

Oaks Estate Progress Association

-serving our community



Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Oaks Estate Progress Association held 2.30pm, Sunday, 10 April 2011, at the Oaks Estate, Community Hall, William St.

Present. 12 members present: Peter O’Dea in Chair, Jessica O’Dea, Karen Williams, Phil Emerson, Sarah Hooper, Ewan Maidment, Alex Saeck, Judy Saeck, Bernadette Fitzgerald, Rachel Bowat, Lillian Squire and Fran Lethbridge.

Apologies: Nil.

Oaks Estate Development Planning. Karen Williams reported that Andrew Barr, Minister for Planning, has released a statement, “Development of a priority list of master plans” (7 Apr 2011), which places Oaks Estate at the top of the list for Master Planning in the new financial year, 2011-2012. The Oaks Estate Infrastructure Study is due to take place this month (April). Karen asked where the release of the 10 blocks in Oaks Estate fits in with this government planning? She has sent an email to David Dawes on this matter but has not received a response.

Mrs Squire asked how the development of the old Mobil site fits in with the planning. She remembered that the block on the corner of Florence St and Hazel St had been proposed for development as units but that had been stopped and there is one house on the block now. Mrs Squire also commented that the road between Florence St and Hill St has been taken over as part of the old Mobil site building block.

Karen responded that the development of the old Mobil site was approved in advance of the Oaks Estate planning processes. The site includes the old road between Florence St and Hill St. and it appears that the developer will build as many dwellings as he can get on the site. We can only attempt to influence the way in which the 10 additional blocks are developed.

Mrs Squire asked what plans have been proposed for parking, entry and exit to the development of the old Mobil site, and noted that there is not enough room in Florence St at present for the garbage truck to turn around. She also pointed out that the small pump house on Hill St is only designed to service 50 dwellings.

Karen agreed that sewerage, roads and parking are issues which effect the development of Oaks Estate, including the old Mobil site, and that people will need to make these problems clear in the consultation process associated with the Infrastructure and Master Planning processes.

Fran Lethbridge emphasized the importance of maintaining the village-type atmosphere of Oaks Estate. Mrs Squire also pointed out that Hall and Tharwa had kept their village atmosphere. Karen warned that there will be intensive industrial and commercial development under the Eastern Broadacre Study in areas adjacent to Oaks Estate, Fyshwick and Jerrabomberra.

Peter O’Dea stated that the OEPA has been promised a copy of the Draft Oaks Estate Infrastructure Study and that we will need to give a response.

Gillespie Park.

Peter reported that members of the OEPA had met TAMS officers, Fay Hug and Diana Hill, at the Park on 5 April to discuss the draft Concept Plan and implementation of Stage 1 of improvements to the Park and erection of a community notice board. Peter stated that that Committee members present thought that the Concept Plan is good. He added that the TAMS officers were bending over backwards to work out decent proposals to improve the Park. The TAMS officers wanted comments on the Concept Plan as soon as possible.

The Committee agreed (5 for, 4 against) to request black looped pool-type fencing.

Further comments were made on Park improvement, as follows:

Rachel Bowat noted that three-cornered jacks infest the Park and need to be eradicated. It was considered that this is a maintenance problem.

Jessica O'Dea suggested that a Basket Ball hoop with a backboard would be more suitable than a "ball toss". It was also noted that the basket ball hoop should not be placed too close to the Community Garden fence.

The Committee is keen for local artists to be involved in construction of works in the Park and elsewhere in Oaks Estate.

The Committee would like to see that the new light poles in the park are painted.

It was noted that the big trees in the Park (gums and willows) have not been replaced and that a proper program of tree planting is required.

It was suggested that a form of water recycling be considered, possibly using underground water tanks and the existing pipe system. Phil Emerson noted that this might be better addressed in Stage 2 of the Park improvement.

River Corridor. Karen Williams reported on her walk along the River with Gary Byles, TAMS Chief Executive. Karen noted that:

1. the first priority, the grass along the track has been cut recently and will be cut more frequently in future.
2. Mr Byles had agreed to clear the track of debris washed up by the flood.
3. Mr Byles recognized the danger to the bridge on the Oaks Estate Road caused by debris blocking the river between River St and the Oaks will consider removing the debris.
4. Mr Byles was informed of community interest in the River corridor, especially the Molonglo Catchment Group's Rescue Plan. Karen is not sure whether Mr Byles has met the Catchment Group yet.

Mrs Squire commented that the River is fed by a drain running from the old Mobil Depot. She mentioned the blackberry infestations on the river banks. Mrs Squire also noted that waterways are under Commonwealth control which often leads to delays responding to problems in regional areas.

Robertson House. Karen reported that two consultants are working in Robertson House under the ACT Heritage Unit. A plan has been written on how to conserve the structure and another is being written on policy, history and future use.

Karen had given some input to the planning, pointing to the importance of the building for showing the transition between colonial times and the building of Canberra.

It was agreed that the next Committee meeting would be held on Wed 1st May in the Community Hall at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 3.15pm.