

## **DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETING**

Downer Community Centre, 2 September 2019

### **PRESENT**

Miles Boak, (chair), Jacqui Pinkava, Stephen Sedgwick, Patti Kendall, Aniko Carey, Peter Carrey, Simone Gray, Suzanne Pitson, Amit Barkay, Greg Mulvaney, Sue Dyer, John Cunningham

**Apologies:** Sam Hussey-Smith, Robyn Rennie, Kerry-Ann Hugo, Sam Roggeveen

Meeting opened 7.10pm with two presentations.

#### **1. John Cunningham (Downer resident) on Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy (CAPaD).**

This group, which has been operating for four years, wants a better democracy in the ACT, has arisen out of the four citizens juries that have been held in the ACT, the most public being the one on Third Party Insurance. Advocating for genuine citizen participation in Government decisions and building connected communities. Noted that ANU and UC are interested as a “test case”.

Looking to see how can CAPaD help DCA and how can DCA be a “guinea pig” on how to deal with local members on community issues.

John provided flyers to Committee members.

#### DCA View:

- Miles noted that DCA is a community/planning issues based, a-political association.
- Happy for John, as a DCA member, to come to all of our meetings and see if at any time CAPaD goals/purposes can be put into practice.
- Miles felt that Gang Gang café would be happy to allow flyers to raise awareness of the group.

<b>ACTION:</b> Sue D undertook to do a bit of research about the organisation. Done.
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#### **2. Edwina Robinson (Executive Officer SEEChange and Founder of The Climate Factory) on a Micro-Forest climate change mitigation initiative.** This was done via Zoom (a sort of Skype).

A proposal to plant a micro-forest possible in the “park” bordered by Bradfield, Cole and Burn street in Downer. Space to also include wicking beds for food production and a nature play area. Funding would need to be sourced. Suggested “crowd funding” through “Start Some Good” and hoping for \$20,000 or so. Mentioned she has conducted a Facebook survey which indicates 83% of respondents would be willing to donate. Edwina has also been talking to Minister Steele and staff of Minister Rattenbury. It would have to be seen as a “pilot” for the government to support it she felt.

A sketch of the proposal has been provided (attached).

Edwina is seeking the support of the DCA in this undertaking.

#### DCA View:

- “Initially interested” and very supportive of more trees, but need more information.
- Noted that the suggested space is currently not a designated park, but public open space that possibly is earmarked as a site for a church. Would need to resolve land use with ACT Gov first. Concern expressed that if government got wind of open space they may choose to use for development purposes.
- Also noted that consultation/ letterbox drop with residents bordering the area is a priority to establish support. This is particularly important if the community is expected to maintain the park once planted.
- Canvassing comments from DCA members with some publicity and concept sketches at the Gang Gang café.
- Mention made of rolling in with the Adopt-a-Park submission (see Agenda item 8).

ACTION: Miles to speak to Iraj at Gang Gang to make the sketch plan available and butchers paper for capturing public views and comments.

### 1. MINUTES- Jacqui Pinkava

Minutes of 5 August 2019 were accepted and signed off.

Electronic copy sent to Sam HS for loading on the DCA website.

#### DCA CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND ISSUES RAISED AND ACTIONS

Attachment A (hard copy only) correspondence received in DCA inbox. Main issues raised in correspondence:

- Bruce Smith, Treasurer of NCCC request for projects we might wish to have funded through the NCCC, for NCCC to put to the ACT Gov as part of NCCC budget. See Other Business agenda item.
- Edwina Robinson and the micro-forest proposal. (discussed above)
- Adopt-a-Park alert to submission from Barbara Burns. See agenda item 8.
- Inquiry as to date of Downer Party at the Shops. See agenda item 6.

Outgoing:

- Exchange of emails with NCCC on possible funding bids.
- General Committee business.

Verbal correspondence- raised by Miles.

- Iraj at Gang Gang Café reported that the café has been broken into a number of times. He has reported this to the police but it is not a priority for them and no action taken. Iraj has taken to sleeping in the café. Miles noted that the Vet has also mentioned a break-in.
- Iraj asked if DCA could do something to improve security at the shops.

ACTION: Miles has drafted a letter to Minister Gentleman alerting him to the unsocial/criminal activity taking place and seeking action to stop it from happening. He provided copies to the Committee and has sought their input/editing before sending on.

## Report on Actions from August meeting- Jacqui

Note: Some outstanding actions in relevant agenda item.

- Downer Square invited to be nominated for ACT Planning Institute prize. Miles reported that he called the contact person and got the impression that they were not really interested. So no follow-up action taken.
- Suzanne provided commentary on NCCC draft constitution suggesting it is a good template for an update for the DCA (2004) constitution. Future action- DCA Constitution to be updated. Suzanne requested paper on role of DCA, office bearer duty statements and anything else to provide context. **Greg to send governance documents to Suzanne.**
- Email compatible membership form to be designed by Stephen. Sent email invite to Stephen. To be progressed.

## 2. CENTRE REPORT

- As Greg Mulvaney has been on holiday, Miles and Stephen gave a brief update to say that all is progressing well.
- Suzanne Pitson to bequeath an electric jug. Tenants reported issues with water boiling equipment.

