

# Oaks Estate Progress Association Inc.

## **DRAFT Minutes of OEPA Annual General Meeting, held 12.30pm, Sunday, 29 June 2014, at the Oaks Estate Community Hall.**

**Present.** 15 members present: Karen Williams in Chair, Bede Tongs, Garry Tongs, Dan Heldon, Elizabeth Paterson, Michel Starling, Alex Saeck, Judy Saeck, Terry Williams, Bernadette Fitzgerald, Adam Stephen-Slade, Ross Drake, Kate Gauthier, Nick Saeck, Ewan Maidment.

**Apologies:** Keith Talbot, Jo Wilson, Rachel Bowak.

### **New members.**

That Adam Stephen-Slade and Kate Gauthier be accepted as members of the association, moved Terry Williams, seconded Liz Paterson. Carried.

**Minutes of previous AGM.** Minutes of the AGM held 18 May 2013 were tabled and read. Moved Terry Williams, seconded Liz Paterson, that the minutes be adopted. Carried.

### **Matters arising.**

*Villages of the ACT – Unmade Edges.* Michel Starling reported on the effort to coordinate the six villages of the ACT to discuss common issues and gives mutual support to their communities. The first meeting was held in Oaks Estate in January 2013, attended by representatives of community groups in Pialligo and Hall. There were subsequent communications with Pialligo about a further meeting to be held in July, but it did not eventuate. It would be useful to pursue and formalize the movement as the villages have issues in common, especially planning issues.

*ACT Heritage Council.* Karen Williams reported that Oaks Estate is now a priority for assessment by the Council and that the Association will invite members of the Council to visit Oaks Estate.

*Southside Community Services MoU.* Karen reported that the proposed MoU has not progressed, but better management and use of the Community Hall is being achieved without a formal arrangement and the OEPA has avoided being locked in to commitments for Hall maintenance and security which may have stretched our resources.

**President's Report.** Karen Williams spoke to a tabled written report listing matters dealt with by the OEPA since the last AGM and acknowledging support of the committee members (attached). She also noted that, if she were re-elected, it would be her last term as she will have served three terms, which is the limit under the OEPA rules.

Referring to the recently released Oaks Estate Draft Master Plan, Karen urged members to read it closely, watching out for strategic or vague wording that leaves room for maneuver. She noted that some issues have been left outside the draft plan, particularly cross-border issues, but considered that the heritage assessment process may help address them. Karen stated that the major achievements in the draft plan are: recognition of the River corridor as part of Oaks Estate and keeping the block in front of the station as public open space. She noted that when Gillespie Park was opened in 1988, Peter Mathews, the OEPA President at the time, had said that the biggest difficulty would be to keep the block opposite the park open. It had been marked for housing development, but now it will be protected.

Moved Dan Heldon, seconded Judith Saeck, that the President's report be accepted, and that Karen be thanked for her extraordinary efforts. Carried.

**Secretary's Report.** Ewan Maidment tabled a report listing the Committee members, meetings, and newsletters, leaflets, etc., published during the year (attached) and noted that it will be his last term as Secretary, having served three terms.

Moved Liz Paterson, seconded Terry Williams, that the Secretary's report be accepted with gratitude. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report.** Alex Saeck tabled the Treasurer's Report for the year Jan-Dec 2013, audited by Shafiqul Islam. He noted that the report covers the 12 months to 31 Dec 2013, and summarized it as follows:

Opening book value carried over from 2012: \$11,210.00 (consisting of \$7,110.23 in the term deposit, \$4,045.77 in cheque a/c, & \$84.00 in cash float).

Income: \$771.30

Expenditure: \$2,108.54

Trading result: -\$1,337.24

Total assets (as at 31 Dec 2013): \$9,872.76

Alex explained that the income was derived from Karen's National Trust Walks & Talks, an ISCCC grant to support OEPA publications (\$533.28 in total), and interest on term deposit (\$240).

Expenditure on Bede Tongs' land grant memorial amounted to \$1,832.

Terry noted that the term a/c fund was raised for a pre-school during Bede Tongs' time as President and is ear-marked for worthwhile things in the Oaks Estate community.

Alex recommended that the OEPA make an effort to line up the period of its financial reporting with the time that the AGM is held.

Moved Michel Starling, seconded Dan Heldon, that the Treasurer's report be accepted with gratitude. Carried.

#### **Election of officers and committee members.**

Moved Ewan Maidment, seconded Alex Saeck, that Garry Tongs be appointed Returning Officer. Carried.

Garry accepted the nomination, took the Chair, declared all positions vacant and called for nominations.

