

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 5 SEPTEMBER 2022 MEETING

Note: still draft as no quorum at 3 Oct meeting.

PRESENT

Jacqui Pinkava, Amit Barkay, Leon Arundell, Stephen Sedgwick, Simone Gray, Suzanne Pitson

Guests: Louise Bassett and Daina Neverauskas

APOLOGIES: Robyn Rennie, Patti Kendall, Sue Dyer, Miles Boak, Aniko Carey

Commenced 7.35pm, chaired by Amit Barkay. Concluded 9pm.

1. DCA CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ISSUES RAISED- Jacqui Pinkava

Corro of significance:

5 August- me sending out unbiased invited to sign or ignore the Bradfield St petition. Responses in the negative from- Richard Niven. Jennifer Garden, Denys Garden- sending a letter to the Legislative Assembly arguing for the heritage aspect. Jensen Sass wanted information/analysis from Fiona Dickson's tree Survey- provided.

15 Aug- EPD Notice of Decision on Goodwin DA- partial approval- Circulated to committee. Also sent on by Sue Dyer.

17 Aug- Miles sent us an explanation of what it means. Sue Dyer responded on 20 Aug saying she plans to write to Goodwin asking for more specific info- except she is busy on submission on Active Travel Plan.

2 Sept- Nadia Potas, has started a Wednesday 10am catch up group meeting at Gang Gang, would like us to put in newsletter. I responded to say we would do an E-Newsletter.

5. Sept- Sue Dyer- "notes for DCA meeting on Downer related matters".

Lots of interaction with Weebly/Stephen on website- recreating a dummy site. Meg Boyd confirms she has given all she has- she built the site way back!

Thank you card from Robyn Rennie to Committee for expression of sympathy.

2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS REPORT

Minutes from the 1 August 2022 meeting- approved. Uploaded to DCA website.

3. SPECIAL REPORT- Louise Bassett

A written report was provided prior to the meeting outlining the budget and steps for the expenditure of the \$10,000 Adopt-a-Park grant for the rejuvenation of the park bordered by Berry and Legge streets. The park has been approved by ACT Government as an "Adopt-a-Park" site.

The grant is for the development of a 20 year master-plan for the site which includes implementation plan and a volunteer coordination and management plan. It budgets for the engagement of a specialist landscape designer, community engagement and communication materials.

DCA is the auspicing organisation for the administration of the grant.

It was noted that the grant is half the original bid and therefore the report recommends that the DCA's administration fee be reduced from 10% of the grant to 5%- ie. \$500.

Outcome: The Committee agreed to the reduction of the administration fee to \$500.

ACTION: The treasurer to confirm the process for payment of invoicing as per grant auspicing arrangements.

Jacqui Pinkava and Simone Gray mentioned that there are early stage discussions about revitalising the park bordered by Fenton and Cotton Streets. The focus of this revitalisation would be through increasing local/ indigenous low level species to encourage bird life and soil improvement. They suggested that this park and other parks in Downer could “piggy-back” of this master plan with the aim to make nature corridors throughout the suburb. Louise supported this and noted that the plan would be replicable for other parks.

ACTION: A second update on Berry/Legge St park to be provided at the November meeting.

REPORTS:

4. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Rainwater tank- Amit.** At long last a plumber has agreed to the simple task of connecting the gutter to the water tank in the frog pond area. Overflow was connected to storm water as well.
- **Split heater grant- Amit.** Accepted a quote for \$4,000 but supplier has subsequently fallen silent. Second quote was \$6,000. Note, ACT Gov will pay 50%.

ACTION: Amit to seek a third quote.

- **Sensor lights in toilets- Amit.** A cost- benefit analysis was done and the \$700 cost in installing sensor lights would take many years of lights left on to justify. Committee decide to live with the lights being inadvertently left on from time to time.
- **New noticeboards- Jacqui.** Matching noticeboards are in the process of being fitted to the left of the two hall doors. Many thanks to Jim Dehlsen. Invoice for \$599 sent to Bruce Smith, Treasurer NCCC with request to consider our grant application for \$500.
- **Website improvement- Stephen.** Clean-up of duplicate websites created by the original website builder who has thankfully kept passwords! A “sandpit” site to be created to make changes for review by the Committee. Small format/font improvements have been made to the existing site.
- **Majura Women’s Mosaic- Jacqui.** Hoping that a small post with photo would appear on the DCA Facebook page to mark the 40th anniversary of the group. Not yet posted.

5. CENTRE LIAISON- Stephen Sedgwick

- Adele Cameron was hired as the Centre Co-ordinator in August. She has since indicated that she cannot continue as the hours and the pay is insufficient for her needs. Stephen offered to keep her role available to her for a short period.
- The committee decided that the role could not be kept vacant for longer than a month. It was noted that the Stephen should not be expected to do both this role and the Treasurer as he has done for some two years.

ACTION: As of 1 October, if Adele has not reconsidered, the position will be declared vacant and previous applicants approached and the position re-advertised.

