

## **DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 1 MARCH 2021 MEETING**

### **PRESENT**

Sam Hussey-Smith, Stephen Sedgwick, Jacqui Pinkava, Miles Boak, Patti Kendall, Robyn Rennie, Peter and Aniko Carey, Suzanne Pitson, Sue Dyer, Geoff Francis,

**APOLOGIES:** Kerry-Ann Hugo, Bill Scott, Sue Dyer, Amit Barkay (phone contact for agenda item 8)

Commenced 7.35pm, chaired by Robyn Rennie

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

#### **MINUTES**

Minutes from the 1 February 2021 meeting approved. Soft copy sent for loading on DCA website. Hard copy yet to be signed. Minutes of December meeting also require signature.

**ACTION ITEMS- FOLLOW UP-** see agenda 4.

**CORRESPONDENCE-** of significance- Jacqui Pinkava

#### **INCOMING:**

- 2 Feb- Lara Doolette- Planning for Party at the Shops which included a heads up to a number of stall holders. Also sent to Amit. Resent by me today.
- 3, 10, 22, 26 Feb- Tania Parkes- Academy of Interactive Entertainment- invitation to consultation sessions.
- 18, 23, 24, Feb- Lara Doolette- Twilight Market on 26 Feb
- 20 Feb- Sue Dyer- links to documents to do with Thoroughbred Park re-development and swag of DVs and re-developments- "total overload".
- 24 Feb- Lindsay Hunter- Yowani DV370 release- offer to do a presentation for the DCA. Sent to Committee for info/ agenda item.
- 24 Feb- ACT Territory Plan Section- Yowani DV370 released for comment with link to website. Sent to Committee
- 24 Feb- Rebecca Rowley- offering to revamp website to "beat our competitors"! Stephen responded in the negative.
- 25 Feb- Charlie Murray- Be Here wellness- concern about short notice re Twilight Market conflicts with meditation session. Sorted verbally by Lara.

#### **OUTGOING**

- 4 Feb- to mailing list- invite to Goodwin Downer public presentation.
- 11 Feb- to mailing list- invite to Cole St weeding session 16 Feb
- 16 Feb- to mailing list- link to Riot ACT article summarising Goodwin Downer development plus info on thefts from garages and heads up about Clean Up Oz Day. Responses from a couple of people with more info on thefts.
- 24 Feb- to commercial tenants and committee re: Twilight Market.

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

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Income and expenses (working account) report for February sent electronically. An increase of \$3,643 in the working account. Balance of working account is a healthy \$23,622.

- Expenses were \$1,739 made up of electricity \$184, wages (cleaner) \$256, accountant \$450, key cutting \$164, cleaning \$147.
- Total income received \$4,847 from room hire. Quarterly invoices for term 1 to be sent out next month. All 2020 invoices have been paid.
- \$18,343 currently sitting in “Special Projects” (Grant Allocation). Grant Allocation report not provided. \$6,948 in DCA term deposit.

Discussion of possible projects to utilise the funds in the working account. These included: New playground equipment, re-do irrigation system and grass behind the Centre, rails in toilets (attempt to make them more disabled friendly), more sanitizers in the halls and kitchen, get WiFi installed.

Geoff noted that the Government is keen for organisations to use any Covid stimulus money (we got \$9,000) to stimulate the economy.

### **CENTRE LIAISON/ MANAGEMENT**

- Stephen and Miles met with the Australian Electoral Commission regarding use of the Centre for the next Federal election. Check of the suitability of the venue (a 28 page document!). Lack of accessible toilets noted.
- Issue with rubbish (soiled nappy etc!) and food left in the carpeted West Hall.
- New carpet not wearing well. Joins separating. Look into carpet warranty.
- Manhole created in the ceiling. Possums removed and access point sealed. Rats exterminated.
- Stephen and Miles to meet on-site with Majura Women’s Group to resolve issue of a lock between East and West halls.
- Covid check-in arrangements to come into effect on 6 March. Mandatory QR code. Stephen has put QR posters in every room. Responsibility of the person/organisation hiring the room to record attendees who are unable to personally use a QR code. Booking form to be updated to note Covid QR requirement.
- Number of chairs to be increased to 50 and 48 in the two halls.

**ACTION:** **Stephen** to write to all tenants regarding Covid QR check-in requirements and update the booking form to note Covid QR Check-in as mandatory.

**Stephen** to write to tenants using the West Hall about the rubbish and food issue.

### **3. LODGEMENT OF ANNUAL RETURN**

- Sam Hussey-Smith confirmed that he is the Public Officer but that the annual returns have yet to be lodged. This is because we are awaiting the accountant’s signature on the audited financial documents.

**ACTION:** **Stephen** to chase up the accountant to get the relevant documents signed. Stephen to provide signed documents to **Sam** who will lodge the forms ASAP.

### **4. NEWSLETTER**

- Miles has volunteered to continue the compilation of the newsletter with assistance of Robyn.
- Sam has volunteered to take over the distribution coordination formally done by Robyn.

