

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting, Monday April 4th 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Boak (Convenor), Stephen Sedgwick, Brain Callahan, Denys Garden, Robyn Rennie, Phillida Sturgiss-Hoy, Fiona Dickson

Jim Dehlsen (Maintenance Officer)

APOLOGIES

Amit Barkay, Brian Callahan, Patti Kendall, Jacqui Pinkava

OTHER ATTENDEES

Joanne Pickles (Downer Pre-school)

Eddie Bourke, Kim Sinclair, Kieran Fordbridge (Community Housing Canberra)

Aniko Carey, Richard Niven

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of March 3, 2016 were accepted.

CENTRE CORRESPONDENCE

As noted.

CENTRE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Appointment of centre coordinator

Mara Pagnallo has been appointed as centre coordinator. Mara will start work during April. She has a background in bookkeeping a met all job description requirements, including being locally based.

Trestle tables

The sewing group wish to purchase additional trestle tables and store them on-site.

Action: DCA will purchase trestle tables as they may be more generally useful. Stephen Sedgwick and Denys Garden will arrange purchase from Officeworks or Bunnings.

Storage space for machine knitters

The Knitters have requested extra storage space as many of their members are elderly and cannot transport equipment readily.

Now that the committee meeting room has extra cupboard space it may be possible to accommodate extra storage needs.

Action : Denys and Stephen to move items into new cupboard to determine space availability.

First Aid Cabinet

A First-Aid Cabinet needs to be erected in the kitchen.

Action: Stephen to purchase and arrange placement.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Miles thanked Stephen for his work in managing the Centre whilst the Centre has been without a coordinator.

The DCA has a healthy bank balance. Invoicing of current Centre users will occur once Mara Pagnallo has started in the new position. The DCA's financial position is sound.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE & SECURITY

Air conditioning unit

The air conditioning unit in the committee meeting room needs to be replaced or repaired by ACT Government. A replacement unit could be placed either on the roof or as currently positioned on the wall.

DOWNER PRE-SCHOOL

There are currently 19 pupils attending the pre-school. However, there is still concern about the signage indicating that the pre-school feeds solely into Lyneham Primary may still be discouraging enrolments.

Miles reiterated DCA's support for the pre-school. It was suggested that fundraising during local or federal government elections could be a good way of raising the profile of the pre-school. A Spring fete at the shops or activities run by Community Housing Canberra may also provide good opportunities for fundraising. Miles has offered the use of the DCA BBQ. Advertising in the DCA newsletter may also be helpful, as well as in the CHC office and Community Centre noticeboards.

Robyn Rennie has offered to be the DCA liaison with the pre-school for any events.

CHILDCARE AT NEW DEVELOPMENT

Road access and traffic at the new development site may be being influenced by the provision of childcare facilities on the site. DCA was supportive initially, but this may need review.

COMMUNITY HOUSING CANBERRA (CHC) DOWNER DEVELOPMENT

CHC has appointed Keiran Fordbridge as the project manager for the project.

There is a view that a single road should connect directly to the shops to ensure the vitality of commercial enterprises (including childcare facilities), the shops and the development. This may be at Melba Street. There is concern from the DCA about a road entering on Melba Street.

There was some concern about the fact that this deviates from the discussions held at the Roads Reference Group meetings.

There was discussion about the nature of 'independent living units' and the level of care that would be provided within these facilities. It will be between the level of care provide at Goodwin, and the Anglicare units currently on Melba Street.

CHC is planning to run a number of focus groups to clarify the level of service offering and lifestyle choices.

A number of DCA committee members voiced their concern that the Downer community had stated a preference for 'downsizing' living opportunities as opposed to 'assisted' care living arrangements.

The provision of 1.5 car parks per resident is also of concern as it may increase the potential for excessive above ground car parking.

CHC stated that the costs of underground carparking are significant compared to above ground car parks.

Richard Niven is concerned about the roundabout at Frencham and Bradfield.

It is likely that the DA will be ready for public comment in June / July. Pre-sales are likely to start in August / September.

LIGHT RAIL

Links to information about the development will be posted on the DCA website.

Site preparation is likely to begin prior to local elections. According to Richard Niven this is because Shane Rattenbury's alliance with Labour is partially dependent on the commitment, but also because it is a result of the business and development planning process

Miles has made representations regarding the lack of trees on the Phillip Avenue to Swinden Street section. The response was that engineering will not enable trees to be supported in this section of the light rail and that this is non-negotiable.

COLES / DOMA

DCA resubmitted it's response to the DA for the Dickson shops. The public disquiet about this development has received some good publicity, including the information provided by the DCA.

Miles Boak, Convener

Fiona Dickson, Secretary