President. Karen Williams, nominated by Judy Saeck, seconded by Kate Gauthier, Karen accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations, Karen Williams was declared elected. Karen stated that she is taking on a lot of committee work outside the OEPA and would need strong support from an active committee.

Treasurer. Alex Saeck, nominated by Ewan Maidment, seconded by Dan Heldon. Alex accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations, Alex Saeck was declared elected.

Secretary. Kate Gauthier, nominated by Michel Starling, seconded by Liz Paterson. Kate accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations Kate Gauthier was declared elected.

Vice-President. Michel Starling, nominated by Kate Gauthier, seconded by Dan Heldon. Michel accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations Michel Starling was declared elected.

#### Committee Members.

Dan Heldon, nominated by Karen Williams, seconded by Judith Saeck.

Ewan Maidment, nominated by Judith Saeck, seconded by Liz Paterson.

Nick Saeck, nominated by Dan Heldon, seconded by Michel Starling.

Judith Saeck, nominated by Bernadette Fitzgerald, seconded by Dan Heldon.

There being no further nominations Garry Tongs declared the above committee members elected.

Adam Stephen-Slade stated that he is interested in participating in committee meetings. It was agreed that he would be welcome and it was noted that the committee had power to appoint Adam to the vacant committee position.

Public Officer. Ewan Maidment, nominated by Kate Gauthier, seconded by Michel Starling. There being no further nominations Ewan Maidment was declared elected.

It was noted that there is no opposition from the meeting to the appointment of three members of one family to the committee. The Returning Officer stated that he recognised individuals rather than a family block. Karen noted that it is the usual practice of the committee to make decisions by

consensus, rather than by vote. The meeting agreed that, if a conflict of interest arose, it would be expected that committee members affected would withdraw from the relevant discussions.

The meeting thanked Terry Williams for continuing to manage the OEPA website so well.

Garry Tongs returned the chair to Karen Williams.

Release of Oaks Estate Draft Master Plan. It was noted that the closing date for submissions is 10 August. Public consultation on the precinct code (draft variation to the Territory Plan) is expected to take place in late August-September. Final documents, *i.e.*, the Master Plan and draft variation to the Territory Plan, are expected to be released toward the end of 2014.

Karen reported that she had been told by ACT Planners (Master Plan) the Land Development Authority had eased their expectations for the land release blocks, and now expected only 30 new dwellings in Oaks Estate. She commented that responses to the draft master plan need to specify the flavor of proposals, for example specify what sort of shops, industry, housing are acceptable to the community. ESDD want a statement at the head of the Precinct Code to give a flavor of the expected outcome. This statement would determine how the intention of the Precinct Code is interpreted.

Karen also mentioned other issues: parking on McEwan Avenue, traffic of Railway Street, the need to invite the Heritage Council to visit Oaks Estate, and mitigating developer impacts by reference to set-backs, overshadowing, traffic calming, deep root planting and landscape buffering.

Other concerns about the draft plan raised in discussion included:

- block consolidation under CZ5 zoning allows dense development
- density on proposed Hazel St development not specified
- how to ensure ratios of buildings to blocks
- buffers required for the Robertsons' House and the Railway Station
- no connection between ESDD's draft master plan and Queanbeyan City Council planning
- development on the southern side of Railway St will be inconsistent with the northern side
- our aspirations are acknowledged in the draft plan, but not embedded in it
- resistance in plan to Railway St footpath
- any improvements to public amenities in Oaks Estate are dependent on increased development (upgraded infrastructure – water and sewerage) &/or population (population won't be increased beyond current capacity until major infrastructure items are upgraded to cope. ACT Planners are now saying that 2020 is the current timeframe for upgrade of the Oaks Estate Sewerage pump.
- future of public housing in Oaks Estate is not addressed, even though it is ACT Housing policy to selling off public housing in Canberra in order to take advantage of dollar-for-dollar Commonwealth Infrastructure Grants

It was resolved to form a study group to review the Draft Plan and draft a response to be submitted to the committee for approval. Michel, Kate, Dan Alex and Ewan volunteered for the study group. It was noted that Alex and Judith will be away from 4 August.

#### **Other business.**

John Bruggeman Moved Michel Starling, seconded Ewan Maidment, that the meeting express its appreciation to John Bruggeman, who has left Oaks Estate, for his work on the OEPA and Molonglo Catchment Group committees, monitoring river water quality and environmental changes over the last ten years, and providing a link between the OEPA and public housing tenants, and wish him well for the future. Carried. Karen noted that John gave reliable and strong support to her activities in Oaks Estate community over the past 10 years.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.30pm.