

# **DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting- Draft Monday 28 November 2022**

The formal meeting opened at 7.35pm. The Convenor Robyn Rennie welcomed members and friends.

### **BBQ in the Square**

Prior to the formal part of the AGM, DCA put on a BBQ thankfully in dry and warmish weather. Amit Barkay was thanked for his efforts in making this happen. Thanks too to the those who assisted with cooking and cleaning up.

### **ATTENDANCE**

The record of attendance is attached to the hard copy of the Minutes.

Some 15 people attended the meeting.

Formal apology received from Kerry-Ann Hugo, Philida Sturgiss-Hoy, Liz St Clair, Patti Kendall, Miles Boak.

### **1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the AGM of Monday 6 December 2021 were adopted. Nominated – Patrika Sheehan, Seconded- Stephen Sedgwick. The 2021 Minutes have been loaded onto the DCA website.

### **2. CONVENOR'S REPORT**

Robyn Rennie provided a report- copy below-

2022 has been another busy year and once again I would like to thank the committee for all the work you have done this year, especially Jacqui, Miles, Amit and Stephen who have picked up the pieces for me when my husband died and then my 2 bouts of Covid.

In March Miles Boak and Jacqui Pinkava organised our regular participation in Clean up Australia day with 20+ people involved. The Majura Women's group also started work on the Mosaic that now adorns the brickwork in the centre of the Downer Square.

We also held another successfully 'Party at the Shops' including performances by Majura School choirs and several other performers. Thank you Amit Barkay for your great organising.

DCA has supported the Cole St Park group and the Berry/Legge St Park group through advertising Working Bees and managing the various grants. Both groups have been busy all year maintaining and improving their recently rejuvenated parks.

DCA also supported the application for the development of a Pump Track near the Downer Scout Hall, organised by another local group, which has been successful. DCA is responsible for administering the grant only.

There have been a few new purchases this year to assist the DCA in running and maintaining the Downer Square including a new barbecue, an electric lawn mower, 2 more matching notice boards and Downer shop signs.

On election day DCA supported the combined Majura Men's Shed and the Downer Preschool to run a Cake and Sausage sizzle stall, successfully raising money for both groups. It also resulted in the pre-school using their funds to purchase planter boxes built by the Men's Shed. A lovely example of mutual benefit.

Once again the gardeners in our community planted and cared for bulbs at the centre as part of Floriade, as well as the usual maintenance required in the Square and frog pond.

Thanks to Amit's dogged pursuit in locating a plumber that would do the connecting of the rainwater tank and all the paperwork involved. The tank is now connected to the roof gutter. The frog pond can be topped up with chemical free rainwater when the rain stops falling from the sky.

DCA is keeping an eye on all the developments around our suburb which include:  
To the north- the Academy of Interactive Entertainment complex on the former Watson high school site.  
To the west- the Kamberra Estate- formally the Kamberra Winery complex  
To the lower west- Yowani Grounds- the golf course  
To the south- TP Dynamics Coles and apartments in Dickson

And in the recently released "District Planning Strategy for the Inner North and City", there is a swathe of yellow shading over Downer marked- "Future Investigation Areas"!

After a very long approval period, the Goodwin Downer Retirement Village DA was granted partial approval. They were knocked back as the building on Bradfield street encroached well into the 30metre setback. It is understood that the architects are redesigning the building with the likely consequence that any open space within the complex will be reduced.

Responding to and staying on top of the progress of each of these developments and their impact on Downer is a difficult and time consuming activity. So if you have any expertise or an interest in this area, DCA would be very grateful if you joined the committee.

Stephen Sedgwick, Patti Kendall and Amit have worked hard to find DCA a new Centre Coordinator, but despite interviews and offering the position to 3 candidates the position is still unfilled! Thank you Stephen for continuing to do the job of Coordinator as well as the treasurer's role. Hopefully we can find someone who is genuinely interested in the position in the new year.

Thanks also go to the committee and Leon Arundell for his efforts in updating the DCA Constitution, to bring it in line with regulations. Jacqui has circulated the draft and it will be presented and voted on later in the meeting.