### **5. CENTRE MANAGER RECRUITMENT**

- Not addressed. Stephen assisted by Miles to continue to do so as volunteers. Discuss at next meeting.

## 6. DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING DOWNER

- Correspondence received alerting to three developments possibly impinging on Downer- Yowani to the west (Development Variation 370), Thoroughbred Park, (further west) and the Academy of Interactive Entertainment (AIE) in Watson to the north.
- **Yowani, public comments on DV370- due 16 April.** Lindsay Hunter, Development Manager for TP Dynamics has offered to do a presentation to the Committee. Committee suggested this be on-line with possible public meeting on 5 April if warranted.
- Tania Parkes, communications consultant, has provided list of opportunities for the public to comment on the proposed development of the former school site. **Next opportunity is to attend the Watson Community Association meeting on 10 March.** Suggested that DCA reach out to the Watson Community Association to see if they need support. Miles noted that DCA had objected to the development when first mooted. Worry about the loss of green space and the lack of school sites in the inner north.
- Thoroughbred Park. Patti, who received a card in her letterbox, will follow up with contacts to find out what transpired at the meeting that was held on 1 March.
- Goodwin Downer. Miles noted his concern about apparent retrograde changes in heights and set-backs and removal of most of the cypress trees that has now come to light with the release of their detailed plans. Suzanne undertook to draft a letter to Goodwin outlining DCA's concern on the over development of the site. Note Sue Dyer has comments on this matter.
- CHC The Bradfield and replacement of heritage pines. Reported that the new Heritage Minister, Rebecca Vassarotti (Greens) confirmed that as the Heritage Council was an independent body, there would be no change of heart on replanting pines. Indicated that it may be possible to get a staged removal as part of the Goodwin Downer development, especially on the Melba street edge. Sam has sent a copy of the DCA letter to Mick Gentleman (unanswered) to Ms Vassarotti enclosing the community survey that pines are not preferred.

**ACTION:** **Suzanne** to draft a letter to Goodwin/ Architects noting the inconsistency between what they have said in information sessions and what appears on the actual site plans.  
**Patti** to contact Thoroughbred Park people for further information and determine if it is a concern for Downer.  
**Geoff**, possibly via the NCCC, to see if our Watson counterparts would like DCA support.  
**Jacqui** to communicate with Lindsay Hunter to arrange a time for a Zoom meeting.

## 7. CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA- Miles

- Sunday 7 March- 9am- 12 noon. Bags and paperwork (including QR code!) received by Miles
- Miles and Jacqui handling the registration desk.
- Jacqui has sent out two emails to the DCA email list inviting participation.
- Recycled corflute installed on corner of Melba and Bonython. Suggested its about time for a new corflute.

## 8. PARTY AT THE SHOPS- Amit (via phone)

- Timing settled for 10am to 2pm on Sunday 21 March. This coincides with Harmony Day.
- Amit to be the single point of contact. Lara Doolette who has organised the Twilight markets is assisting with procuring stall holders.
- Amit and Stephen working on the Covid Plan required for such events.
- Stephen to contact Centre tenants.
- Discussion around inviting Ministers/ politicians.

- Promotion- newsletter?, corflutes. Suggest simple note in letter box. Check out 2017 corflute and see if it can be updated. Peter Carey offered to get Luton graphic person to do stickers to change date if feasible. Jacqui has sent email invites to the DCA email distribution list (twice) and will do so again just before the event.

**ACTION: Planning meeting, Monday 8 March, 7.30pm at 13 Coles Street (Amit's place)- all interested and available Committee invited.**

#### **9. WIFI IN THE CENTRE- Stephen**

- Now that there is access to the ceiling cavity via manhole, Stephen will get an electrician to check out cabling. Thinks the cost will be in the vicinity of \$250-\$500.
- Decision not to seek funding through NCCC's communication grants as DCA currently has sufficient funds of its own.
- Other costs- routers, internet plan etc not addressed.
- Update at next meeting.

#### **10. OTHER BUSINESS- Miles**

- Commemorative seat for Ivan Potas. Nadia Potas, Downer resident, has donated \$4,000 to be used to mount a plaque to honour her husband, who was "Official Visitor" to the ACT Prison, a lawyer and research criminologist.
- DCA (Miles) to project manage in concert with the ACT Gov.
- Miles has arranged for a quote for a timber circular seat which will eventually surround a tree to be constructed in the south/east paved corner of the Square. If funds allow, an identical seat and tree will be placed on the north/east corner.
- **A meeting with installers is scheduled for 11am 5 March at the Square.**
- Miles reported on the arrival of new dog poo bags for the Square. The Village Vet has agreed to pay for half the cost.
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**ACTION: Miles** to send Stephen the Vet's details to Stephen so **Stephen** can send an invoice to the Vet for half payment of the poo bags.

#### **NEXT DCA MEETING**

Monday 5 April 2021- note Easter Monday

Agenda items to include:

- Apology from Jacqui and Sam.
- Recruitment of a paid Centre Co-ordinator.
- Party at the Shops- feedback.
- WiFi in Centre update- Stephen.

Meeting closed 9pm

Robyn Rennie  
Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava  
Secretary