

## **DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 7 SEPTEMBER 2020 MEETING**

### **PRESENT**

**At home via Zoom-** Sam Hussey-Smith, Stephen Sedgwick, Robyn Rennie, Jacqui Pinkava, Patti Kendall, Geoff Francis, Simone Gray, Suzanne Pitson, Miles Boak

**Apologies:** Amit Barkay, Peter and Aniko Carey, Kerry-Ann Hugo.

Meeting opened 7.35pm, chaired by Sam Hussey-Smith.

Guest presenters: Stephen Bartos, Board Chairperson of Common Ground and Diane Kargas Bray, Chair Hands Across Canberra, Common Ground board member.

### **COMMON GROUND DICKSON PRESENTATION.**

Stephen Bartos provided a bit of background on the Common Ground concept. Model set up in New York as a way to solve perennial homelessness and associated problems.

Common Ground project aims for high quality, mixed community, high security, permanent and low cost.

Common Ground currently operates a complex in Gungahlin in association with Northside Community Services. It is a 50/50 split of social housing and affordable housing.

Noted that there are four Common Grounds in Adelaide and others in Melbourne Brisbane and Sydney.

Made reference to the controversy created by the ACT Gov land swap arrangement. No reference to the broader Section 72 planning issues/consultations/community views.

Diane added-

Value of being in Dickson. Close to amenities, infrastructure and a good community.

Expecting the tenant base to be predominantly single parent families and older women.

40 units in total, 18 single, 14 double, 8 three bedroom.

Residents will come from all over Canberra, ie. those most in need.

Board and ACT Gov will jointly call for tender for support services. Collins Pennington are the architects.

Expect residents to move in by Christmas 2021.

Looking to have a community garden for the use by all- including the surrounding community. Talking to Dickson College about setting up a social enterprise café- possible traineeships.

Noted the successes of Gungahlin- eg. choir and mural, good community engagement.

On questioning about whether the Board had spoken to the Dickson Residents Group (Jane Goffman) or the Section 72 Working Group (auspiced by the NCCC)- they noted this meeting was the first time that the Board had reached out to the community.

**ACTION:** Jacqui to contact Jane Goffman and members of the Section 72 Working Group to seek agreement to their details being provided to the Board. Advised that contact via NCCC was their preferred approach. Some disquiet expressed as to why the Board had not sought to reach out to them as the more immediately relevant community groups. NCCC contact details sent to Diane Bray.

DCA asked how we might be able to help. Diane noted that the community could provide items to help residents set up their homes, eg. kitchen items, quilts, welcome packs- lots of little things to make connections.

DCA noted that it is happy to facilitate this when the time is right. Sam asked the Board to keep in touch.

## 1. MINUTES AND DCA CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ISSUES RAISED ACTIONS ARISING

### MINUTES

Minutes from the 3 August 2020 meeting approved. Soft copy sent for loading on DCA website. Hard copy to be signed at some time when we are able to meet personally.

### CORRESPONDENCE- of significance- Jacqui Pinkava

Reported that there had been no responses to the letters that Suzanne Pitson had drafted (18 August) in regard to future development plans for Downer.

Sam pointed out that he had only signed and sent the day before this meeting. It was noted that the ACT Government would be going into caretaker at the end of the week therefore it would be the Labor Party that would respond. This is likely to be the situation for the letter on the rehabilitation of the "greenspace" on the corner of Northbourne Ave and Antill street.

No response from Elizabeth Lees office on the Downer toilet situation.

ACTION: Jacqui to follow up with her office with a bcc to Andrew Selth (Downer resident) who has lobbied government to reinstate toilets.

Miles reported that the artist, Dai Cameron and four others had painted a mural on the decommissioned toilet! Permission to do so given by ACT Government.

Geoff noted that NCCC at August meeting supports re-opening the toilet block.

18 August- Rob Miller, Downer resident asking for clarification of amendment to 2 Bradfield Street. Determined that the nub of the issue was some 9 visitor carpark spaces to be deferred to Stage 3 development, now the responsibility of Goodwin. This possibly means a 5 year deferral thereby increasing demand on parking spaces will fall to the spaces around the Downer Centre and shops.

Miles noted that the deadline to provide comment on the amendment had closed. He also noted that the shops are unhappy and have put in a submission to the proposed amendment.

ACTION: Miles to draft a letter to the ACT Gov to request that the oval dirt carpark be formalised to be available for use by the Centre and shops. Also to request a dedicated loading zone in the Centre car park for clients. To also note that builders are parking on the heritage tree roots. Draft to be circulated to the Committee for comment.

24 August- Maddie Diamond, SEE Change- renewable energy- suggest that DCA seek Government assistance to change Downer Centre from gas to electric- see Agenda 4.

25 August- Diane Kargas Bray- Common Ground- seeking a meeting- see presentation above.

1 September- Edwina Robinson- info on Cole St Urban Forest and invite to planting.

2 Set- Anne Napier (ACT Gov)- doing an audit on Slower Streets sign placements- Miles to check.

Outgoing: To all on email list- opportunity to provide input to the Urban Forest Strategy. Also posted on DCA Facebook page.

