

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 3 AUGUST 2020 MEETING

Via Zoom on-line

PRESENT

At home via Zoom- Stephen Sedgwick, Robyn Rennie, Jacqui Pinkava, Patti Kendall, Amit Barkay, Suzanne Pitson, Miles Boak.

Apologies: Sam Hussey-Smith, Simone Gray, Geoff Francis, Peter Carey, Kerry-Ann Hugo, Aniko Carey.

Meeting opened 7.35pm, chaired by Miles Boak.

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

MINUTES

Minutes from the 6 July 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

9 July- Elizabeth Lee's office- follow up on toilet block- offer to advocate. Requested information about the status. forwarded to Committee with copy of notes of meeting with Elizabeth and Brendan Warr her Adviser. 15 July- Anecdotal provided saying that toilets were closed in 2014 or 15. See Agenda Item 3.

14 July - Sue Dyer- regarding Transport Canberra's consultations with DCA after the new April 2019 transport system launched. This was for preparation for a NCCC meeting at which TC are to present. No evidence in the minutes of TC consulting with DCA after April 2019. This concurred with Sue's view and refuted the implication of Chris Steel's letter to NCCC. NB. Geoff Francis was unable to attend the NCCC meeting to report back.

21 July (forwarded from Miles)- Floriade Community Housekeeping request for website content. Wanted input (eg description of our Floriade site and photos) by 31 July. See Agenda Item 7- Other Business.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT AND CENTRE LIAISON- Stephen Sedgwick

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Income and Expenses for the Working Account for July provided electronically. Income for July is recorded as \$1,336.50 for 10 casual bookings and further \$300 in key bonds.
- Expenses in July totalled \$1,748 largely made up gas and water of \$950, cleaner's wages \$256, reimbursements of \$543 which includes \$188 reimbursement of frog pond overspend. \$350 was spent on new tables.
- The working account is down \$166 from June. I calculate \$112? (June \$9242, July \$9130)
- No call yet for funds for the Coles Street Park project. Request to access grant funds will necessitate up to date signatories for the grant account. Stephen asked Amit to give him early warning of when the funds will be required.
- **Update of signatories at the bank still not done.** December 2019 Minutes, June 2020 Minutes contain the information required by the bank for this to happen.

ACTION: Sam and Stephen to update signatories ASAP

CENTRE LIAISON/ MANAGEMENT

- Noted increase in number of new bookings, eg. PK Boxing. Flower Club will be returning next month. Dementia Australia want to book monthly sessions which will bring in \$6-7,000.
- Noted the range and diversity of clients using the Centre. Suzanne noted that this is something to maintain and to be aware of this in the future if Goodwin follows up on their intention to make greater use of the Centre in lieu of having their own facilities.
- Stephen noted that he can control bookings on the system and would give preference to long term clients.
- Chairs removed from rooms to reinforce social distancing requirements.
- Hire of the Centre kitchen to assemble profiteroles requested to allow them to be sold to the public. Discussed but rejected- kitchen is not certified as a commercial kitchen, investigation of other requirements would be required.
- Reported on various cleaning and sorting- carpets cleaned, sensitive handwash pump affixed etc. Committee agreed to Stephen putting hooks in the storeroom.
- Stephen to send letter/email to Centre clients stating that no nails in walls and no spot cleaning of carpet to be undertaken.

ACTION: Stephen to write to Centre clients and to person wishing to use the kitchen.

- As reported for June, a number of building issues need rectification- broken locks, sensor light in cupboard permanently on, sandpit top-up, chairs need to be replaced or at least cleaned in East room etc.
- Previous suggestion of a possum-box discounted as not warranted. Possum still in residence and possibly weeing on light fitting on western end of West Hall.

ACTION: On-going from July -Stephen to ask handy-person Jim Dehlsen to fix or advise on maintenance issues.

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 once PA and projector hire system in place.

- First Aid Cabinet needs to be re-stocked.

ACTION: Stephen to provide details to Jacqui- ie. What needed, where to go to get supplies. Jacqui to undertake replenishment.

- Stephen requested an electronically coded key-box to facilitate client access to the building without having to be given conventional door keys. The Committee asked him to investigate cost and if there are funds available to do so and report out of session.

3. MEETING WITH MLA ELIZABETH LEE (LIBERAL)- Suzanne Pitson

- Suzanne and Jacqui met with Elizabeth Lee and her adviser Brendan Warr on 9 July at Gang Gang Café. Meeting was productive and we were pleased for the opportunity to meet. Noted that it was a bit embarrassing that only two of the Committee turned up.
- Suzanne outlined DCA and the community's issues- ie. Accept development but- need to be empathetic to the surroundings, importance of infrastructure, aging in place, traffic calming measures and transport connections. These were captured in notes taken at the meeting and circulated earlier to the committee. The matter of the closed public toilets at the Downer Centre and traffic issues were also raised. Lee's office followed up stating:

“I have written to the Minister for City Services to advocate the need for traffic calming measures in the suburban streets of Downer, particularly along Durack Street and Banfield. I understand the state of community facilities, like the public toilets next to the shops is in need of maintenance and upgrade. I have also raised these concerns with the Minister for City Services and will be in touch with any response.”

