

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 2 AUGUST 2021 MEETING

PRESENT

Jacqui Pinkava, Robyn Rennie, Suzanne Pitson, Patti Kendall, Amit Barkay, Stephen Sedgwick, Miles Boak

BY PHONE: Geoff Francis (at home).

APOLOGIES: Sam Hussey-Smith, Kerry-Ann Hugo, Peter and Aniko Carey

Commenced 7.35pm, chaired by Robyn Rennie. Closed 9.05pm

1. DCA CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ISSUES RAISED- Jacqui Pinkava

6 July to 2 August 2021 *Agenda items

7 July- Erik Boddeus- Goodwin- informing us that ACTPLA are carrying out compliance checks before DA goes public. Thinks it will be public soon.

*7 July- Nadia Potas- wanting to contact Miles regarding the memorial seat. I gave Robyn Rennie's details as a DCA contact to liaise with.

13 July- Chris Mobbs Hackett Cmty Assoc- with questions about how many members in the DCA, how often do we send newsletters (presumed that we emailed them). Response rate?

28 July- Sue Dyer- links to North District Planning sessions and her views on these. Also Woolley St Listening Report and public toilets.

Robyn Rennie- Convenor- received an email from the Downer Pre-School asking if an event similar to Party at the Shops was likely to happen again.

Miles Boak- email from GangGang café alerting DCA to a letter being distributed to residents of The Bradfield. Complaint concerns music noise after 10pm on Friday/Saturdays.

Outgoing.

6 July- to Erik Boddeus Goodwin- asking about DA for Goodwin Village Downer- Block 21, Section 61 as no evidence on the www.planning.act.gov site.

9 July- response to Nadia Potas giving phone numbers for Miles and Robyn.

17 July- response to Chris Mobbs Hackett Cmty Assoc- I responded- 213 members and friends on email list. We distribute paper newsletters, aim for 4 a year, no sense of level of response.

2 Aug- to Andrew Selth- excerpt of Sue Dyer's email about public toilets and invited to send article to City News about the Downer toilet situation. He has already done so. Sent copy of his letter 3 Aug.

2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS REPORT

Minutes from the 5 July 2021 meeting approved and signed. Soft copy loaded on DCA website. Minutes of December meeting still require signature (Sam).

REPORTS:

ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

District Planning session- Suzanne Pitson- completed.

- In response to ACT Planning invitation to all Canberrans to Have Your Say on District Planning, Suzanne and four other committee members met on 16 July and prepared a consolidated DCA input making repeated reference to the Downer Precinct Plan.
- Submitted electronically on time. No acknowledgement received

Centre Management tasks- Stephen Sedgwick- ongoing

- Purchase of storage boxes- yet to be undertaken.
- Purchase of 2 noticeboards for Centre- with Miles. Yet to happen.
- Written advice about Public Liability Insurance to Lara Doolette (Twilight markets)- Stephen believes he has sent an email.
- Committee suggested that Stephen contact the insurance broker and see if DCA can get some form of blanket insurance to cover market stalls. Such activities are excellent for community engagement.

ACTION: Stephen to talk to the insurance broker about public liability insurance options to cover markets in the Downer Square. Suzanne also offered to do so.

- Duty Statement for Centre Coordinator- provided on day of meeting. Will be discussed at September meeting.

ACTION: Role of Centre Coordinator- Agenda item for September meeting.

- Defibrillator investigation. Amit to take on the task of purchase.

ACTION: Amit to purchase fully automatic defibrillator, expected cost around \$2,100. Check if ACT Property will contribute funds. Ask supplier to directly invoice DCA and send to Treasurer.

3. NCCC- REPORT BACK - Geoff Francis (via phone)

- NCCC wishes to send a letter to the Planning Minister expressing disappointment with the EPSDD District Planning consultation process. Have asked community associations to support/countersign this letter. Currently Campbell and Dickson groups have agreed. Recognising that unity amongst resident groups adds weight, DCA is amenable to supporting the letter.
- NCCC advised that the 2021-2022 round of grant money has opened and provided information on the parameters (21 June). Note: DCA yet to purchase and acquit last year's \$640 grant for new noticeboards.
- NCCC considering embarking on a social media campaign to raise profile of NCCC. More information is required before DCA is willing to support.
- Note of thanks to Geoff for attending Zoom meetings of NCCC.

4. DEVELOPMENTS IN AND AROUND DOWNER

Goodwin Downer

- Development Application submitted by Goodwin. Jacqui to request Goodwin alert DCA when DA is open for community comment. Advised that it is currently subject to compliance checking before it goes public. Planning website checked, Block 21 Section 61 listed as "Pre-DA Consultations/ Active Consultations"
- Patti suggested that DCA request to be part of a reference group during the whole development process. Will wait to see if Goodwin offer this opportunity.

Thoroughbred Park

- Not discussed.

Yowani

- All quiet. Developer is TP Dynamics. Busy with the Coles complex in Dickson.

5. CENTRE LIAISON- Stephen Sedgwick

- With regular early morning booking of hall for personal training fitness sessions, the cleaner may need to be employed to clean mid-week. Agreed to extra cleaning.
- Carpet in the West Hall to be cleaned. Booked in for September.

