

# Downer Community Association

## Minutes of meeting - Monday, 2 September 2024, 7pm - 9pm.

### Agenda item 1: Welcome and apologies – Robyn Rennie

*In attendance:* Robyn Rennie, Amit Barkay, Leon Arundell, Peter Carey, Peter Comisari, John Godwin, Jacqui Pinkava, Miles Boak, Robyn Sirr. *Part of meeting:* Amy Barthet, Ilse Jamonts, Melanie Conlin.

*Apologies:* Suzanne Pitson, Jane Teasy, Sue Dyer.

### Agenda item 2 – Correspondence – Jacqui Pinkava

*5 Aug- outgoing PDF of Around Downer to DCA members.*

***5 Aug- Michael Flynn- suggest DCA have a stand on election day.***

*3 new members as a result of letterbox newsletter*

*7 Aug- outgoing email to politicians, re footpaths, no lease etc.*

*7 Aug- Auto replies from Steel, Rattenbury, Vassarotti.*

*7 Aug- Stephen-Smith reply from Office Manager*

*7 Aug- Territory Plan update- minor changes nothing for Downer, something for the Single Housing Development Control Declaration??*

*8 Aug- Steel's office – "passed corro to Minister..."*

*10 Aug- Teja Sekhon- re basketball court. Will write to MLAs. Wants help with applying for a grant.*

*Followed up 30 Aug- asking if he followed through and reiterating DCA support.*

*14 Aug- Elizabeth Lee- a more detailed response to our letter. Noting their Putting Your Suburb First policy.*

*19 Aug- Berry- standard no-specific response to our letter.*

*19 Aug- outgoing- letter re Majura Primary School Expansion to politicians.*

*19 Aug- Berry- same stock response to Majura PS letter.*

***20 Aug- Melanie Conlin- Downer resident suggestion a community garden near the "shops"***

*21 Aug (and 30 Aug). Responded inviting her to come to the meeting to discuss. No response to this.*

*21 Aug- Jonathan Goodwin- Stephen-Smith Adviser- noting that Rachel S-S has written to Majura PS and enclosed a copy. Outgoing- 23 Aug- forwarded to DCA Committee.*

*21 Aug- Kara Majura P&C- thanking DCA for support.*

*22 Aug- Kara wishing to book space at Centre for P7C meeting. Jacqui got the Downer Centre email wrong. Hope eventually sorted!*

***24 Aug- Thomas Emerson- Independents for Canberra and candidate for Kurrajong- providing list of community forums in September. Should we circulate?***

*30 Aug- Manteena for Goodwin- notice of disruptive building works/ concrete pour- The Bradfield and Melba St on 6 Sept. Outgoing- E-Bulletin forwarding notice and diagrams.*

***30 Aug- Jasmin Turner/ Eric Martin & Assoc- Conservation Management Plan for the Downer Centre. Outgoing- forwarded to DCA Cmte. Comments due by the end of Sept.***

***2 Sep – Ilse Jamonts- Seats for Seniors***

### Agenda Item 3 – Minutes

- The Minutes of the previous committee meeting (5 August) were agreed.

*It was agreed to bring forward two issues from Agenda item 9 so that Melanie and Ilse, visitors presenting these issues, could leave the meeting early if they wished. See Items 9.2 and 9.5.*

#### **Agenda Item 4 - Action Items arising from previous meeting**

- Current financial holdings screenshot to be sent to committee - Robyn Rennie confirmed this was done.
- Letter to Kurrajong representatives re Majura Primary School P&C funding concerns - John Godwin confirmed this was done.
- Cheat Sheet for future Clean Up Australia event—Robyn Sirr confirmed that Miles, Aniko and herself will meet to progress this on Thursday 5 September.

**ACTION: Robyn S /Miles/ Aniko to update on development of a Cheat sheet for next Clean Up Australia event.**

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Centre Liaison Report – Amy Barthet and Amit Barkay**

- Clean-up has turned up total of \$465 cash in assorted envelopes. *Decision:* Amit to use this for impending AGM barbecue purchases.
- SpacetoCo is functioning well as a booking system; There are now 40 regular hirers across the week; payment tiers have been established for bookings with respect to whether ongoing or casual; private or not for profit
- A list of current users who are open to new members has been put onto external noticeboard, and could also go onto DCA website.
- WIFI is working well in all the rooms; Use of a hotspot available at DCA will be promoted at GangGang, on a trial basis for \$10/30 minutes;
- Carpet cleaning and testing of emergency lights will occur this week
- Solid progress is continuing on clearing and sorting excess stored items from past and current hirers.
- Amit / Amy will update several longstanding hirers that storage space on site is in demand and has become limited; the possibility of charging for storage use will be considered.

#### **Lease arrangements**

- Amit presented a “Letter of Comfort” (sic) from ACT Property regarding the Downer Centre peppercorn lease arrangements referred to Communities at Work holding our lease; Amit to follow this apparent error up. Update-Amit followed this up- was assured that the first email was in error. New email of 4/9/24 assures DCA that current arrangements continue while lease renewals are finalised and they’ll be in touch asap.

