

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 6 NOVEMBER 2023 MEETING

PRESENT

Robyn Rennie, Amit Barkay, Jacqui Pinkava, Stephen Sedgwick, Suzanne Pitson, Aniko Carey, Peter Carey.

- 1. APOLOGIES:** -Sue Dyer, Miles Boak, Patrika Sheehan, Leon Arundell,
ABSENT: Simone Gray

Commenced 7.35pm, chaired by Robyn- Convenor. Concluded 9pm.

2. DCA CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ISSUES RAISED- Jacqui Pinkava

Corro of significance:

- x3 emails from Belinda Sierzchula from Canberra Environment Centre for \$800- (Agenda item 6e)
- 10 Oct- Amit- seeking \$800 grant from DCA to cover admin costs for Canberra Environment Centre grant for Cole St park. (Agenda item 6e)
- 13 and 17 Oct- TCCS proposed Garden City Bike route briefing invite- Jacqui attended on 30 Oct.
- 15 Oct- outgoing E-Bulletin to DCA members info on the Garden City bike route consultations, followed by one on planting afternoon Cole St Park
- 21 Oct- outgoing- to DCA membership Have Your Say on naturalizing Sullivans Creek.
- 27 Oct- Dominic Rasan-Cooper- wanting access to the freezer in kitchen for icecreams for flea market. I replied possibly too late. Next flea market is 23 November run by Gang Gang.
- 6 Nov- outgoing to DCA members. Invite to DCA AGM and NCCC AGM (15 Nov via Zoom)

3. MINUTES AND ACTIONS REPORT

- Minutes of 2 October 2023- approved and loaded on the website. Thank you to Leon.

REPORTS:

4. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Amit provided the Committee with the password for the WiFi now installed in the Downer Centre. He pointed out that the signal only works in the rooms.
- September Minutes records Stephen reporting- “provides Weebly with downerassociation@gmail.com as the second DCA website contact point for registration of URL/domain. Provided Secretary with contact details for Weebly.” Secretary notes that she has not received any contact details.
- Miles has purchased a second BBQ for well under \$400 and has been reimbursed.
- Jacqui reports that she has updated the website- tonight’s meeting, AGM notice both on home page, correct link to the website from Contacts page, Leon’s September minutes uploaded.
- Jacqui reports that she has no record of email from Jenny Howard- 18 Sept- re website design.

ACTION: Suzanne to see if she can locate and send on.
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5. CENTRE LIAISON- Stephen Sedgwick and Amit Barkay

- Storage - Amit advised that the plan is to finally sort out the storage situation after the DCA AGM- so late November. Amit reported that he and Stephen have decided to build a storage unit in the West Hall similar to the cupboards in the East Hall.

ACTION: Amit to seek permission from ACT Property Group to build cupboards. Email sent.

- Discussion if DCA should consider charging for storage to discourage clients from amassing stuff. No resolution.
- Handrails affixed to the toilet cubicles. Stephen said he had talked to Jim about installing the rails. Job not done yet. (as per August Minutes)
- Stephen raised issue of Gang Gang making use of DCA toilets indicating they have kept a key.

ACTION: Amit to ask Gang Gang to return key- done. Key returned.

- Stephen reported that the security alarm for SEEChange's shed is being activated regularly. SEEChange is aware of this.

ACTION: Amit to talk to Paula CEO SEEChange. Suggest putting a contact number on the door for people to call should the alarm go off.

- Amit reported that an ACT Government architect came to survey the building for heritage registration. Possibly a heritage assessment was done around 2009. May have something to do with determining viability of the 1947 building as an OH&S compliant community venue.

6. TREASURERS REPORT- Stephen Sedgwick

- No report for October received.
- Current account balance in all three accounts (working, special projects and term deposit) is \$90,130. Special Projects at \$18,343.76 has remained static.
- Explained that the Special Projects is a separate bank account set up by the previous treasurer. The Committee agreed to this account to be used as a holding account for grant monies that DCA is auspiced to manage on behalf of others. Present balance to be transferred into the DCA Working Account.
- Currently grant monies on behalf of other groups is kept in the working account. Agreed at May meeting for this to be a separate line item. This has not been done.

ACTION: Stephen to transfer say \$18,000 from Special Projects account into Working Account. Then set up a separate line item on the Income and Expenditure Report to show grant monies that DCA auspice on behalf of others which will be held in the Special Projects bank account.

ACTION: Stephen to confirm that the Berry/Legge St Park grant has been acquitted.

