

Oaks Estate Progress Association

**Draft minutes of OEPA Committee meeting held at the
Community Hall, Oaks Estate, 7.15pm, Thursday 7 March 2013.**

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

1. Apologies: none.

2. Minutes of previous Committee meeting held 7 February 2012.

Note that John B's meeting on 22 Feb was to be with Petra Oswald as well as Cindy.

Moved Michel, seconded Fran, that the minutes be accepted with that amendment. Carried.

3. Matters arising / Action Plan review.

1a) – *Master Plan.*

– Meeting with Simon Corbell to go ahead, but no date set yet. Michel to advise date.

– *Unmade Edges.* Karen distributed her report, *An alliance of difference: Unmade Edges – Canberra ... more than the Griffin legacy*, on 27 February. Michel will follow-up aiming to organize a further meeting of the villages..

– John B. met with Cindy and Petra (ESDD) on 22 February re Oaks Estate buffer zone boundaries and public housing. (See John's report, 26 February.)

– Michel and Karen met with Petra & Cindy (ESDD) on 28 February. (See Karen's report, 3 March.)

– The OEPA will continue to lobby at higher levels and try to find out whether funding is available from the government to encourage appropriate development in ACT villages. Possible trade off of dense development around the Robertsons' House for open space in front of the Station. The heritage consultant's report will determine density and may help minimize development. Fran commented that the 100 year flood line revision would help protect the low lying land.

– Karen took David Hobbs heritage consultant and staff on a 3-hour tour of Oaks Estate today (7 March).

– A meeting with Shane Rattenbury's advisers is scheduled for 15 March.

– The Inner South Community Development Network will meet on 19 March.

1g) – *ABC Radio outside broadcast.* To be followed-up.

2c) – *Community development projects.*

– Karen, John B., Tim Coxhead and Lyn Diskon had an informal discussion re public housing on 6 March. Karen will issue a statement and reconvene the meeting in due course.

3h) – *River rehabilitation.*

– John B. will go to a weed spraying identification workshop on 16 March so that he can supervise weeding along the river banks.

– Queanbeyan Landcare will be planting from the Railway bridge to the cemetery.

– TAMS is mowing with a small mower under the Railway bridge.

– Sunday 5 May OEPA to support Queanbeyan Landcare and the Molonglo Catchment Group planting new seedlings to replace those that didn't make it through summer.

5) – *Membership, Constitution, AGM.* Re nominations for positions on the OEPA executive and committee should be received before or at the AGM.

– The Committee agreed that nominations may be received by the Secretary in writing prior to the commencement of the AGM and by the Chair from the floor during the AGM.

– OEPA AGM is due to be held before 30 June. A letter from the Office of Regulatory Services notifying requirement for audited accounts to be lodged within 6 months of the end of the financial year (31 Dec 2012) was given to Judith.

6d) – *Fundraising.* Bernadette reported that Bunnings requires a minimum \$10m public liability insurance to hold a sausage sizzle. It may be that arrangements can be made under South Side Community Services or St Vincent de Paul.

– *Canberra Centenary Event.* Michel reported that he had been talking to Brooke Small, Project Manager, Community Engagement re funding for projects: (a) \$1,000 immediately for party at shops, or other creative activity, eg. involving children / young people in Oaks Estate; (b) through 100 Canberra – Portrait of a

Nation – 2nd half of the year for an artistic or creative extension of *Unmade Edges* involving the ACT villages – \$10,000 for each village. Fran suggested including in our survey of Oaks Estate residents a question asking whether any artists want to participate in a Centenary project.

7) – *Queanbeyan LEP*.

– Karen has set up a meeting with David Carswell, QCC Manager of Strategic Planning, for 12 March at 5.00pm. Michel warned that the meeting may be seen as acquiescing to the development proposals. Karen referred to an email from Carswell on 20 Feb in which he reports that QCC met with John Holland Rail re its development proposals, and with ACT Government representatives mainly re the Oaks Estate master plan. Carswell also reported that the building on the railway lands at the corner of McEwan Av and Railway St is being developed under the old railway zoning lease. It was agreed that the OEPA should try to set up a meeting with John Holland Rail.

8) – *Communication Strategy*.

8b) – *OEPA Newsletter*. Agreed to try to distribute the newsletter before Easter to include:

(i) report on our Railway St traffic survey, (ii) Liz Parker's report on support services in Oaks Estate, (iii) Karen's Unmade Edges meeting report, (iv) a report on River trees watering in January, and (v) notice of the follow-up planting day on 5 May.

– Michel noted that the ISCCC can help fund the cost of printing the newsletter and other OEPA publications on presentation of receipts in exchange for a portion of the publication being devoted to promoting the ISCCC.

8c) – *Blackboard sign update*. New message required – no good suggestions.

Traffic in Oaks Estate. John B. and Ewan counted 896 vehicles on Railway St (opposite Hill St) between 6.00-9.00am on 7 March – estimated 2,500 vehicles/day. It was agreed to write to Petra re Railway St footpath, etc., in response to her email to Karen dated 23 Jan in which she stated that ACT Roads counted 500 vehicles a day using Railway St. Karen tabled ACT Dept of Urban Services minutes (4 Feb & 5 Mar 2003) reporting weekday average 1,544 vehicles/day at the same spot Jan 2003, and 1,754 vehicles/day in Feb 2003.

Financial Report.

Judith reported \$7,174.92 in term deposit, which earned \$128.28 interest. The term deposit has been extended for 4 months until 10 June. There has been no movement in the cheque account which was at \$4,045.80 on 31 Jan 2013.

Other business.

Lease on Community Hall.

Karen reported that the lease on the Hall currently held by South Side Community Services is up for renewal. Lyn Diskon asked Karen if OEPA wanted to take control of the Hall and also said that if the OEPA does not take up the lease then South Side would. Karen suggested a partnership might be possible: Samaritans, South Side and the OEPA. The Committee agreed to consider a business arrangement with South Side regarding the administration, management and hire of the Hall, but needs to see South Side's lease, insurance policy, current business plan and operating model. Noting that the Hall runs at a loss, Michel asked whether South Side subsidizes the cost of the Hall or whether it is supported by ACT government general revenue.

Bede Tongs land grant for the Hall. The Committee was reminded of an outstanding item re erecting a memorial plaque at the Hall commemorating Bede's gift.

Community Survey.

A draft community survey questionnaire and accompanying leaflet was tabled. There was discussion over whether responses should be coded. It was agreed to try to gather qualitative data. Some constructive criticism emerged from discussion about the leaflet, which was agreed to be too complicated and technical – it should be simplified. Michel said that he would revise the leaflet. It was envisaged that the questionnaire would act to guide a conversation between committee member and resident - as much an information giving exercise as seeking.

Community Garden.

An email was received from Peter O'Dea dated 6 March stating that he is intending to close the community garden. It was agreed that the OEPA discuss the matter with the Canberra Organic Gardeners Society which holds the lease.

There being no further business the meeting closed at about 9.15pm.