**ACTION: Amy to send Jacqui the list of users that are open to new members to put onto DCA website. Jacqui to correct ABN information on website.**

#### **Agenda item 6 – Treasurer’s report – Miles Boak (Treasurer)**

- New format is simple, showing figures both monthly and financial year to date; format suits ACT Government reporting needs.
- Graeme Linder, DCA auditor for over 20 years, has been contacted: he is willing audit for again for next Annual report.
- DCA records for first part of financial year are incomplete. Miles is contacting past Treasurer.
- Overall, DCA finances are in healthy state and on track to keep parity with other financial years.
- Miles recommended we move \$20k from Operational account to Savings account, as this would generate better interest. *Decision:* agreed.

**ACTION: Miles to move \$20k from Operational to Savings account; and to follow up with former Treasurer towards compilation of DCA financial records for auditor.**

**Agenda Item 7 – NCCC Meeting Report – Leon Arundell (DCA Rep)**

- NCCC 21/8 meeting report was emailed to DCA by Leon on 23 August.
- DCA interest in grant money currently available from NCCC to assist local associations with communication was discussed. **Decision:** DCA to apply for \$500 to fund a “teardrop banner” to advertise DCA at community events, as current sandwich whiteboard is inadequate.

**ACTION: Amit to liaise with Leon to apply to NCCC for funding a teardrop banner for DCA**

**Agenda item 8 – Clarification of DCA Meeting practice – John Godwin**

- Acknowledgement of Country has not been occurring at start of DCA meetings. John showed sample text available from website of Reconciliation Australia.
- General agreement among longstanding DCA members present that Acknowledgement had been at the start of past meeting practice. **Decision:** reinstate this as standard item in meeting proceedings.

**ACTION: Robyn to add Acknowledgment of Country to start of DCA Agenda proforma.**

**Agenda Item 9 - Other business- arising from Correspondence**

**9.1 Downer Centre Conservation Plan – corro from Jasmin Turner/Eric Martin & Assoc.**

Noted: this draft plan has been forwarded by ACT Government to DCA; our comments are due by end of September; it’s opportunity to add our view about changes needed to the Centre e.g. upgrade of toilets, veranda maintenance issues; Miles has spotted several errors in it regarding historical details.

**ACTION: Jacqui to put a link to the Downer Centre Conservation Plan onto DCA website, and notify community via email that feedback for our submission can be provided to DCA by 20 September. Leon to compile DCA feedback and submit it to ACT Govt. by end of September.**

**9.2 Community garden at the shops.** Melanie Conlin (Downer resident) presented her interest in this. DCA members shared knowledge regarding status of other community gardens in Downer, limited space at the shops, issues regarding water access and volunteer helpers, possible government grant funding rounds, and information regarding potential local collaborators Melanie could contact. Melanie was advised of DCA willingness to auspice a grant application, and to consider a financial contribution, if she got to that point. The park that corners Burns and Bradfield Streets was suggested as a possible site given its ample size.

**ACTION: Miles will search for a previous community garden grant submission (prepared by Jodie P) to provide to Melanie.**

**Jacqui to send Melanie contact details for Inner North SEEChange group, and Greg Mulvaney who may be able to assist.**

**9.3 DCA stand at the centre on Election Day, 19 Oct – Michael Flynn corro.**

DCA election day activities discussed. Agreed: display DCA Teardrop banner; host another democracy sausage sizzle by Majura Men’s Shed.

**ACTION: Miles to invite Majura Men’s Shed to host Election day Sausage Sizzle at Downer Centre**

**9.4 Circulation of electioneering materials – DCA view? – Independents for Canberra corro.**

Discussed; **Decision:** DCA don’t assist circulation of party political campaign events or info.

**9.5 Seats for Seniors.** Ilse Jamonts (recent Downer resident) presented her intention to advocate politically for outdoor seating every 200-300 metres to assist walking independence for older people in Downer, and asked if DCA could assist. DCA members shared ideas including: Majura Men’s Shed

might make garden seats for private householders willing to host a seat near front paths as a rest point for older pedestrians; ACT Government Age Friendly Suburb strategy may be useful; other organisations such as COTA, Heart Foundation, Uni of Canberra allied health departments may assist research/ advocacy.

**ACTION: Jacqui to give Ilse a list of addresses for ACT politicians.**

**Miles to ask Jim if Majura Men's Shed could assist with manufacture of "seats for seniors", that interested local house owners might place by their footpaths on a voluntary basis.**

**LATE ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

**10. Thanks**

Robyn conveyed thanks on behalf of DCA

- to those who assisted with **DCA newsletter preparation**, funding and distribution. Positive response to it from community was noted, including new members joining DCA. Consensus that letterboxing annually is beneficial; 2000 copies seem necessary next time.

Jacqui conveyed thanks on behalf of DCA

- to Amit for many hours assisting the **Community Centre booking system transition** and clean up and presented him with his favourite local coffee beans (Maitland St Roasters)

Miles thanked those who helped with the **Floriade bulb planting** soon to bloom at Downer Centre.

**11. Downer Centre Lawn** – Miles updated that the lawn circle is depleted due to happy heavy wear by enthusiastic toddlers; replacement via Canturf is recommended as strong coverage will be faster than via reseeding; Canturf's likely cost is \$400-500. Decision: approved.

**ACTION: Miles to organise Canturf for Downer Centre lawn circle.**

**Next meeting:** Monday 7 October at 7 pm

Robyn Rennie  
Convenor

Robyn Sirr  
Minute Secretary

Date: