

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting, Monday 1 June 2015

PRESENT

Miles Boak (Acting Chair), Denys Garden, Philida Sturgiss-Hoy, Stephen Sedgwick, Chris Paterson, Jane Ahern, Caroline Le Couteur. Observers: Peter Carey, Jenny Garden.

APOLOGIES

Di Fielding, Brain Callahan, Patti Kendall

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of 4 May 2015 were accepted.

Guests: Kim Sinclair, Deputy CEO of CHC Affordable Housing and Rebecca Vassarotti, board member of CHC Affordable Housing. Theo Poulos, Downer shopping centre developer

CHC Affordable Housing representatives Kim Sinclair and Rebecca Vassarotti attended the meeting to engage with committee and broader neighbourhood now that the rezoning for the old school site has gone through and there is some more certainty around their plans. Rebecca commented that CHC is committed to high quality design and they are about to commence a consultation strategy with the Downer community on what they intend to build on the school site. The next step for CHC is the purchase of the site which must be completed by 30 June 2015, then they will tender for architects, procurement etc. Kim and Rebecca offered Gundaberra at Harrison as an example of the style of construction they are considering – although they also noted that they have to have to build to site and market conditions. They are happy to provide updates as suitable. Construction is not likely to begin until next year. It was suggested that the DCA might organise a general meeting for the community to put their ideas forward later on which Kim and Rebecca indicated they would be happy to consider nearer the time. They were thanked for their attendance and input.

Theo Poulos, developer of the Downer shopping centre also attended the meeting to update the committee on the progress of the redevelopment. Theo reported that the asbestos sheeting has been removed, work is on track and some of the old building materials such as hardwood roof trusses and old advertising signs have been saved to be recycled into the new development. Theo hopes to be operating by Christmas. He is considering various ideas such as possibly mid-week markets or a child's play area around the Bicentennial Square and ideas for the area at the back of the new shops. Theo was thanked for his attendance and informative update.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was circulated to committee prior to the meeting. Stephen noted that it was an average month in relation to outgoings for bills. General bills, wages and reimbursements totalled just over \$1800. A donation of \$200 has been made to Downer Pre-School as agreed at last month's meeting to cover their advertising printing costs for their fête. While \$400 was received from room hire, quarterly invoices are scheduled to be sent to clients in June which will boost the bank balance accordingly. Room hire projections for the remainder of the year are on track with budgeted expense forecasts.

MEETING WITH ANDREW BARR MLA, CHIEF MINISTER

Miles reported that the Chief Minister committed to following up on each of the main issues raised at the meeting which were:

1) Development of the old Downer School Site: Would Mr Barr talk to EDD/CHC about the scale and appearance being similar to 'City Edge' development in O'Conner rather than the CHC "Braybrook" development in Bruce on the former school site.

2) Downer Local Shopping centre public space – Now that upgrading of the shops has commenced it is timely that money be spent on maintenance/upgrading public square. Will Mr Barr talk to David Dawes about timing?

3) Downer Preschool - Given the dire consequences to enrolments the allocation of Downer Preschool once assigned to Lyneham Primary School, would Mr Barr discuss having the preschool reassigned back to Majura Primary School, where most Downer parents want to send their children. Miles followed up with an email to the Chief Minister the following day outlining the points discussed and outcomes.

Action: Follow up with Mr Barr's office if no response received by end of June. None has been received to date.

DCA ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Chris reported back to the committee with quotes for various catering options for the night. A BBQ would seem to be the most cost effective. Coyote Catering offer a buffet or BBQ menu to choose from. Vegetarian options could be provided by My Rainbow Café from Dickson shopping centre. ACT CIT trainee cooks and chefs do not cater for external events.

There was general discussion around the event and it was decided that members would bring tablecloths for the evening and the hire of plates or purchasing plates from op shops would be looked into as disposable plates were not an attractive option.

Numbers were also discussed and how many could be accommodated in the hall. Once numbers are known it will be easier to ascertain costs and ticket prices. It was suggested Eventbrite be invited to manage the ticket payments as they can facilitate credit card payments.

Action: Denys and Stephen to conduct a trial run of tables to ascertain possible numbers.

Miles to investigate best method of inviting past and current members to the dinner. RSVPs will be required.

Chris to negotiate on catering prices when numbers are known.

OTHER MATTERS

Discussion with Theo about the temporary cut to the phone lines as the old shops were being demolished. The DCA phone line has been 'hung' over the shops and will continue to be affected by the building works due to the lines location.

Action: DCA to follow up with Telstra/Transact and to work in cooperation with whoever Theo is using to provide power/phone lines to the shops.

Denys has received positive feedback from members via the DCA website, appreciating the updates on the Dickson and Downer redevelopments.

Action: Denys to continue with updates as appropriate to keep members informed and engaged.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

NEXT MEETING: Monday 6 July 2015 at 7.00pm

Miles Boak, Acting Convener

Jane Ahern, Secretary