

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting

Monday 13th April 2015 at 7pm

PRESENT Di Fielding (Chair), Denys Garden, Stephen Sedgwick, Chris Patterson, Caroline Le Couteur, Patti Kendall, Brian Callahan. Observers: Damien Solley, John Fielding

APOLOGIES Philida Sturgiss-Hoy, Jane Ahern, Miles Boak.

WELCOME The committee was introduced to Veterinarian Damien Solley who is planning to establish a new practice at the shops; Damien will be applying to be a member of the DCA.

MINUTES Minutes of meeting held 02/03/15 accepted Patti Kendall, seconded Denys Garden.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTES

- SEE-Change blinds. Jodie Pipkorn has emailed Caroline providing reasons for replacing the blinds and the preferred product (which was the more expensive option). This was discussed and a decision made to proceed with the SEE-Change recommendation on the proviso that the amount quoted was for all of the windows in the office. It was also decided that as landlord, the DCA will cover the full cost of the blinds.
Action: Caroline will follow up with Jodie, Di will formalise the agreement in writing.
- Key audit. Has been completed and Stephen has added a key register to the booking program which will enable better tracking in future. A master key for the locked cupboards has been found and Jingwen is now able to identify groups who have been allocated cupboard space, vacant cupboards and those that need new keys cut. The locked door in the East meeting room remains a mystery and Stephen will follow up on this.
- Di advised that in the absence of a centre coordinator, tasks have been shared between herself, Stephen, Patti and Jingwen with maintenance carried out by Jim Dehlsen; this arrangement has been working well and a lot of outstanding maintenance tasks have been attended to.
- Panels on two of the sheds at the back of the centre sustained damage recently in an apparent attempt to break into them; Jim has repaired the damage with new rivets and is looking at installing tech screws which will provide greater protection in case of any further attempts.
- Plastic fencing around old school site was not discussed.

CENTRE COORDINATOR'S REPORT – March 2015

- The regular clients run their sessions smoothly. There are two more new regular clients and casual bookings too.
- Term one invoices have been issued, and some payments have already been deposited to DCA's bank account.
- With Jim's help, many maintenances jobs have been done. Carpet has been steaming cleaned. Some client (yoga group) suggested that carpet should be steaming cleaning every school term.
- One cupboard's key behind the kitchen is ready to hand to Rosalie from fiber basket group to store their books. There are still five cupboards "unowned". The follower club and Dozchan dancing group share the store place next to the broom storage.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. Stephen reported that the DCA is travelling well financially with a current working balance of \$13,000 plus a term deposit of \$6383.57 and an expected \$4,260 worth of expenses expected in April.

We have 2 new tenants (a sailing group and a quilters group) however the Bhutanese group will be leaving. Chris Paterson advised that some clubs in Canberra offer meeting spaces at peppercorn rents (as little as \$1) as long as there is a club member in the group.

Stephen has further developed the computerised diary to include analysis of room utilisation, client activity & charges and a key register. The committee thanked and commended him for his work.

CONTINUATION OF DCA FINANCIAL REVIEW

Denys Garden and Stephen Sedgwick presented an update on their review of DCA finances and were thanked and commended for the work they have put into this. Their report was circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. Recommendations from the report include:

1. That for the present room hire rates be left as they are.
2. That we continue to budget to be aware of any adverse trends appearing.
3. That the financial position is considered annually after the end of the financial year in June. Thus there should be an annual review in the period July-December each year.
4. If a decision is made to increase room hire rates, this should take effect from the start of the next calendar year, as this is the basis on which our clients operate.
5. Because of the state of our bank balances, we should give serious consideration to investing more money in another term deposit.

Chris Paterson suggested that consideration be given to an ING online account for term deposits as she understands they have a very good interest rate.

There was some discussion as to whether a formal budget process is needed annually but consensus was that the current processes and those recommended in the report will be sufficient.

