Downer Community Association Committee Meeting

Monday 1 September 2025: 7pm – 8 pm

The Convenor, Robyn Rennie, opened the meeting at 7pm, with an acknowledgment of the traditional owners.

In attendance: Robyn Rennie, Amit Barkay, Miles Boak (by phone), John Godwin, Amy Barthet, Peter Carey, Jane Teasey

Apologies: Leon Arundell, Jacqui Pinkava, Sue Dyer

Agenda Item 1: Minutes of meeting 4 August.

The Minutes were agreed.

Agenda Item 2: Action items from previous meeting.

- Room painting has been completed.
- Additional outside shed. A design has been submitted, and was approved by the meeting.
- NCCC has confirmed receipt of the application for a $500 grant toward a new website.
- ACT Community grants scheme. John Godwin advised that the application details required, against the assessment criteria, could not be completed by the deadline, and that priority was likely to be given to schemes that would involve ongoing community involvement.
- Sign to acknowledge Downer Primary School site. See Agenda Item 7.
- NCCC Missing Middle submission. DCA letter of support has been submitted to NCCC.
- SEEChange application. No action required as the project will not proceed.

Agenda Item 3: Correspondence.

Items noted.

Matters arising:

- Signage. See agenda Item 7.
- Jacqui to action follow-up re website domain details on.
- Robyn read a response from government relevant to the issue of parking. The response can best be summarised as many words to say that no action is warranted.

Agenda Item 4: Treasurer's Report.

Miles presented the report, and noted the satisfactory state of the financial position.

With respect to the later Agenda Item re solar panels, he noted that energy use remains a major financial cost.

Agenda Item 5: Centre Report.

Amy reported:

- Purchase of new urn, and partial refund to hirer who experienced the breakdown of the old urn.
- Bookings a very busy.
- Car parking unavailability continues as an issue.
- The oven is to be checked, and if replacement is required, it was agreed that DCA fund an induction stove top.

Agenda Item 6: NCCC Report.

No report.

Agenda Item 7: Other business.

- **Website re-design.** An appealing, informative, but simple-to-administer website, are the basic criteria.

Jacqui to contact Lance Williamson (Gaffer Designs) to discuss content, and estimated cost.

- **Heritage Interpretive signs.** Miles pointed out that the school/site was not heritage listed.

Miles to contact the Queanbeyan supplier of the existing heritage signs, to get quote on a similar sign to mark the former Downer Primary School and to upgrade existing interpretive signs to include the Canberra Tracks QR code.

- **Swinden Street footpath.** It was agreed that we follow-up with the current Minister, pointing out that this was a government commitment associated with Light Rail, and that it is necessary, particularly given the likely additional foot traffic when Goodwin Village is occupied.

Robyn to draft a letter, for committee comment, and subsequent submission.

- **DCA Grants to the Community.** The consensus was that we don't promote a grants scheme, and that we manage any grant request on a case-by-case basis.

It was agreed that John follow-up with the Woden Valley Community Council regarding their insurance policy approach to covering grants that they provide.

- **Accessible toilets.** Plumbing advice has previously been to the effect that constructing/providing an accessible toilet would be very difficult. No further action at this stage.
- **The nature strip.** It was decided to revisit this topic at the November meeting, after the conclusion of Floriade, and the Floriade tulip plantings by Amit, and community volunteers. No further action at this stage.
- **The Lease.** Following Amit's discussion on ABC Chief Minister Talkback, and the consequent follow-up, it was decided not to take any further action until after the government's assurance that all government peppercorn rentals will be decided by the end of the year.
- **Solar Panels.** As noted in Agenda Item 4, energy costs are a major expense. In discussion, potential heritage and lease issues were both noted.

Amit will contact solar panel/battery installers to get initial assessments re cost efficiency. Potential heritage, and lease, issues were noted.

The meeting concluded at 8pm.

Robyn Rennie — John Godwin

Convenor — Minute Secretary