ACTION: Stephen to provide Treasurer's reports for August and October. Errors on July report (PDF) amended on hard copy only.

- Payment of \$800 to Canberra Environment Centre (CEC). Committee agreed to pay as per our letter (March 2023) endorsing our support of the CEC grant application and offer to pay 10% of the grant amount up to \$2,000.

ACTION: Amit to pay personally and seek reimbursement from DCA. Payment made.

7. NCCC 18 October MEETING REPORT- Leon Arundell

- Provided via email on 20 Oct. Summary-
- Discussed the new planning legislation, and raised the question of how it addresses heritage issues.
- Development Application checklist provided. It may need updating, to bring it into accordance with the new legislation.
- Treasurer Bruce Smith advised that expect NCCC bank balance to fall to about \$348 after funding proposals from residents' associations,

- Leon attached Deed of Grant showing that NCCC has a grant of \$13,000 for 2023/2024.

PROJECTS AND ISSUES:

8. CENTRE-COORDINATOR/ SEEChange OPTION- Amit Barkay

- SEEChange requires an MOU which includes a full risk analysis, a minimum of 15 hours per week at a rate of \$44/hour. (Copy of MOU to be provided)
Considered too complicated and Committee agreed.

ACTION: Amit has advised SEEChange on our decision to look at direct engagement of centre coordinator.

Amit to sound out a possible candidate- a teacher currently on study leave who lives nearby. Will report back to committee re her interest in the position.

9. PARTY AT THE SQUARE (Sunday 8 October)- Amit

- Reported that though not as well attended as last year, the stall holders said it was worthwhile. Major learning is not to hold the event during school holidays as local schools are unlikely to participate. More advertising is needed. Scouts did well with their BBQ.
- Robyn provided membership forms for 5 new members for the email list.
- A vote of thanks to Amit for all his organising efforts!

ACTION: Jacqui to add new members to email and mastersheet.

10. SEEChange- EV CHARGING ARRANGEMENTS- Amit

- No progress despite their electric van having arrived.

11. PREPARATION FOR DCA AGM 27 November

- Stephen noted that the financial papers are to be handed to the Accountant by 10 November.
- Amit is happy to do the BBQ shopping
- Robyn and John to come early to help with BBQ. Miles is expected back in time.

ACTION: Robyn to write Convenor's Report.

Stephen to do Treasurer's report.

Jacqui to send email to all DCA members and include 2023 AGM minutes. Ask Kerry-Ann to put note on Facebook and Robyn Sirr to circulate through her Bradfield email list.

12. MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE – Jacqui

- Garden City Cycle Path briefing- 30 October. Jacqui reported that \$10 million is available to undertake stage 1 only-from Braddon to Dickson. Construction expected to commence in 2024. Stage 2a to Downer and 2b to Hackett are subject to funding being available.
- Currently Stage 2a to Downer is likely to see Allport street being narrowed, narrower bike path due to heritage trees, loss of some 6 parking spots along Frencham street, possible tree removal in Bradfield street to allow for more parking.
- Amit noted that signs have been put up indicating proposed cycle path.

OTHER BUSINESS

SALARY REVIEW- Amit

- Cleaner has not had a pay review for many years. Committee in full agreement to Nestoria receiving the correct rate of pay.

ACTION: Amit has investigated rates of pay for cleaners (\$51.75 Sunday rate) and community services rate level 3.1- \$36 per hour. Thank you Amit.

GANG GANG MUISIC FESTIVAL 2024- Amit

- Gang Gang has asked DCA to support its application for a grant to hold a music festival likely to be in October 2024. Also looking to hire out the Downer Centre rooms for the event.
- Amit has provided a written letter of support, approved (retrospectively!) by the Committee. A copy has been provided.

PERMANENT BBQ IN THE SQUARE- Amit

- The Dickson Tradies Club would be willing to fund the construction of a permanent BBQ in the Square. Amit has been attempting to obtain ACT Government approval but difficult to determine which authority is responsible. While City Services “own” the Square, it is apparently Sports and Recreation that is responsible for BBQs!
- So awaiting (patiently) a response from Sports and Recreation.

COLE STREET MICROFOREST- Amit

- Canberra Environment Centre planting day held on 21 October. Some 30 people turned up. Many from areas other than Downer. Some 300 plants planted.
- Aniko Carey noted that residents would like more childrens play equipment in the park and shade. Amit replied that the ACT Government’s focus is on providing trees.

NEXT DCA MEETING

AGM Monday 27 November 2023, 6.30pm for BBQ followed by meeting.

Robyn Rennie- DCA Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava- Secretary