Downer Community Association

Minutes of meeting - Monday, 4 November 2024, 7 – 8.35pm

Agenda item 1: Welcome and apologies – Robyn Rennie

Present: Robyn Rennie, Amit Barkay, Jacqui Pinkava Jane Teasey, Leon Arundell, Peter Comisari, Peter Carey, Miles Boak, Robyn Sirr, Amy Barthet and Reuben Barthet.

Apologies: John Godwin, Suzanne Pitson, Sue Dyer.

Agenda item 2: Acknowledgement of Country – Robyn Rennie.

"I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today. I would also like to pay my respects to Elders past and present."

Agenda item 3: Correspondence – Sept and October 2024 – Jacqui Pinkava

6 Sept- S Dyer- info about a My Way stall at the library.
12 Sept- responses to our letter re Majura Primary from Elizabeth Lee and Yvette Berry.
12 Sept- OUTGOING- inviting members to make comment about the Downer Centre conservation plan.
13 Sept- Kathy Ehmann, SEEChange- saying that not recommending sustainability measures in the Conservation Plan was a lost opportunity.
15 Sept- Sue Dyer- re Conservation Plan- provided info on additional references via the Downer Bicentennial History Project.
15 Sept- John Godwin, asking if copies of Birds Eye View Over Downer and article in the CBR Historical Journal on the Experimental Station are accessible and included in the Downer@50 publication? Hopefully Miles responded to that question!!
18 Sept- Michael Grace- Manteena- re car park closure for Goodwin development.
20 Sept- OUTGOING- distributed Manteena info to members.
19 Sept- SEEChange- Mia Chahoud- acknowledging that they received our support letter for their Downer Park grant application. Responded to ask to be kept up informed of outcome.
24 Sept- Ann this time on adult library at the top.
Stearman- Kids Library in need of repairs. Jacqui passed this on to Jim Dehlsen and Miles.
26-30 Sept- promos from pollies re plans for the North.
30 Sept- Access Canberra- notifying of amendments to annual return requirements. Noted by Jacqui as Public Officer.
2 Oct- Rebecca Vassarotti- response to DCA letter on list of issues of concern. Circulated to Committee
16 Oct- Grace- Manteena- more car park closure notification. OUTGOING 16 Oct- distributed to members.
16 Oct- Christine Butterfield- wanting information on the Tradies development plans. I referred her to Jane Goffman.
16 Oct- OUTGOING to Miles, Sue Dyer and Suzanne- re Commencement of Final Territory Plan.
17 Oct- Amit- link to RiotACT article that briefly mentioned Downer- suggested putting it on the website. Did not- but maybe in the section called News which is filled with really old stuff!
18 Oct- Anne Stearman- re Library- further repairs required.
23 Oct- TCCS- closure of Ijong and Angus St on Limestone.
OUTGOING- distributed to members 24 Oct.
24 Oct- Grace Manteena- another carpark and footpath closure notification. OUTGOING 24 Oct to DCA members.

Agenda item 4: Minutes of September and October meetings – Accepted.

Agenda item 5: Action Items arising from previous meeting:

5.1 Clean up event planning: *Robyn S / Miles to add Clean Up organising tasks as needed into future Meeting agendas.* DONE

5.2 Centre liaison*: Amit to get quote for replacing old venetian blinds with roller blinds on Centre windows; Robyn R. to ask Tradies if they will part/fully fund.* DONE

- Amit said 3 quotes have been obtained, ranging $6500-9000; next step is hearing from ACT Govt that approval will be given for this replacement. Robyn R said Tradies responded to her email to say they are open to receiving a submission for funding assistance on this.

Amit to inform Committee if / when approval is provided by ACT Govt to proceed with roller blind installation.

5.3 Treasurer *Miles to move $20k from Operational to Savings; Submit form to ACT Govt re DCA not for profit status.* DONE

5.4 Responding to community requests*: In September meeting, we agreed to review our process and info noted on DCA website about it. Miles has a copy of previous grant guidelines as an example, and will circulate these via email for committee consideration. Revisit this item at November meeting.*

- NOT DONE.

Committee members to circulate any relevant prior documents, so DCA community request process can be reviewed by Committee post AGM.

