



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602
ABN 57 654 738 034

Minutes of committee meeting 9 December 2024

Accepted 3 February 2025

Agenda item 1: Welcome and apologies – Robyn Rennie

Present: Robyn Rennie, Amit Barkay, John Godwin, Leon Arundell, Robyn Sirr, Manik Datar

Apologies: Jacqui Pinkava, Peter Comisari, Miles Boak.

Welcome was extended to new committee member Manik, and to returning committee members.

Agenda item 2: Acknowledgement of Country – Robyn Rennie.

“I’d like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today. I would also like to pay my respects to Elders past and present.”

Agenda item 3: Election of office bearers for 2025

Self-nominations for Committee positions were offered, and confirmed without need for a vote:

- Convenor: Robyn Rennie
- Treasurer: Miles Boak
- Public Officer: Jacqui Pinkava
- Secretary: Robyn Sirr
- Centre Representative: Amit Barkay
- NCCC representative: Leon Arundell

Brief discussion about what is entailed in these roles was provided to Manik, new Committee member.

Robyn S said at the AGM BBQ several members of public had asked about what being on the DCA Committee entailed.

Those present agreed that development of brief document about this would be helpful to circulate when next AGM is advertised, as well as assisting role definition for current committee.

Robyn S to circulate an initial document about DCA Committee roles and functioning that could be developed into FAQ information for new and/ or prospective DCA committee members.

Robyn to provide names of office bearers to Jacqui (Public Officer) in accordance with timetable.

Agenda item 3: Correspondence (Robyn Sirr)

Robyn provided the following, based on an email summary from Jacqui about key correspondence for this meeting's attention:

Incoming:

- 20/11/24 – email from Byrd, the artist who painted the mural of the women working in poppy farm is offering to do a refresh. See agenda item 3.5
- 1/12/24 Jane Goffman about redevelopment consultations and plans at the Dickson, circulated by Leon to DCA Committee on 4/12/24
- Remaining correspondence is about the BBQ and the AGM.
- Xmas Card from Goodwin to DCA was tabled by Leon.

Agenda Item 3: Other Business

3.1 DCA grant request (John Godwin) – The proposal from Suzie Fletcher Downer resident for \$247.50 for Lomandra plantings along the footpath between the DCA building, and Bradfield Apartments was circulated via email in recent weeks by John Godwin.

DECISION: approved out of session by 3 Committee members. (Out of session decision making is outlined in DCA Constitution)

Robyn S to inform Suzie that her request has been approved, and provide information about the reimbursement claim form available on DCA website.

3.2 Updates regarding building works (Amit Barkay)

- Amit updated regarding progress on quotes obtained from 3 reputable suppliers of roller blinds for Downer Centre; and also about supply and installation costs of Echo Panels for two walls and ceiling of East Hall, to reduce noise impacts. Subject to receipt of further positive references our preferred provider was identified, as is known by Amit to do excellent work; its costings are competitive, and it is able to install both panels and blinds.

- Options for colours and thickness of Echo Panels was presented by Amit. General agreement: choose colour to match current wall and ceiling colours, and to select thickest panel affordable to reduce noise discomfort in the room, depending on whether a financial contribution from Tradies is offered.

- Amit also updated that he is in progress of installing replacement lock on Downer Centre toilet door; need for this was identified by a community member at AGM.

Amit to seek further info from preferred supplier about its references, and to send Robyn R a package of information regarding the products and costs for blinds and Echo panels.

Robyn R to circulate final cost package to the Committee, and to solicit a financial contribution from Tradies club.

Centre Coordination update (Amit Barkay)

Amit updated that Amy is asking for a decision from DCA Committee regarding a request from Seachange to defer the increased charge on their room hire.

He explained that all tenants were advised in July 2024 that Centre room hiring fees would need to increase at start of the new calendar year by 15%, and still amongst most affordable in ACT.

Seachange has requested deferral of increase until July 2025, on grounds that the DCA fee increase was advised after Seachange had set its 2024/25 budget.

DECISION: Accepted. DCA will defer this increase for SeaChange to start of July 2025, noting that they have been a longstanding reliable tenant.

Amit / Amy to notify Seachange of July 2025 for implementation of new hire costs.

3.3 Clean Up Downer, update on December tasks (Robyn Sirr)

Sunday 2 March 2025 is date of next annual Clean Up event.

Promotion tasks have been identified by Miles, Aniko and Robyn, to begin in January.

Aniko has indicated she currently has less capacity to help.

Robyn S and Miles to meet in January to begin the promotion activities, and to update Feb DCA meeting regarding additional help needed from Committee.

3.4 Acknowledgement of Suzanne's contribution to DCA re planning issues (Jacqui in absentia, via email to interim Secretary and Convenor)

Robyn Rennie commented that Suzanne's contribution to DCA Committee over the years has been significant. When advising of her decision to step off the Committee during 2024 due to other commitments, Suzanne indicated that she is open to assisting on tasks when able in the future.

Robyn R to write a letter of acknowledgment and appreciation to Suzanne for her valued contribution to the DCA to date.

3.5 Proposal to refresh Downer Centre Mural - email from artist Byrd to DCA 20/11/24

Robyn S informed that Jacqui emailed that we have been contacted by Byrd, the artist who produced the mural of the women in the poppy field on the Downer Centre external wall, noting that it is now in poor repair and offering to refresh it. Jacqui replied to Byrd requesting a cost estimate – not yet received. Colour of painted poppies was discussed: general agreement that these should be the colour of opium poppies, grown on the site.

Amit to follow up with Byrd, confirming Committee's interest in receiving a quote for refreshing the mural, and that the poppies be painted in colour appropriate for opium poppies grown on the site in 1940s.

3.6 Submissions open re: Single Dwelling Planning Changes by 20/12; proposals for Ainslie Football Club site by 3/2/25 (Leon)

- Leon updated the meeting re problems with concessional lease arrangements and outlined re proposed Ainslie Football Club developments, acknowledging the close attention given by Jane Goffman and Dickson Residents association, and that NCCC will be attending to these issues.
- Those present expressed frustration at the short timeframe and poor timing of scheduling a consultation over Xmas Summer holiday period.

Leon will keep DCA informed re: NCCC responses about these developments

Current accounts:

Amit said he can provide a brief update, noting that Miles who has been Treasurer till November is absent tonight. Amit presented bank statements showing Operational account \$19064; Savings account \$70469.

First meeting for 2025 will be Monday 3 Feb, 7pm.

Robyn S referred to the list of outstanding action items from several recent meetings that will be scheduled for the February agenda

Carried from Nov 2024 meeting

Amit to inform Committee if / when approval is provided by ACT Govt to proceed with roller blind installation.

Committee members to circulate any relevant prior documents, so DCA community request process can be reviewed by Committee post AGM.

Amit to report back on viability of migrating past data to a new email address.

Committee to contact Minister re Centre parking congestion when new Minister is appointed, and defer updates to website about other parking options for Centre users when these are clearer.

Leon to reply to the community member about location of community noticeboard for local advertising.

Carried from AGM 2024

Jacqui to create a link on our website to advocacy letters written by DCA Committee

Miles/Amit to assess faulty toilet door locks in Downer Centre, arrange repair if possible.