- Fabric covered chairs to be steam cleaned.
- Clean-up of storage area done, broken furniture to be taken to the tip.

ACTION: Miles to arrange to get trailer from Jim and assist Stephen to take stuff to the waste management facility.

- Storage of items owned by the clients continues to be an issue.

ACTION: Stephen to write to all clients about storage. Stephen to purchase large storage boxes with wheels for client use.

- Stephen suggested a working-bee to spruce up the Centre. Committee agreed and will volunteer.

ACTION: Stephen to get in touch with Committee to set a date for working-bee and tasks to be done.

- Stephen provided an updated duty statement for the paid Centre Coordinator position.

ACTION: Agenda item-For finalisation and recruitment action at September meeting.

- DCA are willing consider beehives in the grounds. Stephen is meeting with bee-keeper on 7/8th August to do a site visit. To report back at September meeting and further deliberation.

ACTION: Stephen and Miles to purchase notice boards for the Centre and acquit the \$640 NCCC grant.

- Some issues around cancelation of bookings by tenants. Stephen to check that cancelation policy is clear and made known to all tenants.
- Stephen stated that the Downer Centre has an approved Covid Plan in place. He keeps tenants informed of Covid requirements as they arise.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT- Stephen

- July income and expenses report provided electronically. Shows current account balance in all three accounts (working, special projects and term deposit) as \$51,378.79. Working account is \$26,085. July saw income of \$5,148 largely from room hire and key bonds with expenses at \$2,176 largely for wages for the cleaner and utilities. Net gain for July \$2,176.
- Longstanding debt with the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ unresolved.
- Stephen has spent \$20 to fix a lectern for a tenant. Miles to sign off to allow Stephen to be reimbursed.

PROJECTS AND ISSUES:

7. WiFi AT THE CENTRE- Stephen

- No advance- ongoing.

8. BERRY STREET PARK and rejuvenation of other Downer Parks -Miles Boak

- Have met and developed a strategy document- copy provided.
- Thankful for the in-principal donation from DCA of \$500- subject to a costed submission for plantings and landscape materials.

ACTION: Berry St group to provide a submission to justify acquittal of \$500.

Committee agreed that the DCA is open to fund any group of residents who wish to undertake rejuvenation of a park or public open space in Downer. You are invited to submit a proposal to the DCA for park projects up to \$500.

9. KIDS LIBRARY and FROG POND- Jacqui

- Kids Library- Jim Dehlsen (Mens Shed) has purchased materials and expects to complete a two drawer style cabinet to fit under the existing library in the Square by end of August. Cost to be around \$200.
- Frog pond- Fiona Dickson in an email noted that Sam Hussey-Smith is handling the installation of the tank. Tank is in position but not connected to gutter. Stephen has reimbursed Sam \$1,600 for purchase of rainwater tank.

ACTION: Jacqui to write to Fiona and Sam to follow up tank connection and inquire about the temporary fence. As the plants are established and the pond is securely covered, check if a fence is required.

10. DCA WEBSITE REDEVELOPMENT- Jacqui

- Jacqui sent a document of “random thoughts” and encouraged the Committee to read critically and provide feedback before the next meeting. Jacqui noted that it is important for the Centre Liaison/Manager (Stephen) to be involved if we want the website to be more interactive and to potentially assist with room bookings etc.

ACTION: Refine thoughts and determine scaled scoping document at the September meeting. Jacqui to liaise with Gaffer Designs. A small working group to be formed.

11. HERITAGE TREE REPLACEMENT BRADFIELD ST- Miles

- A meeting with Ken Heffernan, Chair of the ACT Heritage Council has been arranged for Friday 6 August, 10.30am. Miles, Robyn and possibly Amit will attend.

12. POTAS MEMORIAL SEAT- Miles

- Following email from Nadia Potas, Miles has been in contact. Miles noted that responsibility for the construction of the seat in the Square rests with Nadia.

13. FOOTPATH TO THE SHOPS- Robyn

- Aniko Carey raised this issue of no link from the footpath to the carpark that leads to the Downer Square/café. This is a particular barrier for people in wheelchairs and for prams. Amit said that he had reported the issue on “Fix My Street”.

14. DCA RECORD KEEPING - Jacqui

- Assured that the hard copies and thumb drives of Minutes are kept in a locked cupboard in the DCA Office. NB. Secretary has not seen this herself!
- Denys Garden, who is currently the holder of the electronic copy of the “Downer@50” material, wishes to pass this on to the DCA for their safe keeping.

ACTION: Miles to meet with Denys to transfer information. Stephen will provide thumb drives if needed.

15. ABC CANBERRA COMMUNITY AWARDS- Amit

- Miles Boak to be nominated in recognition of his 25 years of voluntary service to the DCA. Enthusiastically supported by the committee and humbly agreed by Miles.

ACTION: Amit and Suzanne to draft nomination.

NEXT DCA MEETING

Monday 6 September, 7.30pm

Robyn Rennie- DCA Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava- Secretary