

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting, Monday 3 August 2015

PRESENT

Di Fielding, Miles Boak, Philida Sturgiss-Hoy, Stephen Sedgwick, Jane Ahern, Caroline Le Couteur, Brian Callahan, Denys Garden. Observers: Amit Barkay, John Fielding, Theo Poulos, Larry & Alicia Doherty

GUESTS

Alistair Coe MLA, Stephen Dospot MLA, Kim Sinclair, CEO of CHC Affordable Housing and Rebecca Vassarotti, board member of CHC Affordable Housing.

APOLOGIES

Patti Kendall, Chris Paterson

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of 7 July 2015 were accepted.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Bicentennial Square Upgrade

Di Fielding followed up with Mr Barr's office re: Downer local shopping centre public space, Bicentennial Square, which the DCA continually requests to have upgraded. This is especially important now as the upgrade would completely refresh the centre if it were to coincide with the completion of the Downer shops redevelopment. The previous update, undertaken in 1988, was funded by the ACT Assembly but the work was carried out by local residents. Thanks to Miles Boak, there was an article about the Downer shops redevelopment by Ian Warden in The Canberra Times.

Action: Di to continue following up with Mr Barr's office

Downer Preschool

Di Fielding is also still following up with Mr David Jones from the Education Department who is carrying out a review of pre-schools. Downer Preschool continues to suffer from low numbers thanks largely to Lyneham Primary School being shown as the feeder school for Downer. DCA is seeking to have the correct information available - that Downer Preschool feeds to Lyneham, North Ainslie and Majura Primary Schools.

Action: Di to continue seeking a response

ISSUES IN RELATION TO PHONE LINE

The DCA Committee agreed to purchase a mobile phone for the specific use of the Downer Community Association as it was felt there was no need for a landline and the ongoing rental charges. The new mobile phone number to be displayed along with the DCA email address on the centres notice boards and web site.

Action: DCA to compare mobile phones.

DCA ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Chris Patterson advised Di Fielding prior to the meeting that the caterers should be available for October but would want firm numbers. There were discussions around seating capacity, music for the evening and it was agreed that DCA would supply wine and soft drink for the evening. The hall has been booked out for the afternoon and evening.

Action: Miles to prepare draft invitations. John Fielding, Observer, kindly agreed to prepare the music for the night.

PURCHASE OF PA SYSTEM

It was decided that it was not pressing to purchase a PA system at this stage.

CENTRE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Jingwen has been away but reported all was well on her return apart from some puddles after heavy rain in the East Hall.

Jim Dehlsen is doing excellent maintenance work at the Centre and believes the flooding in the East Hall may have come from blocked drains. He will investigate. Jim will also fix the East Hall door that is not locking properly and remove graffiti.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Stephen Sedgwick reported that the 2014-2015 quarter 4 PAYE and Superannuation was paid in July and Activity statements for the 2014-2015 financial year were sent out. Overall the bank balance declined by just under \$1300 from last month and the current account balance, working account, is currently \$11,359.00

Action: Stephen to look at opening an account offering better interest rates.

CENTRE CORRESPONDENCE

- Kim Sinclair, Chief Executive Officer of CHC affordable housing reported that there was not much to update the Association on this month. The land purchase of the old Downer school site has been slightly delayed. It is currently with lawyers going over the contracts, as such, other associated plans with community engagement, design work, are also delayed.
- Jane Ahern, Secretary DCA, advised the committee that she is no longer a Downer resident, but would like to remain as Secretary of the DCA for the rest of 2015. She requested with reference to Clause 3A of the DCA Constitution that the committee approve her request to remain as Secretary of the Association.

SECRETARY'S POSITION

The committee approved Jane Ahern's request to remain as Secretary of the DCA for the rest of 2015.

S72 DICKSON PARKLAND

Di Fielding and Caroline Le Couteur as representatives of the DCA, along with members of the Dickson Residents Group and NCCC, attended a meeting with the Land Development Authority. The LDA indicated they were seeking community input and discussion before finalising their position on S72. It became apparent the very next day, when the LDA's position was released to the press that their decision had already been made and the meeting had been a disappointing sham. The press release was embargoed until immediately after the meeting. The DCA will support a letter to the Assembly, also signed by NCCC and Dickson Residents Group, to say that we think more consultation is needed.

UPDATE ON DOWNER SHOPS DEVELOPMENT

Theo Poulos attended the meeting and advised that the Downer shops redevelopment was on track and expected to be finished by Christmas. He is using as many of the old bricks, shop signs and original timber fittings in the fit out as possible.

UPDATE ON OLD DOWNER SCHOOL SITE DEVELOPMENT

Kim Sinclair, CEO of CHC Affordable Housing and Rebecca Vassarotti, board member of CHC Affordable Housing attended the meeting to update the DCA on progress with the old Downer

Primary School site. CHC are still waiting to sign the lease for the land so little progress has been made. Kim and Rebecca assured the meeting that CHC would continue to update the Downer community at all steps along the way and would further invite community input on the development before lodging their development plans with ACTPLA. There was some discussion around their plans with committee members reiterating the desire for a development similar to the leafy, 3 storey City Edge development next to the O'Connor shops rather than the higher, urban Braybrook development in Bruce, which was also a CHC development.

Mr Alistair Coe MLA and Mr Steve Doszpot MLA

Mr Alistair Coe MLA and Mr Steve Doszpot MLA were welcomed to the meeting.

They attended as an opportunity to hear from the local community and to talk about the policies they would be espousing for the Inner North at the next election. There was discussion around light rail and its planning and transport issue. Development issues in Downer and the Inner north were also discussed as were the ad hoc, opaque nature of territory planning and the apparent disregard of community concerns around Downer School site and S72 Dickson Parklands redevelopments, despite 3 hectares of community land being given up. Mr Coe and Mr Doszpot were thanked for attending the meeting and took away some understanding of the high levels of Downer community concerns.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 7th September 2015 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Di Fielding

Jane Ahern

Convener

Secretary