

# Oaks Estate Progress Association

## Minutes of OEPA Committee meeting, 7.00pm, 7 June 2012, at the Oaks Estate Community Hall.

**Present.** Karen Williams (Chair), Alex Saeck, Judith Saeck, John Bruggeman, Michel Starling, Bernadette Fitzgerald, Ewan Maidment.

**Apologies:** Fran Lethbridge, Mrs Squire, Nick Saeck. Lyn Diskon (South Side Community Services) who had accepted an invitation to attend the meeting was not present.

Pea & ham soup was provided by Berna and some other food was brought by the Committee members for supper.

### Minutes of previous Committee meeting held 5 May 2012.

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

**Matters arising.** See action plan.

**Action plan review.** See also attached revised Action Plan.

#### 1. Master Plan.

1a. Karen reported that on 24 May she had sent a letter to Ben Ponton (ESDD A/g Director General, Planning) re OEPA concerns about the Oaks Estate master plan: absence of heritage consultant, managerial interference in consultation process, and failure to review public housing stock. A letter in response from Ben Ponton, dated 31 May, was tabled.

1b. Alex and Judith reported on ESDD meeting with Oaks Estate business people re master planning. Petra (ESDD) had stated that Oaks Estate is not a rural village that it is a suburb. Christy (consultant) had stated that the first house in Oaks Estate was a duplex. Petra tabled a different draft plan – reduced development on Hazel St. – business as usual along McEwan Av and Railway St. (No copy given out.) Petra commented that the article in the *City Chronicle* was not useful – she regarded it as interference in the process. OEPA reference group members to ask for ESDD record of the meeting.

1c. OEPA ref group reps meeting with Petra 11 May. Michel & Karen went. Peter not there. A robust 3 hour meeting. Statements by Petra: OEPA not representative of the community; does not reflect community aspirations; young people want development in Oaks Estate; we will have to make concessions – in-fill; will develop above Hazel St.; no way George SSt and River St public flats will change as result of master plan process. Karen's letter to Ponton triggered partly by dissatisfaction with outcome of this meeting.

1f. ESDD website contact closed down. Use email [petra.oswald@act.gov.au](mailto:petra.oswald@act.gov.au) for master plan feedback.

1g. Michel has drawn up a list of media contacts and has been making a series of media releases. Wants to make use of the story of Bede Tongs – a New Guinea veteran who gave the land for the Community Hall: “Simon Corbell takes away last refuge of community pride”. Checking with Garry Tongs and RSL. Must move on publicity before ACT election.

#### 2. Community development projects.

2a. Lyn Diskon (Southside Community Services) did not turn up at meeting, as arranged.

2c. Karen listed matters for discussion with SCC and Lyn. See Action Plan update.

2d. Ask Lyn for report for OEPA newsletter. Lyn has agreed. Ewan to follow-up.

3. River project. 300 trees & shrubs planted on planting day, 20 May.

3a. John B. is taking and archiving photographs – also all MCG land care photos and Community Housing Project photos. He has past 10 years of photos. Alex and Judy also have Oaks Estate photos. OEPA website cannot accommodate bulk photographs due to limitations of server.

3f. John B.: we need more liaison with Qbn Land Care. Karen spoke on radio re ‘interpretative pathway’ to Lake Burley Griffin – connection with Jerrabomberra Wetlands Group.

3g. Sub Cmte. There is a contact list of 23 people who would make an informal river care group. Maybe Bill Thomas may become involved through email updates. He writes well. Possibility of applying for a grant? John B.: Rebecca Dawson has committed to provide equipment for follow-up weeding. Maybe we apply for grant for supplementary/additional equipment.

Moved Michel, seconded Berna, that the OEPA form a land care sub-committee, known as the Oaks Estate Land Care Group, to work through TAMS and Greening Australia official days (to avoid insurance issues). Carried.

4. Robertson House.

Terry liaising with Heritage Unit (re a key for OEPA volunteer) and National Trust.

Waiting for Trust to do a risk audit before we can go any further with training volunteers from Oaks Estate and/or Robertson family.