PARTY AT THE SHOPS

Party at the shops will be held on 2nd May 2015 and will be promoted in the next newsletter which should be ready by next week. Di requested help from committee members to set up from 9am, (Caroline, Denys, Brian available). Jingwen has emailed all tenants but only SEE-Change and the machine knitters have said they will be attending. Other participants and possibilities include:

- Downer pre-school will be doing the BBQ and will provide a craft table and chairs
- Theo providing bread rolls
- Amy Moon will organise some children's entertainment including face painting. Patti will contact a neighbour who does child entertainment
- Sly Fox coffee van coming
- ACT women's water polo will do a cake stall
- Girl Guides not sure if they will attend, if so they will sell their packaged biscuits
- ACT government agencies including ACTPLA have been invited, not sure who will attend
- Several politicians have been invited, not sure who will attend
- Capital Metro will attend
- Pottery group attending
- Jane Goffman from Active Planning, Dickson will attend with a revised petition about planning for the Dickson Centre; the previous petition with 1,500 signatures was rejected by the Legislative Assembly because it was incorrectly addressed
- The Canberra Band will play at the opening around 10.30am otherwise music is uncertain. Caroline will contact Nigel at CMC, Di will contact a friend who plays cello, Patti will contact a band called Back Seat Drivers. Amy Moon can provide \$150 to pay a band
- Beyond Blue will supply balloons
- Amy providing bunting, posters and fliers. Posters given to committee members to distribute
- Aniko will place large corflute signs on roads around Downer
- Caroline will organise some suitcase sellers

DICKSON REDEVELOPMENT

- Recent petition with 1,500 signatures rejected by Assembly because it was incorrectly addressed. Jane Goffman organising a revised version.
- Approval given last month for The Malabar Apartments, 224 units on Cape St – seems to have quietly flown under the radar while focus was on Coles-Doma
- Expecting an application for another 130 apartments on the TAB site
- Add 155 apartments for the Coles- Doma site and there is a total of **509** new apartments on the drawing board for Dickson. Patti pointed out that this number should add weight to the argument for fewer apartments on the Downer school site.

CITY AND NORTHBOURNE URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK

Di Fielding represented DCA at the second full day workshop. Di reported that:

- The purpose was to look at planning over the next 50 years
- There was a broad mix of participants with a lot of these representing particular interests and only a few such as herself and Jane Goffman wanting to look at the broader picture
- Clear that the community does not have a lot of faith that consultation will be meaningful
- Consultants and government representatives were promoting the notion of Canberra presenting as a “fun” city and of the development of “villages” along either side of the spine
- No one is in favour of wall to wall apartments along Northbourne, planners keen to “mix it up”
- Contracts for Capital Metro are likely to be signed while the current government is in office making it difficult to withdraw if there is a change of government
- Downer is now considered one of the wealthiest suburbs on the northside with an average income of \$900pw, 50% of residents are professional, 50% of families have children, and house prices have been increasing steadily.

DCA MEETING WITH ANDREW BARR

Scheduled for 20/05/15 at 4pm, Caroline, Patti, Jane and Miles to attend. Will probably discuss the types issues reflected in recent letters to the editor; please let any of the group know if there are other concerns you would like raised.

OTHER MATTERS

- DCA’s 25th anniversary is coming up in October 2015. Further discussions around a celebratory dinner, no decisions made. Committee members asked to think about how we should organise the proposed dinner and any other suggestions. For discussion at next meeting.
- Denys advised the meeting that he had found the lease document for the centre in the filing cabinet in the office. The lease covers the period 23/11/12 to 30/01/18. Denys will have the document scanned and then return it to the filing cabinet.
- We were advised that progress is being made on the shops site; quantity surveyors are working there this week.

CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Jodie Pipkorn re replacement of blinds in SEE-Change office was discussed as above.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 4th May 2015 at 7.00pm

Di Fielding, Convenor

Brian Callahan, minutes