies: Miles Boak, Geoff Francis, Suzanne Pitson, Sue Dyer

Meeting opened 7.35pm, chaired by Sam Hussey-Smith (Convenor).

1. MINUTES AND DCA CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ISSUES RAISED ACTIONS ARISING

MINUTES

Minutes from the 1 June 2020 meeting approved. Soft copy sent for loading on DCA website. Hard copy to be signed at some time when we are able to meet personally.

CORRESPONDENCE- of significance- Jacqui Pinkava

- 18 June- email to DCA email list promoting Slower Streets initiative and asking for feedback. 9 responses received. Compilation emailed to Anne Napier (ACT Active Travel) 30 June on Jacqui's private email.
- 19 June- Phillip Langworthy requesting DCA to auspice his grant application for a community garden on a Downer property on Northbourne Ave. Declined 21 June.
- 19 June- Erik Boddeus Goodwin seeking date for second meeting. 22 June confirmed 3 July.
- 22 June- Sue Dyer- link to newspaper article by Cedric Bryant on "Public disgrace of Downer toilet block".

2. CENTRE LIAISON AND TREASURER'S REPORT

CENTRE LIAISON/ MANAGEMENT- Stephen Sedgwick

- ACT Government do not require Covid 19 safety plans for Community Centres. However, hand sanitisers have been installed in halls. Covid 19 signs have been put up around Centre. Tenants informed of social distancing and tracing requirements and are happy with these arrangements.
- Extra 6 tables have been bought to allow for social distancing for activities requiring tables. Broken tables have been removed. Store room cleaned to allow clients to store items (lecturn and organ).
- Noted a number of new bookings, Zumba, Children Autism Group, Saxophone practice, Women's Bible Study Group, Indoor Boxing etc. Have "lost" a couple of children's play groups but expect they will return next year. In total 21 groups have restarted with 3-5 on hold.
- Have had requests to hire PA and projector. Suggest offering our equipment for \$5 per session for regular clients (\$65 for the term) and \$20 for casual bookings.

<p>ACTION: Stephen and Miles to investigate code lockable storage units to be affixed to wall. Code or key arrangement and bond system to be devised to keep track of equipment users.</p>

- Number of building issues identified that need rectification- broken locks, sensor light in cupboard permanently on, possums/rats in roof (confirm noises heard on the night!), sandpit top-up, chairs need to be replaced or at least cleaned in East room etc.

ACTION: Stephen to ask handy-person Jim Dehlsen to fix or advise. Suggestion of a possum box to be placed in the Square.

- Recruitment of a paid Centre Co-ordinator raised. To be re-visited pending still unsettled Covid situation- discuss at next meeting.
- Issue of lack of parking raised. Concern that with the new apartments being occupied, shop car parking is being used as an overflow. This is also becoming an issue in Bradfield street. Currently no complaints from centre clients.
- Miles has talked to the Village Vet about the situation- not sure of the resolution.
- Upgrade and opening of dirt carpark near Scout hall suggested.
- Sam suggested to put on-hold and monitor the parking situation.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Stephen

- Financial reports now separated into Working Account and Grant Allocations Reports. The DCA has three accounts- a working, a grant and a term deposit account. These are:

Working Account

DCA Check Account 1

BSB: 06 2900

Acc #: 0080 4521

Grant Account

DCA Check Account 2

BSB: 06 2900

Acc #: 0092 6123

Term Account

DCA Term Deposit

BSB: 06 2904

Acc #: 50145264

- Income and Expenses for the Working Account for June provided electronically. Income for June is recorded as \$3,057 from 11 payments, including 7 casual bookings. Expecting to send out a small number of invoices for clients who resumed their bookings.
- Expenses in June totalled \$1,318 largely made up ACTEW bills \$240, wages \$256, reimbursements of \$720, new phone plan \$507, replacement heritage sign \$205 and Covid posters \$61.
 - Operating gain of \$2,058 compared to previous month.
 - Grant Allocation Report, shows the \$9,104 received from the ATO as part of a "Covid Cash Boosting Stimulus" payment which was automatically paid into the DCA grant account.
 - Grant categories are: Adopt-a-Park, Coles Street Redevelopment, Frog Pond Relocation, Communications Grant (via NCCC), Fund Raising Quiz Night. Cole Street Grant of \$15, 796 yet to be accessed- on hold due to Covid and winter.

- Stephen to begin end of financial year administration- superannuation, PAYG etc.

3. UPDATES TO DCA BANK ACCOUNTS- Sam Hussey-Smith

- Stephen and Sam attempted to change signatories at the bank to allow for access to grant/special projects monies- but are required to provide further information.
- Minutes of DCA Meeting of 9 December 2019 confirm that Sam Hussey-Smith was nominated and accepted as 2020 Convenor and Stephen Sedgwick as Treasurer. These Minutes also confirm the nomination and acceptance of the Public Officer- Simon Gray and Jacqui Pinkava as Secretary. Sam has a signed copy of these Minutes.

- The Committee unanimously agreed to the update of signatories on all three accounts (listed in Agenda Item 2 above) to reflect the 2020 committee members and roles:
- Convenor- Sam Hussey-Smith, Treasurer- Stephen Sedgwick, Secretary- Jacqui Pinkava, Public Officer- Simone Gray.