4. MEETING DAI CAMERON (ARTIST)- Miles Boak

- On the initiative of Dai Cameron, a mural artist, Sam and Miles met with Dai on 28 July at the public toilet block. Currently the closed toilet block is covered in random graffiti. Dai has approval from the ACT Government to use the wall space for art. He is not getting any funding to paint a mural. He said he would not be seeking any money from the DCA to do the art work. Dai has done mural work in Dickson.
- He is seeking ideas from the community about what images to paint. Initial suggestions were birds of the area and poppies.

ACTION: Kerry-Ann to put an item of Facebook to canvas community suggestions.

5. CO-OPT MILES BOAK ON THE 2020 COMMITTEE- Jacqui

- Noted that there is a vacancy as Sam Roggeveen is currently not a Downer resident and suspended his membership on the Committee for 2020.
- Due to Covid19, Miles (former Convenor and member since 1985) is not travelling and therefore available and has been undertaking a vast number of DCA activities. It is therefore timely that he be officially returned to the 2020 DCA Committee.
- Moved by Patti Kendall. Seconded by Suzanne Pitson. Agreed by all. Miles duly co-opted onto the Committee.
- Note: This item was addressed prior to Miles volunteering to chair today's meeting in the absence of Convenor Sam Hussey-Smith.

6. PARK REHABILITATION- corner Northbourne and Antil- Miles

- Miles has spoken to Alan McLean in the ACT Adopt-a-Park program. He pointed out that Canberra Metro (light rail) had handed the land back to the ACT Government. The ACT Government is leasing the area to building contractors. Implied that the DCA could adopt the park and undertake park rehabilitation.
- Suzanne suggested that if this is the case, DCA to write to the ACT Government Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) and request these lease payments be provided to DCA.
- Miles mentioned that Simone Gray is aware that the Lyneham Residents Association have commissioned a Paul Summerfield to do a "history walk". Suggested we may like to do similar in this area.

ACTION: Miles and Suzanne to draft a letter to TCCS to argue that the ACT Government should restore the park. And if not- provide funds!
Seek further information from Simone on the Lyneham history walk project.

- Miles mentioned that Alan McLean interceded to save the trunk of a large diseased tree felled in Legge Street park. The trunk is now a nature play feature. Photo provided of kids enjoying the repurposed tree. The DCA gave a vote of thanks to Alan for his efforts.

ACTION: Kerry Ann to put photo and few words on Facebook page- see email from Miles 3 August 6.44pm.

7. OTHER MATTERS

- **Cole Street Park- update – Amit Barkay**
- **Floriade in the Downer Square- Miles**
- **Open letter to candidates in lead up to ACT election- Suzanne**

COLE STREET PARK UPDATE- AMIT

- Park group met last week. Waiting for Government approvals to be finalised.
- Expect to start site work on 17 August. This requires fencing off as machinery is required. Potential for delays.
- Volunteers to plan to follow site preparation. Have a Covid plan with required social distancing etc. Volunteers will need to book set sessions as participant numbers must be controlled. DCA to help with volunteer recruitment, letter box dropping and promoting on Facebook.
- Amit to liaise with Stephen to arrange for DCA to transfer money.

ACTION: Amit to provide words to Kerry-Ann to put on the DCA Facebook page.

FLORIAD IN THE DOWNER SQUARE- Miles

- Reported that the bulbs are starting to peer through but possums are wreaking havoc on the annuals, though a good fairy has fixed up the wire covers.
- 21 July Miles received an email from the ACT Gov Floriade Community inviting DCA to provide a description of our site. Note the deadline was 31 July! This will appear on the Floriade website that presume will be live from 12 September- 11 Oct.
- Committee suggests that the description should include promotion of the tenants in the Square and the DCA.

ACTION: Miles to draft a description and distribute to Committee for comments. (Given the deadline, is it still worth doing?- JP)

- Miles noted that \$250 of the Adopt-a-Park grant is unspent. Jacqui suggested tools (but not to be used until post Covid!)

OPEN LETTER TO ELECTION CANDIDATES- Suzanne

- Suggests sending a letter from the DCA to all Kurrajong candidates to hear of their intentions for the inner north- Downer in particular.
- It was noted that no activity is happening on the north of Antil end of the City and Gateway plan until after the election.

ACTION: Suzanne to draft a letter inviting candidates to tell us of their Downer plans.

OUTSTANDING MATTERS- not addressed. NOTE: Will remove once Minutes approved at Sept meeting- therefore will not appear on the website. Hopefully addressed in the interim!

DCA website update

- Photos of re-vamped Square to replace old photos.
- 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- Update with news of Goodwin purchasing the final portion.

Recruitment of a paid Centre Co-ordinator. To be re-visited pending Covid situation- AGENDA for September meeting.

NEXT DCA MEETING

Monday 7 September 7.30pm- Zoom or in person to be decided by the Convenor and pending Covid restrictions near the time of meeting.

ACTION: Method of meeting to be advertised on Facebook with enough lead time.

Meeting closed 8.50 pm

Miles Boak
Ag Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava
Secretary