

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting, Monday 1 February 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Boak (Convenor), Amit Barkay, Brain Callahan, Denys Garden, Patti Kendall, Robyn Rennie, Phillida Sturgiss-Hoy, Fiona Dickson

Jim Dehlsen (Maintenance Officer)

APOLOGIES

Jacqui Pinkava, Stephen Sedgwick

OTHER ATTENDEES

Eddie Bourke, Kim Sinclair, Claire Wall (Community Housing Canberra)
Aniko and Peter Carey, Richard Niven

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of November 30, 2015 were accepted.

CENTRE CORRESPONDENCE

As noted.

It was noted that Amy Moon had contacted the DCA to let them know that Party-At-the-Shops would not be able to be held this year due to a lack of grant funding.

Action: Richard Niven has kindly agreed to contact Amy to discuss any possible alternatives to enable this event to occur.

CENTRE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Jingwen has now left the Centre Coordinator's position. Stephen Sedgwick has been managing additional responsibilities to cover off prior to appointing a new coordinator. Denys has circulated a role description with a clearer definition of duties and ensure improved accountability. The DCA agreed to adopt the revised position description with minor editorial changes.

Action: Denys will arrange for information on the position to appear in the DCA newsletter. Amit to arrange Canberra Chronicle and ACT Council of Social Services advertising. The position advert should close by the end of February.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As Stephen Sedgwick was absent, the Treasurer's Report will be tabled out of session.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE & SECURITY

Memorial chair for Di Fielding

It was decided to wait for the Downer Shops redevelopment to be complete prior to installing a memorial chair for Di Fielding. This is because of current security issues around the building at present. Security may improve once the shops redevelopment is complete and there is a greater presence of people.

Meeting room cupboard

Denys suggested that the empty cupboard within the current DCA meeting room be converted to allow storage of DCA archival material.

Action: Denys, Amit and Jim to discuss possible conversion needs (lock & shelving).

Building Security

The Dan McGinnity mural has been defaced. Miles will speak with Dan about the cost of repairing the mural. In the interim, it was suggested that black plastic might be used to cover the mural.

Action: Miles to speak with Dan McGinnity. Jim / Amit to explore the possibility of covering the mural in the interim.

On a related security matter, Theo Poulos has had a pallet of Old Canberra brickworks bricks stolen from the redevelopment site.

Bins

There have been issues with stinky rubbish bins, which seem to have largely resolved. However, it was suggested that one of the recycling bins should be placed within the fenced area of the building to prevent dumping.

TAMS & public infrastructure maintenance issues

Jim Dehlsen mentioned that TAMS have been slow to respond and deal with maintenance issues, which are their responsibility.

Action: Jim to notify Amit when there are issues needing resolution and he will contact the relevant individuals with TAMS.

NEWSLETTER

The February newsletter will contain:

- Di Fielding obituary
- Statement of DCA committee membership
- Advert for Clean Up Australia Day
- Notification of the advertised position for Centre Coordinator
- An advert for the CHC@Downer Community Day (Eddie Bourke to provide text)

An advert for the SEE-Change Community Garden workshops will also be distributed with the newsletter.

Richard Niven asked whether it was possible to notify the public of his candidacy (Labor) for the seat of Kurrajong in the DCA newsletter.

Patti felt this was inappropriate, unless all competing candidates were also identified.

Printing and distribution of the February newsletter.

Jane Ahern previously provided printing services for the newsletter. Aniko & Peter Carey have kindly volunteered both printing and distribution services for the newsletter through their company.

Action: Denys to coordinate with Aniko & Peter to arrange February print run and delivery.

Future digital newsletter

The pros and cons of moving to a digital newsletter were discussed.

Pros

The cost of printing the newsletter is currently \$300.00. This was previously supported by Jane Ahern (former secretary) and her company. Distribution is also currently reliant on DCA members and other community volunteers. The print version restricts content to a 2-page format which may be limiting in some instances.

A digital version would significantly reduce the resourcing burden associated with printing and delivering hard copies.

Cons

The current email list for the DCA only contains 150 emails (which is not reflective of the total population within the suburb). Email addresses can also change without notification, as has been discovered through previous experience. This would significantly reduce the audience reach for the newsletter.

Patti also pointed out that many senior residents of the neighbourhood are not necessarily connected to the internet and that a digital newsletter would disadvantage those residents.

Decision

It was agreed that any transition to digital print version will need to be gradual. This may include running an 'opt in' or 'opt out' campaign for receiving a digital version for some time to establish the new delivery method.

Action: Further discussion is needed to determine an opt-in / out approach.

OVAL LIGHTS

The issue of glare into private property was raised. Although DCA has previously made representations on behalf of residents to ensure proper placement and lighting standards, residents Dan Sheedy and Tom O'Connor have both voiced

concerns that the lighting does not meet appropriate standards and the conditions of the development approval. They have also voiced concerns that the provision of lights at the oval has led to a deterioration of the amenity of their homes, with oval-users littering the oval site, parking on the street, urinating on trees and conducting loud conversations late at night.

Action: Miles to request the Environment Protection Authority to undertake an audit to see whether the current oval lighting is compliant with the approved lighting standards.

CHC@DOWNER

Kim Sinclair, Eddie Bourke & Claire Wall attended from CHC to discuss the outcomes of the roads reference group, progress on the School Site and the proposed community day.

CHC@Downer Community Day - February 13th

CHC will book the Hall in case of rain. Otherwise, stalls to be set up outside. A smoking ceremony will be held on the school site at 10am. The public toilets may be opened for the day.

Roads Reference Group

The outcomes of this group is that there are two possible alternatives for new roads at the school site and that CHC will need to weigh up these alternatives as part of the overall design process. The report will be provided to the public in due course.

The two alternatives are:

1. A large main road through the centre of the site connecting directly to the shops. This would need to be a road maintained by TAMS and will have specific design requirements that may impact on the amenity of the site.
2. Smaller roads that do not connect through to the shops. This may reduce the overall conductivity of the site with the shops and may lead to a reduced sense of activity.

Regardless of internal roads, It is estimated that there will be a 15% increase in traffic on Melba Street. Some trees, most likely on Bradfield Street will need to be removed to facilitate road development.

Development progress

- The internal design team is finalising a spec for the architects
- Two potential architects have been chosen
- The townhouses will have gable roofing as community has made representations about to this Andrew Barr.
- CHC will be replacing the ACT Government fencing around the site for public liability issues.

Miles Boak, Convener

Fiona Dickson, Secretary