“Living in heritage” – centenary funding – improve House to be habitable.

5. Membership.

66-70 members listed in register. Ewan distributed membership application forms. Ewan to make a leaflet summary of OEPA initiatives to go with the application forms.

An interim fix for the membership issue might be possible. Terry available to discuss an idea after his exams in a couple of weeks.

6. Fundraising – recruitment.

A couple of sources of grants for river project and website/equipment might be available. BBQ at Bunnings or Landcare event on hold.

7. Queanbeyan LEP.

7d. Address by Karen to the Queanbeyan Heritage Advisory Committee 21 May re heritage precinct/railway rezoning. Karen reported that only half the committee understand landscape concept. She followed up with a meeting with Gillian Kelly of Queanbeyan Historical and Museum Society. Karen identified that the critical message to Queanbeyan is to remind them that: # Oaks Estate once extended as far as Derrima Road (railway land was acquired from The Oaks Estate); the location of the railway station is the rationale for the subdivision of Oaks Estate. The Railway precinct extends from and includes the Queanbeyan Railway Bridge in the east (and railway camp site east of bridge) to gatehouse at Oaks Estate Road.

Michel suggested trying to find support from the Australian Railways Association. John B. suggested contacting Bryan Nye – Karen &/or John to talk to him.

8. Communication strategy.

8c. Bern and Michel to write sign, "*The Oaks*" estate estab. 1836.

8e. Website. Report from Terry that the current website server lacks capacity. Michel advocated a Facebook page; John B. stated that a Facebook page would need to be linked to the website. Michel said that he would look for community development grant to fund upgrading the website. *Nb.* a/c due now. Transfer to ISCCC website? Appt working group: Michel, Terry, others?

9. Oaks Estate Community end of Master Plan process/Canberra 2013 centenary celebration.

No action.

10. ACT Government rates proposal. EM to search for ACT Govt information on web.

11. The Inner South Canberra Community Council.

Michael and Karen are OEPA delegates to the ISCCC. The OEPA has two votes. We can send proxies.

Karen attended ISCCC meeting on 15 May where she met David Papps (ESDD Director-General) and Ben Ponton (ESDD Deputy Director General - Planning).

OEPA provided a report for the ISCCC column in the *City Chronicle* published 20 May.

Michel represented the ISCCC at the ACT Planning & Development Forum on 5 June where he spoke about flaws in the Oaks Estate master planning process and met David Papps (ESDD, D-G) and Ben Ponton (ESDD, Dpty Director Planning). Ponton asked Michel why he was so adversarial? Michel received support from Daniel Walker (EPA, Director, Environment and Water Resource Protection). The EPA might be an ally. Walker said that the EPA would not have approved development of the old Mobil site if they had known that the infrastructure in Oaks Estate is so weak. Walker referred to Oaks Estate as a peri-urban region and pointed to the importance of its drainage basin.

Arrangements for an OEPA meeting with Daniel Walker on 8 June (Karen, Michel and John B. to attend) and for Karen and Michel to meet with David Papps and Ben Ponton and Petra Oswald on 12 June.

Further discussion of master planning strategy.

Michel. Next step – to the politicians – before the elections –cross border MoU: letters to Gallagher, Corbell & Barr. John B. is drafting letters to them all. Michel wants all committee members to write individually.

Heritage. National Trust – Eric Martin (Karen to contact), Peter Dowling; Canberra Historical Society, Ann Googler, Jill Waterhouse.

Schools. Bede Tongs (RSL) – Qbn RSL President will speak to Gallagher.

**Other business.**

Ewan presented receipts amounting to \$308.25, for PO Box rent, printing leaflets & newsletters, star pickets for the blackboard and food for two BBQs. Moved Michel, seconded Alex, that Ewan be reimbursed. Carried.

Judith noted that donations amounting to \$39.00 were received at the latest BBQ. There is also some additional cash on hand. She warned that we are using up the OEPA's aviiings and that we need to increase income.

She also reported that the Association has \$7,000 in a 4 month term account at the Cmth Bank @ 2.7% which matures on 10 June. It was agreed to find the best terms and re-invest for six months.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.