- Stephen reported that ACT Property conducted an emergency lighting test, replacing a sensor light in the women’s toilet. We apparently passed this test... though Amit noted that according to his interactions with ACT Property, the Centre does NOT comply with the safety light requirements.
- Amit met on site with the DCC’s new contacts in the ACT Property Group. They identified a number of issues, in particular that the emergency exits are blocked by largely by the Majura Women’s Group materials. Also noted that the exit doors all open inwards which is against fire regulations (that did not exist in 1947!)

- **ACTION: Stephen to advise the Majura Women’s Group of the issue with their materials and request they rationalise their stuff and store them in a more appropriate place.**

- Men's toilet leaking. Jim Dehlsen volunteer handyperson has been notified.

ACTION: Stephen- Toilet Out of Order sign to be placed on door. Problem to be fixed.

- The ACT Property people noted that there was no money in the current budget! The Capital Assets area of ACT Gov are to visit the Centre to assess the work required to bring the Centre "into code" and hopefully funds will be made available in the Assets Capital budget for next year. As owners of the building, the ACT government are responsible to these works.
- Suzanne Pitson suggested that we provide them with a list of maintenance issues and a schedule of regular maintenance be prepared.

CENTRE UNRESOLVED ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES-

- Amit had undertaken to remove the pile of fluorescent tubes atop the storeroom and dispose of them sustainably.
- Working Bee- to be organised upon the return of Miles
- Letter to tenants about clearing out their rubbish and hiring room checklist- Stephen
- Purchase of table stacker- Amit?

6. TREASURER'S REPORT- Stephen Sedgwick

- Current account balance in all three accounts (working, special projects and term deposit) is \$87,364. Working account is \$62,066.
- August saw a net decrease of \$1,305 into the working account.
- Income from payment of room hire amounted to \$447. Key bond money returned, so income reduced to \$347
- Total expenses for July were \$1,752. Major expenses being- \$1,244 wages for the new Centre-Coordinator and cleaner, \$239 ACTEW, and insurance \$169.
- DCA continues to administer grants for the Berry St park and the Bike Pump Track.

PROJECTS AND ISSUES:

7. UPDATE OF THE DCA CONSTITUTION – Leon Arundell

- Leon noted that a section has been added to the draft for out of session meetings and how these would be conducted (eg. via Zoom)

ACTION:

1. Leon to send out the amended clean (accept all changes) version to Stephen (cc Jacqui) to load onto the DCA website.
2. Stephen to put on DCA website and alert Jacqui that it is on the website.
3. Jacqui to email E-newsletter with web page link to all DCA members, inviting them to send comments directly to Leon by 23 September.
4. Vote for updated constitution at the AGM in November.

8. GOODWIN DA PARTIAL APPROVAL

- In response to 15 August notification by the ACT Environment and Planning Directorate of the partial approval of the Goodwin DA (Block 13, Section 61), Miles sent out an email noting that basically they have ignored the points we raised in the DCA submission. Three of the four buildings were approved, but the building fronting Bradfield has not been due to an inadequate set-back. The DCA's wish for the pin oaks and other mature trees to be retained has been ignored.
- Though there is an opportunity for the decision to be appealed through ACAT (due date 8 September), the Committee decided that there is little to be gained by so doing.

9. FLORIADE Community event grant- Miles Boak

- Miles not present- no report. Grant application was due on 10 August. Committee had not heard if Miles applied. Event to take place during Floriade 17 Sept- 16 Oct.
- Noted that now is not a good time as Gang Gang are in the process of expanding and may be closed. This would reduce the attraction of an event in the Square.

10. OTHER BUSINESS (arising from late correspondence received)- Jacqui

- Nadia Potas, Downer resident, has set up a regular Wednesday 10am get-together at Gang Gang for Downer residents, particularly those that live alone (27% of Downer residents live in single person households!). She would like to invite others to come along. Include link to ABS Census statistic on Downer too!
<https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/801051055>

ACTION: Item for next E-newsletter- Jacqui.

- Sue Dyer sent a report on Downer matters covering:
 - Dickson shops workshop and input to City Renewal Authority on issues such as the re-opening of the Dickson Walk-in Centre, interface of Dickson re-development with Downer, public transport access including cycle routes etc.
 - Active Travel Plan submission- eg. poor access to the Swinden St light rail stop and need for covered and secure bike parking, Garden City Cycle Route (Watson to City east of Northbourne Ave) planning through Downer etc.
 - Ventilation of the Downer Community Centre. Sue suggesting that the DCA invest in air purifiers for the halls. The committee discussed this briefly but were generally “luke-warm”, considering that very large units would be needed. There is also the hope that the eventual replacement of the heaters with split systems would come with HEPA filters built in. Pigs may fly!

NEXT DCA MEETING

Monday 3 October 7.30pm

Amit Barkay– A/g DCA Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava- Secretary