ACTION: Rolled over from August meeting:

Follow-up on-Greg to write to new contact at ACT Property, about the northern veranda condensation issue.

Stephen to continue to monitor the Sunday Playgroup's use of the facility and to take a "harder line" on some tenants taking advantages.

Kerri (Centre Co-ordinator) to purchase new more power compatible urn. Possible power-audit- confirm if this did happen.

## 3. TREASURER'S REPORT - Stephen Sedgwick

- Income and Expenses (sent electronically, not attached) showed a gain of \$685 in August. Total income received was \$2,837. This included \$1,509 from the Trivia Night and room hire of \$1,470. Expenses totalled \$2,150 which included \$705 for pond excavator, \$880 for wages and miscellaneous costs such as key cutting and incidental prizes for quiz night.
- Current balance for all accounts is \$13,126
- Committee agreed to purchase new vacuum cleaner. Will talk to the cleaner to get her view on what would be most suitable to buy
- Stephen confirmed that term deposit renewed.

## 4. "DOWNER BY DESIGN" UPDATE- Suzanne

- Sam HS finalised survey results and sent a summary.
- Meeting of working group meeting proposed for 12 August was postponed due to illness.
- Suzanne would like source data from the survey and the 40 hand written surveys to provide background in prepare a commentary.
- Suzanne to work with Miles on Precinct Plan.
- Preparation of PowerPoint presentation firstly for Committee and then present at DCA AGM on 25 November.
- Sue Dyer suggested collecting names of people who submitted surveys to be added to the DCA membership list and kept informed.

**ACTION**

Greg/Miles to get hardcopies surveys from Sam and will scan and send to Suzanne.  
Miles- to draft information about Precinct Plan and why we want one.  
Sue D to collect contact details from surveys and forward to Jacqui?

**5. FROG POND PROJECT- Miles**

- Fiona Dickson, resident of Bradfield Street has been instrumental in the relocation of the three species of frogs and froglets from their home of 50 years (former primary school courtyard pond) to a purpose-built new pond just behind SEEChange/DCA rooms. The relocation of the frogs took place on 1 September with some 200 tadpoles and 3 frogs being re-ponded.
- Local residents, DCA committee members and Fiona brought their volunteer labour to make it all happen with ACT Wildlife volunteers providing expert assistance. Staff from the Downer Village Vet meticulously searched for tadpoles in the sludge. A thank you to Sue Dyer for morning tea with homemade cake and to the mystery makers of biscuits and muffins. Lunchtime music provided by local rock star Pete Lyon and accompanied a sausage sizzle and free beers courtesy of Capital Brewery.
- Fiona was successful in obtaining \$4,000 from CHC to fund the project. DCA has prepared a letter to Bunnings asking if they would donate a water tank to enable the pond to be topped up and the surrounding garden area kept moist for the frogs and plants.
- There is a small amount remaining which Fiona wishes to spend on a “cleansing ceremony” to be conducted by Indigenous elder Wally Bell. The committee noted that DCA will leave the ceremony for Fiona to arrange.
- Maintenance of the pond and garden in the short term will be with Fiona.
- DCA Committee gave a vote of thanks to Fiona Dickson for her leadership and hard work in bringing this ecological and community project to a successful outcome.

**ACTION:**

Miles/DCA to send a formal email/letter of thanks to Fiona.

Include the pond and garden as part of the Downer Square volunteer maintenance group which has yet to be constituted (though is registered with ACT Gov???)

**6. PARTY AT THE SHOPS**

- Very briefly covered just to suggest that it be held at the end of March 2020.

**ACTION:**

Add to agenda for subsequent meetings to plan.

**7. DCA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NCCC**

Was overlooked. Suzanne Pitson raised this in correspondence in which she noted that the DCA does need to reach/reaffirm a formal position as to whether it will nominate a DCA representative to the NCCC.

**ACTION:** Deal with outside of the meeting? Or on agenda for October meeting.

**8. ADOPT-A-PARK**

- Barbara Burns (Downer resident) in correspondence to DCA, offered to draft a submission if supported by the DCA. Submissions to the ACT Government are due by 20 September. Barbara was invited to the meeting but was not able to attend.

- Edwina Robinson also sent an email to DCA alerting us to the opportunity to put in a submission.
- Brief discussion suggested that Edwina's micro-forest proposal and Adopt-a-Park could be rolled together. Amit Barkay offered to facilitate.
- After the meeting Jacqui emailed Barbara and Edwina and outlined the DCA's thinking, inviting them to consider working together on this.

ACTION: Amit to facilitate. Amit subsequently noted that he is not a Committee member so feels not in a position to correspond on behalf of the Committee.  
 What next??? How about putting in a bid for tools for maintenance of the Square and frog pond?

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

- DCA input into NCCC funding bid, follow up on correspondence with Bruce Smith, Treasurer NCCC.
- Will re-submit bid for AV and PA equipment. Amit to provide information on recommended brands and costs.
- Jacqui has informed Bruce of this and will forward bid to NCCC.

## NEXT DCA MEETING

Monday 7 October 2019

Apology in advance: Jacqui will be on a train on the Nullabor and therefore unable to attend. Can someone fill in as secretary please?

Meeting closed 8.40 pm

Miles Boak  
Co- Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava  
Secretary