

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Management Committee Meeting
Monday 6th October 2014

The meeting opened at 7.05 pm.

PRESENT

Di Fielding (Chair), Denys Garden, Chris Paterson, Patti Kendall, Amit Barkay, Philida Sturgiss-Hoy, Caroline Le Couteur. Observers: John Fielding, Aniko Carey,

APOLOGIES

Stephen Sedgwick, Brian Callahan.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. **Canberra Musician's Club.** Nigel McRae and Rob Thorman from the CMC addressed the meeting. The Club runs concerts and events under the acronym SLAM (Sport, Literature, Art and Music), supporting local artists. They are looking at the possibility of putting on event(s) at Downer Centre. They are initially suggesting an afternoon event, possibly in early autumn 2015. The event would involve alcohol, but they organise the licence and have adequate public liability insurance to cover events. Volunteers and other assistance from the local community would be required.

Action: *It was resolved that the Committee would consider the proposal out of session by email and report back to the Canberra Musician's Club, preferably within a week. It was suggested that we should have a clear written agreement on responsibilities.*

2. **Community Housing Canberra.** The meeting was addressed by Richard Bear, a Director of CHC. He outlined the way CHC operates by providing affordable housing for people on low to moderate incomes, who do not qualify for public housing. The ultimate aim is to get all those involved into the housing market by assisting them in making a start. Tenants only pay 74.9% of market rent. Some properties are sold, and this provides profit which is fed back into future projects.

There was some discussion of proposals on the old Downer School site. Richard advised that the site will go to CHC without tender, and that the TPV is being considered by ACT Government Directorates. Once the land is transferred to CHC, CHC will be in control rather than the Government. The outcome of the TPV will determine the price to be paid by CHC. Richard outlined some enhancements since previous consultations – more north-facing dwellings, childcare centre moved closer to Downer Centre, more open space, 120 independent living units, some commercial development to service these. The target number of dwellings is 300 (max 3 levels), with a mixture of townhouses, apartments and larger independent living units. There are to be limited 1br apartments in the complex, as these are currently hard to sell.

There was some dissent in the meeting about the process being followed, as there did not appear to be adequate time for community consultation. Also, there was some doubt that lower heights and more open space were achievable if 300 dwellings were to be built. It was felt that we were being presented with new options without adequate time to review them, and we and the community may lose control of the process, especially if the TPV is as far advanced as was presented. It was suggested that a Precinct Code is

needed for the site to define precisely what is possible. It should at least cover maximum building height and the ratio of built to open space.

Action: *It was resolved that the Committee or representatives should meet with Kylie Forrest (LDA) to get some agreement on what is likely to eventuate. We should also make enquiries of the ACT Government Planning Committee to determine where things are up to.*

The normal meeting was resumed after the visitors had left.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of 2nd September 2014 were accepted.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Section 72, Dickson. This has been taken out of the Omnibus Territory Plan variations, presumably because of the negative reactions of the community.

Heaters. Replacement of the heaters in the SEE-Change office by the Government is being considered.

Downer Preschool. Di Fielding reported that the sign at the Preschool is to be replaced to better reflect which Primary Schools students can be streamed to. It was suggested that the presence of a Childcare Centre in the school site development could help with the survival of Downer Preschool.

Secretary. Di Fielding reported that Jane Ahern had agreed to take over the position of Secretary in 2015.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email from NCCC re. loss of Community meeting space in ACT Sports House with attached letter from Chief Minister.
2. Email from Barbara McGann with comments on Spring Fair and suggestions for future fairs & markets.
3. Email from Pattie Collins with copy of submission to the Minister re. closure of Downer toilets.
4. Copy of Capital Metro Newsletter.

CENTRE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Jingwen Wang had reported that Majura Women's Group had reported a roof leak after rain. There was no evidence of it when Jingwen inspected.

Action: *Di Fielding to follow up with Jim Dehlsen.*

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer was not present, but had previously contacted the Convenor and Secretary by email and will later provide a full report by email. There were no outstanding bills in September, and there was currently \$5,411.91 in our working account. The Treasurer raised the issue of setting a date in November for the AGM.

DOWNER TOILETS CLOSURE

This raised quite a lot of interest at the Spring Fair, and the Minister was made aware of the situation. At least 2 Downer residents have written to the Minister with their concerns, and several people signed a petition at the Fair.

Action: *Di Fielding to write to the Minister.*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Following the Treasurer's request for the meeting to be as late in November as possible, it was resolved that the AGM would be held on Monday 24th November at 7.30 pm. It was agreed that a Newsletter should be distributed beforehand.

OTHER BUSINESS

Spring Fair. Di Fielding reported on feedback on the Fair provided by Barbara McGann (circulated to Committee previously). One of the suggestions was for regular (monthly) fairs/markets. It was felt that this was too much to ask of the Committee, and would require independent organisation. A suggestion was made that if 6 or so regular stallholders could organise these activities with other help, it may work. However, they would need to put a business case to the Committee for approval. There was a preference to restrict activities like fairs to 2 or 3 events a year.

Capital Metro. Carolyn Le Couteur reported that a NCCC submission had noted that reducing the number of stops from the maximum to say 13 only added 1 minute to travel from Gunghalin to the City. If this is the case, there is no need to reduce from the maximum.

There was some discussion of the problems of Public-Private Partnerships – no risk for private enterprise, definite risk for the Government. Because of the way these partnerships work, the Government rarely has to pay anything up front. This suggests the Light Rail will go ahead regardless of cost.

Downer Shops. There was discussion about the lack of progress with the shops and the implications of the new information on the School site development.

Action: *Di Fielding to email Theo Poulos about progress.*

NEXT MEETING: Monday 3rd November at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Di Fielding
Convenor

Denys Garden
Secretary