

**DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Management Committee Meeting**  
**Monday 5th June 2017**

The meeting opened at 7.06 pm.

**PRESENT**

Miles Boak (Chair), Amit Barkay, Denys Garden, Stephen Sedgwick, Patti Kendall, Jacqui Pinkava, Robyn Rennie, Philida Sturgiss-Hoy.

Visitors: Peter Carey, Jensen Sass, Dominic Ransan-Cooper, Sam Hussey-Smith, Robyn Withell, Lindsay Hunter & Rebecca Vasarotti (CHC).

**APOLOGIES**

Brian Callahan

**SPECIAL BUSINESS**

1. Restructure of CHC. Lindsay Hunter (CHC) reported that Kim Sinclair's contract had not been renewed, and she had left the organisation.
2. Development Application for School site. Lindsay reported that there had been approx. 20 representations on the DA. The main items raised were: parking, traffic, bicycle parking, widening of paths, private and public interface, solar access. CHC have received a request from ACTPLA for information, which would be submitted shortly. A decision on the DA should occur before the end of July. Settlement of the land sale will be on 30th June. A meeting with Transport Canberra & City Services and Land Development Agency is planned to discuss the position of the road to Melba St. There was some discussion about what type of road should be proposed ('shared'?, 'safe'?). Lindsay agreed that this road could remove the need for an extra entrance from Melba St to the Independent Living Units. There was some discussion about access through the site and how this will connect to the shops/community centre area. Consideration of a playground was also raised.
3. Downer Square. Two quotes for design had been circulated previously. There was a substantial difference in the price, although the lower quote did not include some items, and more detail was required.

Action: DCA to get back to Lindsay regarding a preference for who would design the work. Ngeosh to be contacted also.

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of 1st May 2017 were accepted.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**In**

1. From Downer resident Barbara McGann re. Tree removal on Northbourne Ave.
2. From Michelle van der Linden re. Downer Shopping Centre sign.
3. From Caroline Le Couteur re. legislation splitting Land Development Agency.
4. From Downer resident Stephen Medza re. development on Downer School site and Dickson Shops.
5. From Downer resident Brian O'Malley re. works in park on Northbourne Ave.
6. From Caroline Le Couteur re. Feedback and Support for Planning & Development Amendment Bill.

Action: It was agreed that we would write in support of this Bill. Miles Boak to organise.

7. From Kamberra on Federal: Community update.
8. From Bronwynne Jones (Eric Martin & Associates, Architects) re. nominations for ACT Heritage Awards.
9. From Sarah Treble (NATCAP) acknowledging receipt of submission on Works Approval application for Light Rail stops.

Action: Denys Garden to circulate submission to Committee and those present at the meeting. It was suggested we also send our submission to Pedal Power.

**Out**

1. Submission to NATCAP re. Works Approval application for Light Rail stops.

## **CENTRE COORDINATORS REPORT**

Amit Barkay reported that a window required fixing in the West Hall. Also that the Machine Knitters had asked if storage could be provided inside the centre to avoid having to move heavy equipment from the outside storage. Stephen Sedgwick suggested providing cupboards in the West Hall as a solution.

Action: *Amit Barkay to meet with Machine Knitters and discuss their requirements.*

Miles Boak reported that NCCC have a grant and have offered to install an Overhead Projector and screen in the Centre. They plan to meet here once a month in future, and this may strengthen our case for keeping our lease. There was discussion of whether we needed such equipment and where it should be located.

Resolved: *That we would accept NCCCs offer, but that the location and security need to be determined.*

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

Stephen Sedgwick presented a report of finances. May had been a big month for bills, as our annual insurance (\$2465) was paid during the month, as well as other expenses. Income was room hire (\$4315) and book sales (\$180). Balance in the main account at the end of May was \$2235.88, with \$6648.31 in our term deposit.

## **DICKSON SHOPS**

No decision has been made yet.

## **DOWNER SQUARE**

After the CHC representatives had left, there was discussion of the quotes received from landscape architects. There was general agreement to go with the Harris Hobbs quote, despite it being more expensive, given their previous track record, provided more detail of costs was provided. Sam Hussey-Smith asked what would happen if all the money promised was not spent on the square. Could we spend the balance on other things in central Downer? Patti Kendall suggested we let Lindsay Hunter meet with David Dawes (or whoever in the Government is responsible) to see whether the funds are going to be available, and how they respond to the plans provided.

## **PLAYGROUND/PARK**

Dominic Ransan-Cooper, Sam Hussey-Smith and Jensen Sass spoke about the need for another playground in the central area. An area near the top oval somewhere near where public access from the School Site joins the Shops/Community Centre was suggested. There was some discussion about the type of playground (suitable for older children; might include equipment for older adults).

Action: *Harris Hobbs to be contacted re. playground.*

Sam Hussey-Smith suggested surveying residents, perhaps using a video, to determine what people wanted in Downer, given that the Government was getting money from the School Site. Things like upgrading present playgrounds in Downer, repairing and widening footpaths, and a crossing on Melba St were suggested. The video could be sent to the Government and would be available to DCA.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Downer resident, Robyn Withell, described problems Melba St residents were having with street tree roots invading properties and causing cracking of paths and walls. Urban Services had recommended getting a structural engineer to investigate. Quotes of between \$10-30,000 to repair damage had been received, but Urban Services were now hard to contact.

Miles Boak suggested that Fix My Street could be a good way to get some response from the Government. Sam Hussey-Smith suggested that it could be a good idea to get an arborist to inspect, to provide firm evidence that street trees are damaging houses. It was also suggested that we publicise this problem through email/newsletter and suggest others contact Fix My Street as well if they have problems.

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:** Monday 3rd July at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.13 pm.

Miles Boak  
Convenor

Denys Garden  
Secretary