## 2. TREASURER'S REPORT AND CENTRE LIAISON- Stephen Sedgwick

### TREASURER'S REPORT

- Income and expenses (working account) report for August and Grant Allocations Report sent electronically.
- Grant Allocations Report not discussed. \$32,887 current balance. \$15,796 earmarked for Cole St Urban Forest project. \$13,672 Covid Cash Boost stimulus money received.
- Current account balances for the three accounts (working, special projects/grants and term deposit) is \$46,495.
- Working account saw a deficit of \$1,384. \$7,845 is the current balance. General bills (cleaning, waste removal, hand sanitizers, energy) was \$1,284. Wages, super and taxes totalled \$1,141.
- Room hire income was \$882. The ATO provided another quarter of Covid Cash Boost of \$4,568.
- Invoices for term 3 will be sent out in September. This is expected to yield around \$9,000. Expect \$500 from AEC for use of hall as polling station in October.
- Payment required for earthworks undertaken at Cole Street Park project. Amit advised Stephen that funds required. DCA is to pay on receipt of invoice.
- **Update of signatories at the bank still not done.** December 2019 Minutes, June 2020 Minutes contain the information required by the bank for this to happen. This will allow access to Special Projects/Grant account.

#### **ACTION: Sam and Stephen still to update signatories.**

Miles to forward details of Alan McLean from Adopt-a-Park ACT Government to Stephen to make payment for Cole Street earthworks.

### CENTRE LIAISON/ MANAGEMENT

- Noted increase in number of new bookings- eg. Dementia Australia. Centre is busy.
- Miles is now "apprenticed" to assist with Centre management tasks.
- Clients have requested access to WiFi for the Centre. No decision made on this at meeting. Note: possibly will need good upload speeds (at least 13MBps).
- Agreed to purchase a HDMI cable.
- Manual coded key box has been purchased. Jim Dehlsen to affix
- Number of building issues possibly still need rectification- eg. broken locks, sensor light in cupboard permanently on, sandpit top-up, chairs need to be replaced or at least cleaned in East room etc.

#### **ACTION: On-going** - Jim Dehlsen to fix or advise on maintenance issues.

Stephen and Miles to investigate code lockable storage units to be affixed to wall.

- First Aid Cabinet needs to be re-stocked.

#### **ACTION:** Stephen to provide details to Jacqui- ie. What needed, where to go to get supplies. Jacqui to undertake replenishment.

- Jacqui intended to draw attention to the repair of the bitumen pavement (former telephone cable dirt channel)- thanks to a Fix-My-Street request.
- ACT Election. Hall confirmed by the AEC as a polling centre on 17 October. Pre-school to be contacted to see if they would like to do fund-raising- subject to Covid rules.

**ACTION:** Stephen to liaise with Peter Burgess AEC on the Covid rules and advise Robyn Rennie regarding cake stalls and sausage sizzle. Robyn to contact the Pre-School to advise on what is allowed. Post meeting update, pre-school has been advised by Robyn that such activities are strongly discouraged.

### 3. BRADFIELD STREET TREE SURVEY- Sam

- Fiona Dickson undertook an on-line survey of Downer residents in January on what trees people would like to see as replacements for the felled radiata pines on The Bradfield development side of the street.
- Fiona has provided a letter to Minister Gentleman. Letter and summary of survey was circulated to Committee prior to meeting.
- Agreed that Sam as convenor sign the letter and send.

### 4. DOWNER CENTRE TO TRANSITION TO ALL-ELECTRIC PROPOSAL- Sam

- Maddie Diamond, Executive Officer of SEChange wrote to the DCA suggesting that the DCA investigate incentives to move to all electric energy at the Centre. This would require replacement of gas heaters.

**ACTION:** Sam to investigate “solar hub modelling”?, incentives/grants available and costs and report back at next meeting.

### 5. OTHER MATTERS

- Miles reported that the first tulips in our Floriade display have bloomed!
- October DCA meeting falls on the October long weekend. Decided that meeting would go ahead on 5 October. Geoff and Suzanne will be apologies.
- Outstanding electronic housekeeping:
  - Photos of re-vamped Square to replace old photos. Sam asked for recent photos of square to be sent to him.
  - Brief info on Covid arrangements for the Community Centre tab.
  - Downer Party at the Shops- indicated on hold, hopefully in spring.
  - The “Old School Site” section- Update with news of Goodwin purchasing the final portion.
- **Recruitment of a paid Centre Co-ordinator.** To be re-visited pending Covid situation- AGENDA for October meeting.

### NEXT DCA MEETING

Monday 5 October 7.30pm- in person hopefully! otherwise Zoom. To be decided by the Convenor pending Covid restrictions near the time of meeting.

**ACTION:** Method of meeting to be advertised on Facebook with enough lead time.

Meeting closed 9.10 pm

Sam Hussey-Smith  
Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava  
Secretary