5.6 AGM 25/11/24 readiness

- *Amit will book West Hall for AGM as it has better acoustics.* NOT DONE as room is booked by a longstanding tenant.
- *Miles will liaise with auditor to ensure accounts are audited in time for AGM.* IN TRAIN
- *November meeting to ensure notice of the AGM and BBQ is immediately publicised via DCA mail list and Noticeboard (21 days prior); Ensure agenda is set and documentation is ready by appropriate date; Review logistics re 6pm BBQ and drinks, set up of chairs* IN TRAIN
- *TCCS presentation regarding MYWAY – speaker booked. What timing/ content requests do we wish to send him/her? (Robyn Sirr)* IN TRAIN

- **Amit /Amy to contact tenants who have ongoing booking of West Hall, to ask them to move to East Hall for the night of AGM, offer a fee free session in return.**
- **Jacqui to email to Downer e-list with AGM agenda, past minutes and constitution**
- **Amit to contact committee if any help is needed with BBQ and room set up.**
- **Robyn to update TCCS speaker about MYWAY+ that our preferences are: 7pm timeslot for 5-10 min presentation, then 10 min question time; Powerpoint presentation is possible.**

5.7 New email address for DCA correspondence

Issues regarding problems with Gmail as our address were discussed. Agreement reached that we need to find alternative, as Jacqui is only one able to access the address.

Amit to report back on viability of migrating past data to a new email address.

5.8 Parking congestion at Downer Centre

- *Miles to contact ACT Government to request reopening of the overflow parking by the sports ground, and notify Amit when this is achieved so Centre users can be informed.* IN TRAIN.
- *Amit to draft text about option of extra parking in nearby streets for the Centre website and ask Jacqui to upload this.*

Miles said he has previously contacted TCCS with other Downer business proprietors and to date TCCS response has been in form of line marking and monitoring of parking times, rather than more infrastructure. He has contacted again about unlocking and improved signage of overflow parking near Scout hall and is awaiting to hear back. Miles recommended we await appointment of new Minister then contact again, specifying the infrastructure upgrades needed – agreed.

Committee to contact Minister re Centre parking congestion when new Minister is appointed, and defer updates to website about other parking options for Centre users when these are clearer.

Agenda item 6: Centre Liaison Report – Amy Barthet and Amit Barkay.

Amy:

- GangGang Music festival went well, including their clean up.
- New hirers are continuing to use the Centre; some not returning, citing noise issues.
- Cleaning of shade cloth scheduled for Friday- Miles and Amit offered to assist Amy
- Does committee approve her plan to tell a community ceramic group who wish to display outdoors and use our power, that they can run a power cord from our kitchen if they hire the room $15. Decision: Yes.

Amit:

- Seachange have been approved to install EV charger. Once its trialled by them, they may make if available for paid public use.
- No date yet received for our new Lease of Downer Centre – message is: stay tuned.
- ACT Govt have given DCA approval to install Ecopanel on walls and ceiling of East Hall which will assist with noise reduction.
- Tear drop banner production has been delayed due to DCA logo graphic's resolution is too low. Decision: obtain quote for new graphic design, and proceed if less than $500.

Amit to continue with obtaining quote for Ecopanel installation in East Hall.

Amit to proceed with getting a new graphic designed if quote is $500 or less.

Agenda item 7: Treasurer's report – Miles Boak (Treasurer)

Report circulated via email 3/11/24 was presented by Miles: budget is healthy; steady income from more efficient fee collection is assisting this; Budget has funds to be able to invest in noise reduction measures for Centre. Records from former treasurer have been supplied to Auditor, so AGM readiness is on track.

Agenda Item 8: NCCC Meeting Report – Leon Arundell (DCA Rep)

Report circulated via email 17/10/24 was referred to by Leon. In addition: Chair of North Canberra Community Council is vacant, so any interested Downer members who want to be put forward as nominees to let Leon know.

Committee to nominate its rep for NCCC for the coming 12 months after our AGM.

Agenda Item 9: Other Business / Arising from Correspondence

9.1 Library repairs needed – See correspondence 18/9/24 (Jacqui Pinkava).

- Miles said some of these have since been done, and other repairs needed for the adults' library will be done in coming weeks by Jim and Miles. Noted: Library is being well used.

9.2 Request from private community member to post re her business onto DCA Facebook page. DCA response? (Leon Arundell)

- Agreement that policy to date has been that no private businesses are promoted on our social media, however they're welcome to use the Community noticeboard in the courtyard.

Leon to reply to the community member about location of community noticeboard for local advertising.

Items noted for follow up in future agendas:

Dec 2025 DCA meeting:

Clean Up organising tasks to be delegated - *from Sept 2024 meeting*

Feb 2025 DCA meeting:

DCA Vision statements – documents review - *from Sept 2024 meeting*

Signed:

Robyn Rennie
CONVENOR

Robyn Sirr
SECRETARY

Next meeting: AGM on Monday 25 November 7pm