

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Management Committee Meeting
Monday 3rd April 2017

The meeting opened at 7.07 pm.

PRESENT

Amit Barkay (Chair), Denys Garden, Brian Callahan, Patti Kendall, Simon Stratton, Jacqui Pinkava.
Observers: Jane Miao, Myles Cover, Fiona Evans, Jane Goffman (Dickson Residents Group), Dennis O'Brien (Chair, NCCC), Aniko Carey. Invitees: Jacob Ingram (Chief Minister's Office), Rhiannon McClelland & Claudia Vannithone (CHC Australia), Barbara Burns (Convenor, Transport Working Group).

APOLOGIES

Miles Boak, Stephen Sedgwick, Robyn Rennie

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of 6th March 2017 were accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE

In

1. From Emily Castrission, Journalism student, asking for an interview about the Downer Shops. Denys Garden has agreed to meet her.
2. From Rowena Hodges alerting us to ABC item on Government housing. Distributed to the email group.
3. From Jacob Ingram, Adviser in the Office of the Chief Minister advising availability of grant for some work on the square.

Out

1. Denys Garden replied to the resident asking about issues re. Coles/DOMA AAT Appeal.
2. Miles Boak corresponded with Jacob Ingram re. rejuvenation of Downer Square.
3. Letter to Lachlan Exton, Events Manager at the Kamberra Winery re. excessive noise.

TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurer was not present due to illness, but had sent a report by email. Amit Barkay gave a brief summary. Wages (\$2104) were high for March, but this followed a very low amount for February. Income from Room Hire (\$774) and other Bills (\$757) were similar. There was \$5031.98 in the working account at the end of March. Invoices are about to be prepared and sent out

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. Jacob Ingram, Community Engagement Advisor, Chief Minister's Office

Jacob outline his role, which is to liaise with community groups, and provide a contact in the CM's Office to allow feedback. He is willing to meet with Residents Groups and individual organisations if necessary. He said he was supportive of some funding for interim work on the Downer square, and would try to expedite our application through the CM's Office. He also said there was a possibility of some funding for a 'Party at the Shops' when the Shops open.

2. CHC – School site

Rhiannon McClelland said that the DA for the site was on public display until 26th April, but that because of backlog within ACTPLA, a decision may not be made until late May. There had been some publicity, including an article in the Canberra Times and an interview on WIN TV. CHC will be talking to residents at Brindabella Court on Wednesday 6th April. She reiterated that Downer residents will get some priority for townhouses and apartments in the new development.

3. Dickson Shops Tribunal Case

Jane Goffman and Dennis O'Brien (Chair, North Canberra Community Council) reported on the Tribunal. She said that, overall, the Tribunal was balanced and fair. Nine days of hearings were not enough, and the exercise was expensive. There were problems with traffic modelling and traffic experts from Melbourne were not on top of local issues. The possibility of an extra set of traffic lights on Antill St (where the present pedestrian lights are) to control traffic exiting from the development was raised. Up to 800 cars/hour can be expected in and out of Dickson Centre. This will limit pedestrian movement around the development, with barriers along both sides of the road near the Library and no pedestrian crossings. Some of the re-zonings done as technical amendments are likely to be disputed.

4. North Canberra Community Council

Dennis O'Brien (Chair, NCCC) thanked DCA for their involvement in the Tribunal. He proposed a vote of thanks for Jane Goffman's efforts, which was carried by acclamation. Dennis said that NCCC wanted to work more closely with Community Associations, and that perhaps there was an opportunity to work together on submissions to Government. He mentioned a planned activity in spring 2017, 'We Love North Canberra'. This will involve photo displays using things like Instagram.

TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

Barbara Burns reported that the TWG had met with representatives of Transport Canberra/Action on 6th March. The representative (Nicole Rogan, Scott Lyall, Ian McGlynn) had maps and provided some detail. Buses will no longer travel down Northbourne Ave. The 39 bus will go from Watson to the Dickson Metro station, then on to Civic, although the route to Civic was presently unknown. Action wants to remove one of the bus stops near the Bradfield St end of Melba St. It was suggested that we should argue for both of them to be retained. The idea of a 'Flexi bus' from the Northside Community Centre to the Metro stop had been suggested. The TWG requested the opportunity for input into bus routes.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL SITE

Miles Boak had provided copies of documents and plans for the DA and had suggested that members of the Committee should share the task of reviewing these. This was agreed to and documents were split between members according to the list provided by Miles. It was suggested that there may need to be a special meeting to discuss these and amalgamate comments before the notification deadline.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jane Goffman outlined a Heritage Walk planned for 6th & 7th May (2-5pm). This will go from Dickson Library to Downer square, highlighting how the area has changed. There will be a stop on the way to discuss the heritage trees around the oval, and the history of the old CSIRO buildings will be highlighted. She asked if some sort of display of material used at the 50th Anniversary could be mounted, and suggested tea/coffee & cakes/scones at Downer might be appropriate. The event is free and bookings are through Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dickson-downer-heritage-walk-from-opium-farm-to-childrens-library-tickets-33354487169?aff=eac2>). It was suggested that a Newsletter may be required for publicity.

Patti Kendall suggested that there may need to be a special meeting to get together the various groups with interest in refurbishment of Downer square.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 1st May at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Amit Barkay
Acting Convenor

Denys Garden
Secretary