

Oaks Estate Progress Association

**Minutes of OEPA Committee meeting, 7.20pm, Thursday 4th October 2012,
at the Oaks Estate Community Hall.**

Present. Karen Williams (Chair), Alex Saeck, Bernadette Fitzgerald, Ewan Maidment.

1. Apologies: Fran Lethbridge, Judith Saeck, John Bruggeman, Nick Saeck.

Thanks to Bernadette for providing the soup.

2. Minutes of previous Committee meeting held 6th September 2012.

Moved Bernadette, seconded Karen that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

3. Matters arising. See Action Plan.

Action plan review.

1. – *Master Plan.*

1a) – *Committee.* David Papps, ESDD Director, is to be invited to visit Oaks Estate in due course.

1d) – *Heritage.* The National Trust Council discussed a letter of support for Oaks Estate (2/10/12); possibility of campaign/task force; Chris Wain (National Trust, CEO) is working with Karen on the issue.

1g) – *Stateline.* No update.

1k) – *Public Housing consultation.*

– ACT Housing still not involved in Master Plan process.

– There has been no meeting with Lyn Diskon (South Side Community Services) following the Committee's approach (20/6).

– See item 2c below for further developments.

2c) – *Community development projects.*

Tim Coxhead (Case Manager, Samaritan Services, St Vincent de Paul) has been advised that Alexander Groves, ACT Housing, Central Regional Manager, is available to attend community meeting. On 21 September Karen supplied Tim with a Heads of Discussion paper for the community meeting. Tim is organizing the meeting to be held after 10 October. The aim is to encourage the prospect of combining the efforts and resources of ACT Housing, SSSCS and St Vincent de Paul in a way that can result in the appointment of an officer for community development in Oaks Estate. Possibly Health Department funds can be directed toward Oaks Estate.

3) – *River rehabilitation.* A Weed Identification Workshop will be held on Saturday 27 October looking at the area of new plantings to the East of River Street.

3a) – *Photographs.* John B. continuing to archive photographs.

3g) – *Queanbeyan Land Care.*

3h) – *Stage 2.* Rebecca Dawson has confirmed that Stage 2 will commence in late spring or early summer. The focus will be on tree thinning or removal of most of the invasive species on both sides of the river downstream from River Street towards National Capital Flowers. The historic plantings around The Oaks will be protected. The large elms near The Oaks will remain but suckers along the creek bed will be removed. Poplars will be thinned but not cleared as they protect the bridge against damage during floods.

4) – *The Robertsons' House.*

– A building audit was conducted on 28 September which cleared the site for insurance purposes.

– There may be Government Buildings’ funds for further maintenance made available in 2014.

4d) – *National Trust*. Chris Wain (CEO) is negotiating to hold the National Trust’s annual picnic–Christmas party at the Robertsons’ House.

– The ACT Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History will consider putting the Robertsons’ House on its plan of tours to celebrate the Canberra centenary in 2013.

5) – *Membership and constitution*. The sub-committee to hold its first meeting on 7 October and bring the draft revised rules to the November OEPA committee meeting for consideration.

6) – *Fundraising*.

– The DVD copy of Old Oaks Estate Stories has been publicized in the OEPA Newsletter and on the OEPA website. One copy has been sold so far.

– Bernadette to contact Lyn Diskon to ask for a copy of the insurance policy on the Oaks Estate Community Hall.

– Fran, Bernadette and Mrs Squire to talk.

7) – *Queanbeyan LEP*.

– *Cross-border MOU*. Katy Gallagher replied on 31 August to Karen’s letter (14/8/12) referring the matter to the NSW Planning Minister (tabled at September meeting).

– *Queanbeyan Development Control Plan 2012* – Karen wrote to Gary Chapman (QCC General Manager) on 28 September.

– *Meeting with Mike Kelly (MP, Eden-Monaro)*. Karen and Michel met with Dr Kelly on 2 October. Dr Kelly offered to make contact with John Barilaro (State MHR) and Gai Brodtmann (MP, Canberra) and suggested that we make contact with Steve Thomas (Cross-Border Commissioner).

8) – *Communications strategy*.

– *RiotACT*. Agreed to submit draft postings to Committee members for feedback before posting. Postings not to target individual people.

– *OEPA newsletter*. No issue in October.

– *ESDD Oaks Estate Master Planning newsletter*. Publication delayed. An analysis of progress so far is planned for the ESDD website.

– *Media watch*. Committee members to gather any references to Oaks Estate in the press.

– *Blackboard*. Suggested slogan highlighting Steam train heritage. Website to be updated to explain the slogan.

– *Website*. August and September minutes have been transferred to Terry for uploading to the OEPA website.

– *Email/letterbox/phone contact list*. No action.

9) – *End Master Planning – Canberra 2013 Centenary celebrations*. Suggestions put forward based on claiming the empty blocks opposite the station for public use, including: naming the space, establish an arboretum – tree planting and furniture – a living acknowledgement of the Oaks Estate community – celebrating links with the colonial era and Federal / railway and a memorial to the builders of Canberra – also camouflaging the factory wall.

10) – *Inner South Canberra Community Council*. Karen and Michel to attend ISCCC meeting in October looking for support of the cross border issue.

11) – *Bus fares and service issues*. Free term passes are available for school travel for students from eligible families, but otherwise the price depends on distance. Interim arrangement is for families who do not qualify for a free pass to apply to ACT Government

for refund of the difference. The Government is now re-negotiating the arrangement with Deane's and hopes to have a system in place for next year, under which parents in Oaks Estate can buy, direct from Deane's, a term pass at a rate comparable to Action's. The alternative is for students and adults to pay the Oaks Estate fare, which remains available to residents.

4. Financial Report.

Deferred until the next meeting as Judith was not present.

9. Other business.

Correspondence:

– Copy of letter from Caroline Le Couteur to Katy Gallagher asking for traffic problems on Railway Street, Oaks Estate, to be investigated.

– Queanbeyan Land Care membership application forms tabled for individual membership which covers insurance.

– Molonglo Catchment Group 2012 institutional membership form received – cost \$25.00. Moved Alex Saeck, seconded Ewan Maidment, that the OEPA renew its membership of the Molonglo Catchment Group. Carried.

– Requests from Peter O’Dea:

(a) Membership list. Ewan to respond.

(b) Peter asked Lyn Diskon, SSCS, to provide new chairs for Community Hall. He suggested to Lyn that she approach OEPA to split the cost. It was noted that there are fewer chairs than the number that OEPA originally donated for use by the Hall leasee. Lyn is not in a position that can provide furnishings for the Hall.

(c) Community Garden, 7 Sep 2012 – request for OEPA donation of \$500 for materials to make a flat paved area and raised garden bed suitable for gardeners with a disability, including users of wheelchairs. Peter referred to a previous OEPA donation to the community garden for fencing.

The committee noted that the earlier donation provided to the Community Garden in 2000 was held in trust for the Community Garden by the OEPA.

– What happened to an earlier proposal for facilities for disabled gardeners at the Community Garden?

– How many Oaks Estate people are using the Garden?

– Note complexities of servicing disabled gardeners.

– What is COGS’ position / policy on providing facilities for disabled gardeners?

– Has Peter explored other avenues for funding?

– Can COGS fund the improvement?

– The committee would prefer that the request be referred to COGS.

Also some discussion by the Committee of Peter’s proposal to seek funds from local businesses for building a toilet on site in the Community Garden, noting that

– there is no toilet in Gillespie Park;

– problems associated with misuse of public toilets;

– COGS is looking at a broad push to construct toilets in each of its gardens.

Karen to write to COGS, cc to Peter O’Dea.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.