4. MEETING WITH GOODWIN- Patti Kendall

- In addition to the notes from the 17 June and 3 July meetings previously circulated to all committee members, Patti gave a perspective on the two meeting.
- Noted that the sentiments had been heard before from CHC, so hoped that the reality would be better this time. Goodwin/architects very strong on environmental sustainability. Keen to preserve the trees but questioned how this would work with requirement for basement parking. Concerned about the affordability as no information provided on their financial plans/costs. Four storey blocks creating a wall effect a concern. Noted that the Goodwin development wishes to be part of the Downer community.
- Erik Boddeus, the Executive Manager Retirement Living would like to arrange to visit the Community Centre. Patti raised the matter of the 1940's non-compliant toilets as something to be considered in their plan to make use of the Centre. Erik undertook to contact Miles to make a time for a site visit.
- Next meeting with Goodwin will be with the landscape architects and hopefully there will be some preliminary designs to consider.
- Subsequently Goodwin wish to meet with the DCA Committee and then for DCA to host a public meeting.

5. PROPOSAL FOR A DOWNER PUMP TRACK- Sam

- Hedda Ransen-Cooper, Downer resident has been working on a proposal for a BMX style dirt track for bikes in a disused corner near the Scout Hall. She has obtained a quote for the works – approx. \$16,000.
- Seeking DCA agreement to auspice/ support an application for a Community Sport and Recreation Development Program grant round and for a letter of support from DCA.
- It was agreed to support the grant application with follow up on insurance (ACT cover or DCA?), responsibility for ongoing maintenance of track?

ACTION: Sam to progress with Hedda. Note that the deadline for grant is 10 July

6. DOWNER SQUARE- Adopt a Park update- Jacqui Pinkava

- Miles secured a large delivery of quality eucalyptus mulch from the ACT Government which was hauled onto the pathways in the frog pond by Miles, Fiona, Jim and Jacqui. Mulch top up of the Downer Square undertaken by Miles and Greg.

- Noted that a few of the root bound plants donated by the ACT Gov last month have not survived. A couple possibly eaten by nocturnal creatures.
- Floriade display boxes- Icelandic poppies are struggling a bit, no sign yet of bulbs. Netting reducing bird damage.
- Excess bulbs planted in Berry Street park.
- Fiona noted that she is working with Jim to get a concrete base for the water tank for the frog pond area to facilitate watering of the frog pond garden. Sam commended Fiona on her stewardship of the frog pond project.

7. PARK REHABILITATION- corner Northbourne and Antil- Sam

- Sam reported that Miles is writing to the Minister to have this area rehabilitated (possibly by the NCA since it is their land) after it was used (and somewhat abused) as a depot for the building of the light rail. Some 6 or so mature eucalypts were felled and the ground compacted by machinery.
- Patti noted that she is aware that builders working on projects in Blacket street plan to use the area for parking.

ACTION: Sam to work with Miles on progressing this matter.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP- Sam

- Sam reported that Sam Roggeveen had been in contact with him earlier in the year to say that as a consequence of temporarily moving out of Downer, he is suspending his participation on the DCA committee until he returns as a Downer resident.
- Simone Gray as Public Officer previously circulated the Incorporated Association Extract listing the DCA Committee members, noting that it had taken 7 months to receive this official confirmation.
- Miles still has not been officially co-opted onto the committee but continues to represent DCA at a number of meetings- particularly consultations with Goodwin.

ACTION: Officially record that Miles Boak has been co-opted onto the committee in lieu of Sam Roggeveen at the August committee meeting.

9. MEETING WITH ELIZABETH LEE MLA- Sam

- Arranged for 12 noon on Thursday 9 July at 12 noon. Meeting at Gang Gang café. Sam will be there. Other committee members invited.
- Possible topics to raise discussed and include: CHC renegeing on affordable housing, need for traffic calming in the suburb, , lack of schools in the area, need for footpaths, trees and open spaces to maintain the garden suburb character, development density.

ACTION: Jacqui to send email to all committee members to 9 July, noon meeting.

10. OTHER MATTERS

- **Feedback on Slower Streets**
- **Bradfield Street Tree Survey- next steps**
- **DCA website update**

Slower Street Trial- Jacqui

- Anne Napier from the ACT Active Travel uni is the contact. She mentioned that the initiative was implemented in response to Covid 19. In addition to the four pilot suburbs, more suburbs were getting involved. She was keen to get some first impressions/feedback.

- Jacqui emailed the DCA mailing list to raise awareness of the Slower Streets initiative and to seek feedback from residents. Nine responses received, compiled and sent to Anne Napier and to DCA committee for interest. No response from Active Travel as yet.
- ACT Active Travel indicated that initiative is not enforceable, they do hope to make it permanent and will be formally seeking feedback at some stage.

Bradfield Tree Survey- Fiona Dickson

- Fiona has compiled the results of the survey undertaken in late January. Fiona to communicate these results to Minister Gentleman to win over his support for dealing with the Heritage Council.
- Invited DCA to provide input/ oversight of her intended correspondence.
- Patti noted that Goodwin have an interest in the issue of the replacement of pines as they are keen to maximise northern light.

ACTION: Fiona to send draft letter to Committee for comment.

DCA website update- Jacqui

- Photos of re-vamped Square to replace old photos.
- Stephen to provide brief info on Covid arrangements for the Community Centre tab.
- Downer Party at the Shops- indicated on hold, hopefully in spring.
- The “Old School Site” section of the website is very old. Update with news of Goodwin purchasing the final portion. I think we should keep the current “before” photo and include a current “after” shot!- no words required.

NEXT DCA MEETING

Monday 3 August 7.30pm- Zoom or in person to be decided prior to the meeting by the Convenor and Covid restrictions near the time of meeting.

ACTION: Method of meeting to be advertised on Facebook in enough lead time.
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Meeting closed 9 pm.

Sam Hussey-Smith
Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava
Secretary