

# Oaks Estate Progress Association

**Minutes of OEPA Committee meeting, 7.15pm, Thursday 13 December 2012,  
at Alex and Judith Saeck's house, Florence St., Oaks Estate.**

**Present.** Karen Williams (Chair), Fran Lethbridge, John Bruggeman, Alex Saeck, Judith Saeck, Bernadette Fitzgerald, Michel Starling, Nick Saeck, Ewan Maidment. Lyn Diskon, South Side Community Services, in attendance.

**1. Apologies:** none.

**2. Minutes of previous Committee meeting held 1 November 2012.**

Moved Fran, seconded Alex, that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

**3. Matters arising.** None.

**Action Plan review.**

1. – *Master Plan.*

1a) – *ESDD.*

– David Papps, ESDD Director, who was to be invited to visit Oaks Estate has resigned. His position is being filled by Ben Ponton pending a permanent appointment.

– 12 Dec, Karen and Michel met with Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, and Acting Director ESDD, Ben Ponton.

– Karen and Michel also met informally with Petra Oswald who reported that, now that the public engagement report has been cleared by Minister Corbell, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ESDD Oaks Estate master planning newsletter will be distributed to every household giving information on the next steps and timeline. ESDD are now aiming at completion of the Oaks Estate Master Plan in August 2013.

– Michel argued that, in order to keep some control over the situation, the OEPA may need to develop a master Plan itself, following the example of the Pialligo residents' association. He has talked to some urban planners about doing some *pro bono* work for Oaks Estate.

1d) – *Heritage.* Karen has indicated to Petra, and at the meeting with the Chief Minister, that she will be requesting a peer review of any new heritage assessments.

1g) – *Stateline.* 7 Dec – Oaks Estate on StateLine, ABC TV. Fran commented that the Chief Minister and Mayor looked cold, but the community looked good in the TV report. Michel and Karen were interviewed by Alex Sloan on ABC Radio 666 about Oaks Estate issues on 6 Dec. Alex Sloan would like to do an outside broadcast from Oaks Estate – interviewing long term residents.

1k) – *Public Housing consultation.* Petra reported that Housing ACT are being asked to have more adequate input into the planning consultation process. (See 2c below.)

2c) – *Community development projects.* A starting point has been achieved. Karen, Bernadette and John B attended a meeting on 7 December with agency representatives — Chris Redmond and Julie Evans (Woden Community Service), Liz Parker and Tim Coxhead (St Vincent de Paul), and Lyn Diskon (Southside Community Services). The next meeting is to be held in Feb 2013 will include other local stakeholders, including Shane Ratttenbury's advisers who said on 12 Dec that they would like to participate.

ACT Housing, having declined to attend the December meeting, will be invited to the next. A briefing for Oaks Estate from ACT Housing is required.

3) – *River rehabilitation.* 3h) – Stage 2. In progress.

4) – *The Robertsons' House.* 4b) – centenary in 2012/13. Meeting with Canberra Centenary adviser to be held.

4d) – *National Trust.* Blurb for NSW and ACT heritage festival sent to National Trust in time to make promotional deadlines for 'Three Cornerstones walking tour of Oaks Estate'.

5) – *Membership, Constitution.* Working Party report to be published in next OEPA newsletter.

6a) – *Fundraising.* A couple of sources of grants for the river project and website/equipment are coming available. Michel agreed to look into grant funding opportunities. Fran to talk with Bernadette and Mrs Squire. OEPA will split takings with the National Trust from the 'Three Cornerstones walking tour of Oaks Estate'. OEPA to hold a sausage sizzle at Robertsons' House in conjunction with the Tour?

6d) – *Suggested fundraising activities.* CD of old stories – history of Oaks Estate; publications – excerpts from oral histories; car boot sale; small market in the Community Hall with local musicians – if Southside would cover the insurance.

7) – *Queanbeyan LEP*. Now being discussed as part of the integrated broader cross-border, planning, heritage and environment issue. Matter discussed with John Barilaro (NSW MLC for Monaro) on 9 Dec and with the Chief Minister on 12 Dec.

7h) – *Meeting with Mayor Overall*. Met in Gillespie Park on 3 Dec. The Mayor asked OEPA to meet with QCC Manager of Strategic Planning to discuss ideas.

8) – *Communication Strategy*.

8b) – *OEPA Newsletter*. December newsletter due out before Christmas.

8c) – *Sign updates*. New message required.

8d) – *Email/letterbox/phone contact list*. Steadily growing but kept confidential for privacy reasons.

8e) – *Website*. Looking for community development grant to fund upgrading of website. Working Group appointed: Michel, Terry, other? Current arrangements working well.

9) – *Oaks Estate community ‘End of Master Plan Process / Canberra 2013 Centenary’ celebration*. See Item 4d.

11) – *Inner South Canberra Community Council*. Letter to Katy Gallagher sent by ISCCC re Oaks Estate cross-border planning and heritage issues. Letter to the Editor in support of Oaks Estate planning, heritage and environment issues published in *Canberra Times* 13 Dec 2012.

### **Discussion with Lyn Diskon, Southside Community Services.**

Asked whether the OEPA can have a copy of Southside's insurance policy on the Community Hall, Lyn Diskon replied that the Hall is covered under Southside's general insurance policy. Asked what use we may make of the Community Hall, Lyn replied that she could supply the OEPA with the *Hire Agreement* and that if we wanted to use the Hall the OEPA would need to have public liability insurance. She added that the OEPA may be able to come under the SCS umbrella for activities such as markets.

It was pointed out that occasionally noisy parties are held in the Community Hall running to 2.00 or 3.00am. Lyn advised that residents should phone the police if there is a problem.

Lyn stated that one (subsidiary) role of Southside Community Services is to help with community development. She would like to map the social infrastructure of Oaks Estate, if possible with the assistance of the OEPA, in order to build a mini social plan for the area, identifying positive outcomes that groups and individuals want to have happen. For example, an annual signature community event could be developed which would build up interest over time.

Asked how Oaks Estate fits in to Southside's Business Plan, Lyn replied that she had put in an expression of interest for Round 4 of the Regional Development Australia (RDA) funding to improve the physical infrastructure of the Community Hall by creating a day care centre there, but there had not been a chance to consult with the community on the proposal.

Michel raised the possibility of developing the Oaks Estate Railway lands with RDA support, for example by creating a farmers market. Lyn replied that an OEPA/ Southside partnership could develop a proposal for Round 5 of the RDA funding due Mar/Apr 2013.

Lyn reiterated that Southside needs a defined project in Oaks Estate to be developed possibly through collaboration with the OEPA to build community identity and strength.

### **6. Other business.**

– Effect of August 2013 deadline for completion of master planning needs to be considered.

– Noted that the OEPA AGM must be held before 30 June 2013.

– Proposed to hold an OEPA general meeting / BBQ early in the new year aiming to improve feedback and organization of the community to face the end of the master planning and to help develop a collaborative project with Southside.

– Meeting with the Molonglo Catchment Group and others to be held in Gillespie Park in mid January.

– Letter re provision of a footpath between Oaks Estate Road and Florence Street sent to Shane Rattenbury's advisers, copy to ESDD.

– Massive thanks to Judith and Alex for their hospitality and delicious dinner; and thanks too to Lyn Diskon for attending the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.