

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting - draft Monday 23 November 2020

The formal meeting opened at 7.50pm. The Convenor Sam Hussey-Smith welcomed members and friends.

BBQ in the Square

Prior to the formal part of the AGM, a simple BBQ was held in the rejuvenated and well maintained Downer Bicentennial Square. Thank you to Miles Boak who organised and Sam Hussey-Smith who turned the sausages and steaks. The new residents of The Bradfield townhouses were especially invited. Thank you to Peter and Aniko Carey for printing and Miles for the letter box delivery.

ATTENDANCE

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

Some 23 people attended the meeting.

Formal apology received from Darlene Cox, Christine Butterfield, Stephen Medza and Patti Kendall and Robyn Rennie current committee members.

Simone Gray from the 2020 Committee did not attend.

It was noted that Downer's newest but yet to move in residents-Tony and Lorraine and their daughter Mela attended. It was also good to see a few of The Bradfield residents too.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the AGM of Monday 25 November 2019 were adopted. Nominated – Suzanne Pitson, Seconded- Miles Boak. As copies were not provided (save trees), the Minutes will be loaded onto the DCA website.

2. CONVENOR'S REPORT

A verbal report was given. The main points were:

- Acknowledgement that 2020 was indeed a strange year. The Community Centre which is the main funding source for the DCA was closed for three months. The paid part time coordinator was relieved of their duties with the coordination taken on voluntarily by the Treasurer- Stephen Sedgwick.
- Covid also saw the proactive cancellation of the Party at the Shops which in part would have marked Downer's 60th birthday. Looking forward to celebrating in 2021.
- Noted the advocacy of Hedda Ransom-Cooper, a Downer resident for a Pump track in Downer. The ACT government were very impressed with the thorough grant application but first have to put together rules and regulations for pump tracks. DCA are sure to get a grant when we reapply.
- Robyn Rennie and her band of Newsletter distributors were thanked as were Peter and Aniko Carey for the colour printing and folding. Acknowledged that this is a considerable cost saving for DCA.

- During this election year, DCA was proactively approached, indicating that the opinion of Downer residents matter.
- Reported that the frog pond behind the Centre, spearheaded by local resident Fiona Dickson is doing well with. Fiona also undertook a Downer wide survey to ascertain the type of trees that people would like planted in Bradfield street to replace the pines removed during the CHC development. The results suggested that deciduous trees that let in northern light were preferred. The survey results have been provided to the Minister.
- As a result of success in getting ACT Government Adopt-a-Park grants in 2019, two projects took root in 2020- Cole Street Park transformation into an urban forest and the Downer Square Floriade Re-Imagined and the transplanted frog pond.
- Despite Covid closing the centre, the variety of new Centre users was remarked upon. Most of the long term clients have also returned.

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 2020.

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 \$37,165 and total expenses (largely wages, rates electricity and gas) was \$34,853, resulting in a modest surplus of \$2,311. The Association Member's Equity is \$16,195 represented as cash at bank.

Motion to accept the Auditor's Report- Stephen Sedgwick. Seconded – Suzanne Pitson. Accepted.

Motion to appoint Graeme Linder to be Auditor for 2020/2021- Stephen Sedgwick Seconded- Sam Hussey-Smith. Carried.

4. ELECTION OF THE 2021 COMMITTEE

A vote of thanks was given to Miles Boak who once again stepped in on many occasions to get things done during 2020. Stephen Sedgwick was acknowledged for not only being the Treasurer but also taking on the role of Centre Manager and dealing with all the extra work required in a pandemic. Jacqui Pinkava was also thanked in her role as efficient Secretary.

The following 11 nominations were received for the 2021 DCA Committee:

Robyn Rennie	Suzanne Pitson
Patti Kendall	Bill Scott
Stephen Sedgwick	Jacqui Pinkava
Geoff Francis	Sam Hussey-Smith
Miles Boak	Amit Barkay
Kerry-Ann Hugo	

As the Constitution allows for up to 10 members, Miles Boak withdrew his nomination. All others nominated were considered elected.

The 7 December 2020 DCA meeting will determine 2021 office bearers, handover of tasks, etc.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting was open to questions from the audience.

Issues of traffic and the specifically the need for a zebra crossing on Antil Street was raised. Sam suggested a letter from the convenor of the DCA may have a better chance of some action. Agenda item for the next DCA meeting.

Lighting levels on the Downer oval causing issues for nearby residents. Need to find out if the intensity levels have changed.

A new resident of The Bradfield townhouses noted that it CHC had not made it an easy process, but they very much like being part of the community and their adopted greyhound is enjoying the green space of Downer oval.

The meeting closed 8.30pm.

Sam Hussey-Smith, Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava, Secretary