

Oaks Estate Progress Association

Minutes of OEPA Committee meeting, 7.35pm, 9 August 2012, at the Oaks Estate Community Hall.

Present. Karen Williams (Chair), Fran Lethbridge, Alex Saeck, Judith Saeck, John Bruggeman, Nick Saeck, Bernadette Fitzgerald, Ewan Maidment.

1. Apologies: Michel Starling, Mrs Squire.

Pea & ham soup was provided by Berndette.

2. Minutes of previous Committee meeting held 5 July 2012.

Corrections: Pt. 9, John B. was at the meeting on 9 June.

Moved John B., seconded Alex, that the minutes as amended be accepted. Carried.

3. Matters arising. See action plan.

Action plan review. See also attached revised Action Plan.

1. – *Master Plan.* On 26 July Petra gave Karen an update by phone which Karen forwarded to the Committee by email. Petra confirmed that ESDD has: (a) increased the Oaks Estate master plan budget to include contracting a cultural landscape heritage expert; (b) set a new date in early 2013 for final Oaks Estate master planning proposals; (c) ESDD will issue a newsletter updating the community on the changes.

Karen noted that there will be three heritage consultants working on the Oaks Estate master plan: David Hobbs – built heritage; Naven Officer Heritage Consultants P/L– Aboriginal heritage; and a consultant, yet to be appointed, reporting on cultural landscape heritage.

Revised minutes of the Heritage meeting held on 29 June have just been issued by Cindy Lee (8 August) which confirm that: (i) the “surrounding landscape and its connections to Oaks Estate are important to the local community” and (ii) that an option to develop open space opposite Gillespie Park (section 7, blocks 1-3) has been withdrawn in order to keep the blocks “vacant as a continued vista to the Queanbeyan Railway station.” Karen attended this as an independent expert and another OEPA member also attended as an observer.

1b) – Master Plan business meeting. A summary of the ESDD meeting with Oaks Estate business people re master planning held on 31 May is now on the ESDD website.

1g) – *Stateline.* Michel not present. No follow-up.

2c) – *Community development projects.* Bernadette reported that she sent an email to Lyn Diskon (Southside Community Services) on 23 July. Lyn replied that she had forwarded information re accommodation arrangements for tenants in the River St Flats to Woden Community Services and contacted Tim Coxhead. Bernadette contacted Lyn again on 7 August, asking for a report for the OEPA newsletter, among other things. In response Lyn asked for a meeting with the OEPA committee. The Committee agreed to make arrangements for Karen, Bernadette and John B. to meet with Tim Coxhead, preferably after 27 August, and to invite the Housing Manager to attend the meeting. A meeting with Lyn will be organized subsequently to the meeting with Tim Coxhead.

3) – *River rehabilitation.* John B. reported that fill is being dumped on leased land below River Street. The gate is broken and cannot be replaced without contacting the lease-holder. Motor bike riders are using tracks on the land.

3g) – *Queanbeyan Land Care*. John B. reported that QLC connection with the OEPA was considered at a QLC meeting the previous evening (7 August). He reported that there was not a problem in principle for QLC to cover an ACT project. That OEPA would need a representative on the QLC committee: he suggested Terry or Megan Rogers. OEPA would have to reciprocate by working on Queanbeyan jobs. There would need to be a link to QLC from the OEPA website.

3h) – *Stage 2 funding*. No confirmation of stage 2 funding. It has been reported that there is a hint of a perception in the public service that Oaks Estate is getting too much funding at the expense of other sites.

4d) – *Robertsons' House – National Trust*. Terry has reported that a risk audit is required before the public are allowed in to the House. The Department will do the audit shortly. Then the OEPA can organise activities so long as they are carried out under the auspices of the National Trust (ACT).

5) – *Membership and constitution*. The sub-committee (Terry, Alex, Nick, Ewan) is to meet as soon as possible after 23 September.

6) – *Fundraising – suggested activities*. Still not determined whether Southside will cover insurance for activities at the Hall – seek advice from Lyn at proposed meeting with her. Ask Southside for a copy of their insurance policy on the Hall.

Bern and Fran to consider what can be done about food for events held at the Hall.

