

# Oaks Estate Progress Association

-serving our community



## Minutes of OEPA Annual General Meeting Sunday, 12.30pm, 18 March 2012, at the Oaks Estate Community Hall.

**Present.** 17 members present: Peter O’Dea in Chair, Bede Tongs, Garry Tongs, Lillian Squire, Fran Lethbridge, Keith Talbot, Elizabeth Paterson, Karen Williams, Terry Williams, Alex Saeck, Judy Saeck, Nick Saeck, Chris Prattis, Michel Starling, Bernadette Fitzgerald, Fiona MacGregor, Ewan Maidment.

**Apologies:** Jo Wilson, Dan Heldon, Rachel Bowak.

**Minutes of previous AGM.** Minutes of the AGM held 27 March 2011 and adjourned AGM held 10 April 2011 were tabled and read. Moved Alex Saeck, seconded Michel Starling, that the minutes of both meetings be adopted. Carried.

**Matters arising.** None.

**President’s Report.** Peter O’Dea said that it had been a fantastic year: the OEPA had a hardworking committee and there had been good achievements, especially the renovation of Gillespie Park. Peter added that the OEPA is now well positioned for Oaks Estate master planning and hoped that the Committee would be as strong or stronger in the year to come. He thanked the Committee.

Garry Tongs commented that he is very pleased to see that Gillespie Park is now so well used. Moved Liz Patterson, seconded Michel, that President’s report be accepted and that the Committee write to TAMS thanking them for their work renovating the Park and installing the BBQ. Carried.

**Secretary’s Report.** Ewan Maidment tabled a report listing the Committee members and other details of the year’s activities. There were regular monthly meetings of the committee; special OEPA community meetings re Gillespie Park, rehabilitation of the river corridor, the Robertsons’ House and Master Planning; there had been four issues of the newsletter. Ewan thank Sarah Hooper and Terry Williams for their work establishing and developing the OEPA website.

Moved Mrs Squire, seconded Michel Starling, that the Secretary’s report be accepted. Carried.

**Treasurer’s Report.** Judith Saeck tabled the Treasurer’s Report for the year 2011, audited by W.J. Crispin. Judith summarized the report as follows:

Opening book value carried over from 2010: \$11,420.63  
Income: \$322.99  
Expenditure: \$474.88  
Trading result: -\$151.89  
Total current assets: \$11,420.63

Moved Bernadette Fitzgerald, seconded Lillian Squire, that the Treasurer’s report be accepted. Carried.

Mrs Squire thanked the officers for their reports and Mr Crispin for auditing the Association's accounts.

**Election of officers and committee members.** Garry Tongs accepted the nomination by Peter O'Dea to be the Returning officer, took the Chair, declared all positions vacant and called for nominations.

President.

Nick Saeck nominated Karen Williams. Fran Lethbridge nominated Peter O'Dea. Both Karen and Peter accepted the nominations. Garry Tongs proposed that both nominees give a brief talk outlining what they had in mind for the OEPA, he would then allow time for questions followed by a secret ballot.

Karen said that she is working on facilitating a good outcome from the master planning. The skills of the President need to be based on talking to people, getting people to talk and understanding what people want. Karen said that she has a good understanding of the master planning process and the history of Oaks Estate; and she has a good rapport with all the people involved including public housing tenants. She has a good record of speaking out for people and would make sure that she represents peoples' wishes well. She has now been placed in a central position but previously, when not President, she had stepped back. She and Peter had different styles, but they would need to work together whatever happened.

Peter said that he had been President for 2 years, the OEPA rules allowed for a third term. He had runs on the board and wants to see the master planning process through.

Asked about what outcomes they expected from the master planning:

Karen said that as President she would preserve the openness of Oaks Estate – Rachel had referred to Oaks Estate as an oasis, an open environment shared by people doing things. She wanted to create opportunities for people to make things and preserve the environmental space around us.

Peter confirmed the importance of the master planning and noted that we had been close to completing a master plan previously. He wants to apply rigor to make sure that the Government did not short change us. A developer has bought the grazing land to the north of the river. We do not want to be hemmed in by the surrounding area. He brings a lot of knowledge of Government, understands government and has good contacts in government. He is keen on due process.

Asked about their plans for the OEPA after the master planning:

Karen said that we need to lock in place a list of jobs to do after the master planning, e.g. Queanbeyan Local Environment Plan, Eastern Broadacre development, paddocks over the river, and to make sure that all structures are in place and have a clear outline of matters to be dealt with.

Peter responded that the master plan is a boost to the sense of community in Oaks Estate. When the heat dies down there will be a lull, but he has several things in mind: the condition of Railway St between Oaks Estate Road and McEwan St; value of wildlife in Oaks Estate – possible cat curfew; and building the finances of the Association.

There was further discussion of policy regarding the number of family members on the OEPA committee and whether or not Karen and Peter would both stay on the Committee following the outcome of the election.

Garry Tongs called for the secret ballot. He counted 9 votes for Karen and 6 votes for Peter and declared Karen elected President.

Peter congratulated Karen. Keith Talbot thanked Peter for his work as President and especially for the way in which he had kept the community well informed.

Treasurer. Michel Starling nominated Judith Saeck as Treasurer, seconded Bern Fitzgerald. There being no further nominations Judith was declared elected.

Secretary. Alex Saeck nominated Ewan Maidment as Secretary, seconded Michel Starling. There being no further nominations Ewan was declared elected.

Committee Members.

Ewan Maidment nominated Alex Saeck, seconded Michel Starling.

Michel Starling nominated Peter O’Dea, seconded Terry Williams.

Ewan Maidment nominated Michel Starling, seconded Karen Williams

Bern Fitzgerald nominated Nick Saeck, seconded Ewan Maidment

Ewan Maidment nominated Fran Lethbridge, seconded Lillian Squire

Keith Talbot nominated Bernadette Fitzgerald, seconded Karen Williams

Karen Williams nominated John Bruggeman, seconded Michel Starling

Michel Starling nominated Jody Heldon, seconded Karen Williams

There being no further nominations Garry Tongs declared the above committee members elected, pending confirmation of acceptance by Peter O’Dea (having left the meeting), John Bruggeman and Jody Heldon who were not at the meeting. Garry Tongs commented that it is a strong Committee and it would be effective for Oaks Estate.

Public Officer.

Alex Saeck nominated Ewan Maidment, seconded Michel Starling. There being no further nominations Ewan was declared elected.

Auditor.

It was agreed to approach Bill Crispin to ask whether he would mind being Auditor for the 2012-13 accounts.

Karen Williams took the Chair.

**Other business.**

Income. Michel expressed concern that the OEPA’s income was derived from interest on accumulated funds. There was discussion over whether a membership fee should be imposed. Terry commented that a membership fee would help bring the membership book into order. Michel suggested holding a fund-raising BBQ to rally people to the cause within the next four months. Ewan suggested that the matters of fund raising and issuing a membership renewal form with or without compulsory membership fee be considered by the Committee. Agreed.

Fence removed from lower end of River St. The fence needs to be replaced. People are driving into the paddocks. Matter referred to Committee.

Communications. Michel asked about the best way for the master planning reference group to communicate with OEPA members – he thought that speed would be a factor. Karen responded that there are different levels of communication: verbal, email, newsletters and noticeboard. She suggested that a BBQ in the Park in April might be useful.

The meeting closed at 2.00pm.