

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Monday 6 December 2021

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

Dedication of tree and bench in the Square for Ivan Potas and BBQ

Prior to the formal part of the AGM, Nadia Potas, held a dedication ceremony in honour of her late husband, Ivan Potas. Some 60 guests were invited and the ACT Attorney- General Shane Rattenbury to speak on the legal reform career of Ivan Potas and acknowledge his significant contribution to development and early years of the ACT prison.

Thank you to Miles Boak and Amit Barkay who organised the BBQ. Thank you to Nadia Potas who provided delicious food and drinks and has given the Downer Square a delightful bench and tree in what was a dull corner of the Square.

ATTENDANCE

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

Some 19 people attended the meeting.

Formal apology received from Michael Flynn.

Kerry-Ann Hugo and Geoff Francis from the 2021 Committee did not attend.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the AGM of Monday 23 November 2020 were adopted. Nominated – Suzanne Pitson, Seconded- Pam Behncke. The Minutes will be loaded onto the DCA website.

2. CONVENOR'S REPORT

Robyn Rennie provided a report- copy below-

In March Miles Boak organised our regular participation in Clean up Australia day and reported that there was less rubbish this year. We also successfully held a 'Party at the Shops' despite the weather. One of the classes from Majura school performed and parents from Downer Preschool ran a very successful and profitable stall. Five MLAs were invited and Elizabeth Lee and Rebecca Vassarotti attended. Thank you to Amit Barkay for your great organising.

The proposed Goodwin development began in February with an information session and quite a few other meetings over the year. Goodwin's DA went in in August with a very short consultation time. We applied for an extension and were granted an extra 2 weeks. Suzanne Pitson and Miles Boak created an outstanding 18 page response for DCA which can be viewed on our website.

There have been a few other meetings with developers as Yowani and Thoroughbred Park are both looking to redevelop their sites. Both are in the very early stages but DCA will keep an eye on their plans and keep the community informed.

COVID caused a few problems for DCA shutting down the centre for a while. Stephen Sedgwick did an excellent job complying with all the COVID requirements and the changes with restrictions. The committee had two Zoom meetings during this time. One of the other changes that resulted from COVID is that our newsletter is now being sent out electronically, thanks to our very efficient secretary, Jacqui Pinkava.

Once again the gardeners in our community planted and cared for bulbs at the centre as part of Floriade and kept a check on the weeds in the frog pond garden.

The Cole St Park group have been busy all year and continue to maintain their recently rejuvenated park and we wish them all the best. Following the success of this group DCA offered a \$500 grant to groups that may like to work on improving other Downer parks and residents from around Berry St have taken on the challenge for their park.

You may have noticed a few new additions to the Square with our new notice boards that were purchased with a grant from NCCC and the Kids Library box built by Jim Dehlsen underneath the existing library, so easily accessible for children. If you have any children's books that you no longer need you may like to donate them to the new library. We also now have our new seat and tree dedicated to Ivan Potas, a long term Downer resident and active Canberran.

The frog pond has also had an addition of a rain water tank for chemical free top up of the pond. Unfortunately it is yet to be connected. Thank goodness for a wet year.

In line with community health the DCA has purchased a defibrillator which is now located on the wall in the kitchen. Hopefully we never have to use it, but with an ageing population and many groups now using the centre it was considered a wise purchase. Thank you Amit for your efforts researching and purchasing this item.

DCA is hoping to have a new Centre Coordinator in February and many thanks go to Stephen Sedgwick who has not only been our Treasurer but has also managed the Centre bookings, maintenance and COVID requirements this year.

We are also looking at up-grading the DCA website, thanks to Jacqui Pinkava who has been trying to negotiate between the committee and the developer. I am sorry to say we have not been as helpful as we should have been!

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 calmer 2022.

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 2021.

Full details of the accounts are in the attached auditor's report (hard copy version only).

The total income (principally from room hire and grants) for the financial year was \$68,901 and total expenses (largely wages, rates electricity and gas) was \$34,981, resulting in a surplus of \$33,920. The grant funds of \$31,694 were administered/auspiced by the DCA and not actually part of the DCA's funds. The surplus included a Covid cash boost of \$14,000 from the ATO for loss of revenue due to the lockdowns in 2020. The Association Member's Equity to 30 June 2021 was \$50,115.

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- Miles Boak. Carried.

4. ELECTION OF THE 2022 COMMITTEE

A vote of thanks was given to Miles Boak who once again stepped in on many occasions to get things done during 2021. 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 for nearly two years. Jacqui Pinkava was also thanked in her role as efficient Secretary.

The following 9 nominations were received for the 2021 DCA Committee:

Robyn Rennie	Suzanne Pitson
Patti Kendall	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. Kerry-Ann Hugo and Geoff Francis declined, though Kerry-Ann will continue to look after the DCA Facebook page.

Simone Gray has kindly agreed to be the Public Officer. Other office bearer positions will be decided at the next DCA meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting was open to questions from the audience.

- Simone- Tawny Frogmouth death and snail bait danger to wildlife, she would like DCA to assist in raising community awareness and action.

- Sam Hussey-Smith- Children's pump track- seek DCA support for grant. DCA agreed to support and provide some funding.
- Patrika Sheehan- Water tank connection requesting information on what is the hold up in finalising the connection. Also vote of thanks for the tulips in the Square- needed beauty in the time of Covid.
- Amit Barkay noted that the DCA needs a new BBQ. General agreement given for purchase. The DCA agreed to support and purchase.

These matters will be discussed in greater detail at the meeting of the DCA Committee.

The meeting closed 8.25 pm.

Robyn Rennie, Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava, Secretary

Approved: AGM 28 November 2022