7) – *Queanbeyan LEP*. Report from Terry, 8 August, on his latest conversation with Queanbeyan Council staff. Agreed to re-open dialogue with Queanbeyan Council re land use controls (DCPs).

7e) – *Queanbeyan LEP – Australian Railways Association*. Karen wrote to Brian Nye, ARA EO, today (9 August) aiming to gather support for restricting density of development on the railway land and is making contact with the Queanbeyan Historical Society looking for help protecting the railway precinct.

7g) *Queanbeyan LEP – Trucks parking in Railway St*. Peter O'Dea has written to Gary Byles, CEO TAMS, in July re community concerns over a businesses on the railway land carrying out operations outside its lease and enclosing photographs of trucks parked dangerously on Railway St. Byles has put his TAMS road team and ESDD planners on to it and has forwarded a copy of Peter's letter and photographs to the General Manager of Queanbeyan Council.

Terry (email dated 8 August) has spoken to Queanbeyan Council Strategic planning which reported that the NSW Planning Minister has not yet approved the re-zoning of the railway land as recommended in the Queanbeyan LEP report. Terry recommended that: (a) OEPA contact the Chief Minister's Office in order to have the re-zoning addressed as a cross-border issue; (b) if the rezoning is gazetted, try to influence Queanbeyan Council's land use controls (DCPs).

Karen recommended that the campaign proceed on two levels: (a) persuade the ACT Government to contact the NSW Planning Minister by sending a letter to Katy Gallagher and inviting the Greens to see the problem; (b) a public campaign leading up to the election in October, using the issue of trucks parking and access on which Peter and Michel are working.

Ewan is to write a letter to Mayor Overall asking Council to develop land use controls (DCPs) for off-street parking on Railway St and access to businesses on the railway land if/when NSW approves the proposed re-zoning and pointing out problems in Oaks Estate of heavy through-traffic to and from Queanbeyan.

8) – *Communication strategy*. Peter O’Dea is publishing *Village Voice Wiki* on-line addressing bus fares and truck parking. Terry has inserted a link to the publication on the OEPA website pointing out that the *Wiki* is independent of the OEPA.

8b) – *Communication strategy – newsletter*. Due out late August.

8c) – *Communication strategy – blackboard sign update*. Karen has chalked a new sign, “Bus issues – we’re on it”. Proposed next sign: “Slow Down”, “9m overall”. No slogans received from Michel.

8e) – *Communication strategy – website*. Terry has paid subscription for 12 months more on the server. He has included an explanation of the blackboard signs on the website and inserted links to the Molonglo Catchment Group and the Inner South Canberra Community Council.

11) – *Inner South Canberra Community Council* meeting in August – Karen will attend. ISCCC also has arranged a “Meet the Candidates” public meeting, open to Oaks Estate community to attend – OEPA will help publicise.

ISCCC 2012/13 annual subscription of \$10.00 is due. Agreed to pay the subscription.

4. Financial Report.

Judith reported: receipt of \$31.30 from the Molonglo Catchment Group refunding the OEPA for purchase of sausages; \$55.27 reimbursed to Terry for OEPA subscription to the website server; \$4,100.89 credit in OEPA cheque a/c; \$0.11 interest received on cheque a/c, May-July 2012. The Committee thanked Judith for her report.

9. Other business.

OEPA records. Criticism of current committee on Peter O’Dea’s *Village Voice Wiki* re failure to acknowledge OEPA records removed from the meeting room in the Community Hall in mid 2011 possibly by SCS contractors. It was noted that Peter was President at the time. That the Committee has since addressed the loss of records by gathering what has survived. Agreed to re-consider the issue at the next Committee meeting.

Gillespie park – damage to gazebo – cross bar railings kicked out. Agreed to report damage to TAMS.

Proposed cricket match on Oaks Estate old cricket pitch in Spring.

Make contact with lease-holder of paddock below River St.

Karen gave a talk at the annual Heritage Partnership Symposium in July. The theme of the symposium was *Valuing Heritage: Advocating for community attachment in planning*. It was a good opportunity to put forward Oaks Estate's case in front of some key heritage decision makers. Eric Martin (Chair of the ACT Heritage Council) and Ms Jacqueline de Chazal (advisor to Caroline Le Couteur, Greens MLA for Molonglo) expressed their interest.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.