Thanks also go to Kerry-Ann Hugo who has kept our Facebook page up to date with new events and happenings around Downer.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a lovely Christmas and a happy 2023.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Stephen Sedgwick, presented the report from the auditor, Graeme Linder. The auditor reported that the accounts were properly drawn up to fairly present the affairs of the DCA for the year ended 30 June 2022. This report will be submitted to the ACT Government as required under the Associations Incorporation Act. Full details of the accounts are in the attached auditor's report (hard copy version only).

The total income (principally from room hire) for the financial year was \$41,318 and total expenses (largely wages, grants and special projects) was \$29,975, resulting in a surplus of \$12,342. The grant funds of \$28,505 were administered/auspiced by the DCA and not actually part of the DCA's funds. These grants will be carried over into the next financial year. The Association Member's Equity to 30 June 2022 was \$62,457.46

Noted that the Community Centre halls are being hired more frequently than in the previous year. It was also noted that the DCC hall hire is one of cheapest in the ACT.

Motion to accept the Auditor's Report- Stephen Sedgwick. Seconded – Amit Barkay Accepted.

Motion to appoint Graeme Linder to be Auditor for 2020/2021- Stephen Sedgwick Seconded- Pam Behncke. Carried.

Questions arising: With a healthy bank account, what are the plans for using this money? Some of the projects being floated include: Solar panels and an EV charger at the centre, replacement of the gas heaters with electric heaters, and grants to community groups for community enhancing projects (park improvements, play equipment...) These to be investigated in 2023.

Request for more Parties in the Square in 2023 as this brings people together.

### 4. ELECTION OF THE 2023 COMMITTEE

Patti Kendall, a long-time committee member was thanked for her wisdom and service. Patti did not wish to seek renomination. Stephen Sedgwick was acknowledged for not only being the Treasurer but also taking on the role of Centre Manager for the last two years.

The following 9 nominations were received for the 2023 DCA Committee:

Robyn Rennie	Suzanne Pitson
Patrika Sheehan	Simone Gray
Stephen Sedgwick	Jacqui Pinkava
Miles Boak	Amit Barkay
Leon Arundell	

As the Constitution allows for up to 10 members, there is a vacancy.

Simone Gray has kindly agreed to be the Public Officer and will be reporting the following Office Bearer's to the ACT Government.

Convenor- Robyn Rennie  
Treasurer- Stephen Sedgwick

Secretary- Jacqui Pinkava  
Public Officer- Simone Gray

## 5. OTHER BUSINESS

### 1) DCA updated Constitution- Leon Arundell

Explained that the previous constitution was 20 years old and that the Associations Incorporate Act (1991) had been revised in 2019. It was therefore necessary to bring ours in alignment. He also noted that he used the North Canberra Community Council's (NCCC) as a model. He noted that the most significant change was the use of electronic communication with Association members instead of by post.

Robyn Rennie noted that the draft Constitution had been circulated via email to all members on the DCA email/ member list and that a draft had been available on the DCA website for some months. Members present were asked if they had any questions, issues or changes. Nil response, therefore Robyn moved that a vote be taken for the 2022 Constitution to be accepted. Seconded Jacqui Pinkava.  
Carried unanimously.

### 2) Centre Coordinator vacancy – Stephen Sedgwick

The paid Centre Coordinator position has been vacant since 2019. The position was advertised through the DCA E-Newsletter, on the DCA noticeboard and through the venue users network. A selection process was undertaken and the successful person was hired in September. Sadly she resigned after a month citing that the job was too small. The job entails about 6-7 hours per week at \$31 per hour. For the agenda again in 2023.

### 3) Developments around Downer

Sue Dyer raised the Draft Inner North and City District Planning Strategy is now open for comment on the ACT Government's Your Say website. Simone Gray suggested that the DCA co-ordinate a Public Meeting session with Ben Ponton the Chief Planner possibly in February 2023. It was suggested to invite all relevant Ministers. For the DCA committee agenda.

The meeting closed 8.30 pm.

Robyn Rennie, Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava, Secretary

Approved: AGM 28 November 2022