

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Management Committee Meeting
Monday 6th February 2017

The meeting opened at 7.03 pm.

PRESENT

Miles Boak (Chair), Denys Garden, Stephen Sedgwick, Brian Callahan, Amit Barkay, Patti Kendall, Jacqi Pinkava, Robyn Rennie, Simon Stratton, Philida Sturgiss-Hoy. Observers: Robyn Miller, Philippe McCracken, Barbara Burns, Jerry Lee.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of 5th December 2016 were accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE

In

1. There has been a report that shading in the playground near the scout hall is inadequate.

Action: Miles Boak to contact TAMS about replacing the present shade with a larger one, or erecting an extra one.

2. From Downer Preschool thanking us for their support in 2016 and asking for advice about an auditor for their accounts. Miles Boak noted that the Preschool has good enrolments in 2017. It was agreed that we would try to provide opportunities for them to raise money at DCA functions. We have previously passed on the details of our auditor to them.

3. From NCCC advising that their regular meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

4. Liam Lilly from SEE-Change asking to be notified of opening of Downer shops.

Out

To NCCC acknowledging their donation towards the Community Centre sign and our commitment to publicise this in the Newsletter.

CENTRE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Amit Barkay reported that all seemed to be operating well. Stephen Sedgwick noted that there was a potential problem on Monday nights if we required a larger room for meetings, as both larger halls were now booked on Mondays. Jim Dehlsen reported that he had investigated the damaged screens on windows of the SEE-Change office. Suggested they be replaced by the more secure type, as on the kitchen window.

Action: Amit Barkay to investigate whether the ACT Government is responsible for this or us.

Miles Boak reported that the ACT Government had committed \$500,000 towards refurbishment of the square, but that nothing would happen until the shops were open and the DA for the school site approved. Patti Kendall reminded us that Theo Poulos had previously developed a plan for this, which might be a useful starting point. Jim Dehlsen reported that he had repaired both clocks, and occasionally cleans up the courtyard area and prunes creepers.

TREASURERS REPORT

Stephen Sedgwick said that no formal report had been prepared, but one would be circulated to the Committee. There was currently about \$8000 in our main account

DOWNER SCHOOL SITE DEVELOPMENT

Miles Boak provided copies of the latest plans. The Development Application for the first two parts of the project (Townhouses and Apartments) has been lodged, but is not on display yet. There is a sticking point over the heritage pine trees – CHC will replace them but want to pass ownership back to the ACT Government so the area becomes public space. TAMS are reluctant to do this. Miles Boak noted that there will only be a limited time for public comment on the plans.

Action: A Newsletter should be prepared so it is ready to be distributed immediately plans are on display.

Patti Kendall suggested we should ask CHC about the fate of the Community Gardens.

Action: Miles Boak to contact CHC about the following:

- Plans for Community Gardens
- What proportion of apartments are rental properties
- Suggest they update their website
- What has happened with the 'affordable' status of CHC projects

Miles Boak also to circulate the EDD Community Engagement Report from 2012 to Committee members.

TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

Barbara Burns, Convenor of the TWG, said that Transport Canberra will meet with the Group on 20th February. However, there is a public meeting before then (16th February). It was felt that we should be informed about what is happening with changes to bus routes as a consequence of Light Rail. It was suggested that information go in the next Newsletter, asking residents for feedback. Miles Boak noted that the Bus/Light Rail interchange is already being constructed in Dickson.

NEW DCA SIGN

North Canberra Community Council has provided a grant of \$900 to construct a replica of the original DCA sign for the Centre, and this has been installed. Denys Garden noted that we have agreed to publicise NCCC's grant in the Newsletter.

DICKSON SHOPS

Miles Boak and Amit Barkay reported that in the Tribunal hearings held November/December deficiencies in Coles/DOMA's traffic modelling had been exposed. There will be further hearings on 7th/8th March and later in March as well.

DOWNER SHOPS

It was suggested that the owners be asked about a possible opening date for the shops, so that some sort of celebration can be organised. Amit Barkay suggested proposing 25th March as a date to tie in with the World's Greatest Shave event.

DOWNER PRESCHOOL

Miles Boak reported that the Preschool currently has full classes. Also, they have a permanent public Book Swap stall available to residents.

Action. Robyn Rennie to contact the Preschool about ways to help them. It was agreed that Downer Preschool would be invited to run a stall at a Shops opening event.

CLEANUP AUSTRALIA DAY

Miles Boak advised that this was to be held on Sunday 5th March, 9am-12 noon. Aniko & Peter Carey had offered to produce corflutes to advertise the event.

NEWSLETTER

It was agreed that a Newsletter should be prepared to publicise the Cleanup Day, the Development Application for the school site, the possible opening of the Downer Shops and the new Transport Working Group.

CITY & GATEWAY URBAN RENEWAL STRATEGY

Patti Kendall reported that there was a website for this:

http://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/current_projects/studies/City_and_Gateway_Urban_Renewal_Strategy

She noted that there had been no contact since August 2016, and we should obtain answers on the following:

- Where are things up to?
- What is the next step in the process?
- Is there a timeline available?

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 6th March at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Miles Boak
Convenor

Denys Garden
Secretary