

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

The meeting opened at 7.03 pm.

PRESENT

Miles Boak, (Chair), Amit Barkay, Brian Callahan, Denys Garden, Stephen Sedgwick, Patti Kendall, Philida Sturgiss-Hoy, Jim Dehlsen (Maintenance). **Visitors:** Geoffrey Rutledge (Deputy Director-General, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate), Rhiannon McClelland (CHC), Margo O'Malley, Sam Hussey-Smith, Tim Blair, Greg Mulvaney, Philippe McCracken.

APOLOGIES Simon Stratton, Robyn Rennie, Jacqui Pinkava.

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of 2nd October 2017 were accepted.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. **Downer Square.** Geoffrey Rutledge reported on progress with arrangements for possible refurbishment of Downer Square. Because of previous commitments by Government, Downer Square was a special case and had been placed higher on the Shops Refurbishment list. As a temporary measure, some maintenance work is already going on. The plans prepared by Harris Hobbs have been inspected and sent on the TCCS for assessment of requirements for ongoing maintenance, safety compliance and disability. Eventually a proposed design will be provided for comment and agreement on the final plan. At this stage, funding has not been specified, but hopefully this will occur. The Government's plan is to provide the money to CHC to organise the work, and it is hoped that work will be completed in this financial year.

Amit Barkay raised the upgrading of toilets. This was noted by Geoffrey, but it was agreed that it would be an expensive job to make them fully disability compliant.

2. **CHC.** Rhiannon McClelland reported that the Tribunal hearing had been delayed as there were now two groups contesting the DA. It was complex because one group was prepared to negotiate, but the other was not. Allowing for these delays, it is expected that release will happen early next year and construction should start in the 2nd quarter of 2018. Temporary signage has been erected round the site, and an open day will be held at the Centre at some point. DCA will be notified about the release. Rhiannon confirmed that Downer residents would have priority for residences.

Regarding Downer Square, Rhiannon said we should organise a meeting to discuss feedback on the design from the Government, and plan out a schedule for the work. Miles Boak noted that Charlie Murray (Wellness Centre) has designer friends who are coming up with ideas for consistent signage for the shops.

Rhiannon was thanked for the support provided by her, CHC and Agency9 for the Party at the Shops.

CORRESPONDENCE

In

1. From Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal advising that the closing date for submissions to the Inquiry into Housing has been extended to 14th February 2018.
2. From Barbara Burns & Frank Mills asking if the DCA was taking part in The Tribunal review for the School Site Development.
3. From local real estate agent Justin Ingram about possible donation to DCA.
4. Invoice from Gypsy Jazz Project for band at Party at the Shops.

Out

1. To CHC, Agency9 and SEE-Change thanking them for their financial and organisational support for the Party at the Shops.
2. To ACTSmart with waste report from Party at the Shops.

3. To Barbara Burns & Frank Mills advising that DCA was not planning to be involved in the Tribunal appeal and setting out DCA's position on the DA for the development. A copy of the DCA's original submission was attached.
4. To new DCA members who signed up at the Party at the Shops welcoming them.
5. To Justin Ingram re. possible donation to DCA, declining his offer of an unsolicited donation, but offering him the opportunity to donate for a particular purpose now or in the future.

CENTRE REPORT

Miles Boak reported that Mara Pangallo, the Centre Coordinator, had resigned due to other commitments, and Stephen Sedgwick was presently managing bookings. It was agreed that we would wait until 2018 to appoint a new Coordinator. Patti Kendall noted that there could be Catholic University students looking for work.

TREASURERS REPORT

A formal report was not presented, but the Treasurer said that in October there had been \$3300 in bills and \$1180 in room hire. Invoices had just been sent out and already in November there had been a further \$1300 received. There was some discussion about whether to proceed with printing of more books. As discussed at the last meeting it was agreed that we should wait until our term deposit matures in January.

PARTY AT THE SHOPS

Denys Garden reported that the event was a success, largely because of the support of CHC, Agency9 and SEE-Change. He thanked Committee members for the work they did on the day in setting up, cleaning up and manning the DCA table. There was much less rubbish than expected – 1.25 large bins of recycled material and 1 smaller bin of rubbish.

RENEWAL OF LEASE

Miles Boak reported that we had been advised by ACT Property Group that our lease will not be renewed under the same conditions from the end of January 2018. Staff from ACT Property Group have asked to meet us at the Centre on Wednesday 8th at 10am to inspect the Centre as part of their review of ACT Government properties. Miles said Caroline Le Couteur had given some feedback on potential cost, and will most likely raise the issue in the Assembly. Sam Hussey-Smith said he had spoken with Caroline who had noted that the Centre building is heritage listed and therefore is most likely a problem for the Government in some ways, and may be regarded as a special case. Sam also noted that the development of the School Site will create a greater need for community facilities. Committee members were encouraged to attend the meeting on Wednesday.

There was discussion about whether we should let our User Groups know about the changed position. It was agreed that we should wait until after Wednesday's meeting to decide this.

MEETING re. SECTION 72, DICKSON

It was noted that there was a meeting on Friday 10th. A mixed design is proposed there with Common Ground (affordable housing for homeless people) plus residential. Committee members were encouraged to attend.

PLANNING FOR AGM

This was briefly discussed. Denys Garden suggested we should approach younger people in the suburb to nominate for the Committee, to reflect the changing nature of the suburb. Nomination forms were provided to those at the meeting. It was agreed that the video produced by Sam Hussey-Smith would be presented, and CHC be asked to give an outline of progress on their plans. It was also agreed that we would have a barbecue before the meeting. It will start at 6 pm with the meeting at 7.30 pm. Publicity would include the email group, Facebook and possibly notices at local shops.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday 4th December at 7 pm.
The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Miles Boak
Convenor

Denys Garden
Secretary