DRAFT Minutes -
Downer Community Association Committee meeting
Monday, 7 April 2025

Agenda item 1: Welcome, attendance and apologies – Robyn Rennie

Attendance: Committee members Robyn Rennie (Chair), Leon Arundell (Secretary), Miles Boak (Treasurer, part meeting by phone), Amit Barkay (Centre representative), Jacqui Pinkava (Public Officer), Peter Comisari and Manik Datar.
Observers: Peter Carey, Annika Carey, Siobhan Cosgrave (Barnardos), Vanessa Frame
Centre Manager: Amy Barthet

Apologies: John Godwin, Jane Teasey, Sue Dyer.

Agenda item 2: Correspondence –

Incoming

7 March- Fiona Dickson to Sue Dyer, cc DCA- re Bradfield St Trees
"I suspect it would be most useful to request that the Tree Protection unit advise DCA about what progress is being made on prosecution."

13 March- Simone Gray- in response to the DCA "grants" sent out by John Godwin.
Noting that it was a good idea to have simple process and noting that the Fenton St Park will be putting in a bid for money to replace dead/stolen plants. Agenda 6c refers.

17 March- Siobhan Cosgrave- Proposal for a community garden at Barnardos. Sent copy of their request to all committee members on 17 March.

Outgoing

17 March-to Siobhan acknowledging receipt of proposal, noting that it has been sent to committee and inviting her to 7 April meeting. (No response).
25 March- to DCA Members and friends- info about the Tradies community event for epilepsy on 29 March.
2 April- to Siobhan Cosgrove, reminding her of our meeting on 7 April and inviting her or rep to come along.

Agenda item 3: Minutes of 3 March 2025

The committee accepted the minutes of its 3 March meeting.

Agenda item 4: Centre Management report

Amy had negotiated with organisations that had booked the Centre on May 3, so that the Centre can be made available for use as a polling place for the federal election.
Amit has confirmed that there will be no cost for artist James Houl to paint murals on some Downer Centre sheds, and has informed Mr Houl that the committee approves the mural design.

ACTION: Amit is to provide Jacqui with a *Centre Incident Report Form*.
Miles has contacted the cleaner (Nestoria) and confirmed our pay rate decision.

NOTE: Amy, the Centre Co-ordinator will be on leave for 3 weeks in May.

Agenda 5: Treasurers report

The treasurer provided a report that showed consistent account totals of around $90,000 over recent months.
Miles to liaise with The Tradies for payment of its grant towards the cost of new blinds for the Centre. DCA asked to provide details of the DCA bank account showing that payment has been made before Tradies will reimburse.
The Majura Mens shed has built two picnic benches as agreed, for installation in the Burn St park, at a cost of $880 for materials.

The committee agreed for Miles to draft a letter to Icon Water, requesting a reduction (on the basis that we are a not-for-profit community organisation) in our $860 water rates bill which seem excessive for the amount of water that we use.
Amit has sent Robyn a photo of the new window blinds for her to forward to The Tradies, to confirm that the blinds have been installed. The Tradies offered a grant towards the cost of the blinds.

Agenda Item: 6 Action items and reports

a. Report of Meeting with Thomas Emerson Friday 4 April (Robyn)
   Mr Emerson seemed receptive to our issues of:
   - delays in getting our lease renewed.
   - more and better footpaths (especially towards the Swinden Street light rail station),
   - improving car access to the Downer shops by resurfacing the car park near the scout hall, ensuring that all of it will remain available for public parking, and providing a path from the car park to the Downer shops.

b. Barnardos request for DCA support for its application for an Open Gardens grant for a community garden outside its premises at 2 Atherton St.
   The committee discussed the request with Siobhan Cosgrave of Barnardos and agreed to support.

   ACTION: Robyn to provide a letter of support by April 20.

c. DCA offer of grants for Community Project Support
   - The committee agreed to a limit of $1,000 for individual grants.
   - Insurance remains an issue to be resolved for applicants that are not covered by the ACT Gov schemes- eg. Adopt a Park.

   ACTION: Amit to renew our insurance, and to check with our insurer under what circumstances community grant recipients would be covered by insurance.

d. Disability inclusion grant: The committee determined that we would not qualify for those grants as they exclude any infrastructure work.

e. North Canberra Community Council report: Leon provided a summary of the report that he had previously circulated. See below for the full report.

NCCC committee meeting report March 19 (Leon Arundell)

The meeting was conducted by Zoom. Plans to hold a combined in-person/Zoom meeting were abandoned due to technical issues: our media officer was unable to attend the proposed Downer Centre meeting venue.

<u>NCCC Operations</u>

We agreed the following meeting schedule for the remainder of 2025:
16 April: General meeting
21 May: Committee meeting
18 June: General meeting
16 July: Committee meeting
20 August: General meeting
17 September: Committee meeting
15 October: General meeting
19 November: Annual General meeting

We have a governance issue due to our inability to contact the Chair who was elected at the last AGM. We cah replace him if he fails to attend the next two committee meetings. In the

meantime, Deputy Chair Jochen Zeil can perform most of the Chair's functions. Jochen will be out of Canberra from June to September.
There is a proposal for our current secretary Ian Hubbard to formally step into the role of the Chair, for me to formally step into the role of Secretary, and for other committee members to help out with those roles.
There was also a discussion of our wish to be taken more seriously by the ACT Government. Jochen Zeil and Ian Hubbard agreed to draft a strategy for consideration at the next committee meeting.
Ainslie Volcanics Telecommunications Tower - See Canberra Times article Greens to put up laws to halt phone tower on 'important' grassland
NCCC submission on Ainslie Football Club MPA
See the attached NCCC submission. 80% of submissions opposed to the proposed development.
NCCC submission on third party appeals
Submissions are due by tomorrow (21 March) Jane Goffman (Dickson residents' Group) agreed to provide her current draft to me so that I could draft a covering letter.
Aircraft noise over Campbell
A Campbell resident informed us that parts of Campbell are under a flight path that is regularly used for training light plane pilots, and that is not effectively controlled by noise regulations. We referred him to the Campbell Residents' Association and to the NCCC rep on the Community Aviation Consultation Group (Bob Ross of the Pialligo Residents' Association).
Treasurer's report: The treasurer reported that the current balance of the account is $10,833.99. The major transactions over the last month have involved transferring funding received from the ACT Government for the Braddon Busking Festival to the Braddon Collective account.
ACT Government inquiry on insurance.
The final NCCC submission was submitted to the Committee on 14 March.

Next Meeting: Monday 5 May 2025. Note: Robyn away. Miles to convene. Miles away in June.

Robyn Rennie
Convenor

Leon Arundell
Secretary