

# Oaks Estate Progress Association Inc.

## Minutes of OEPA Committee meeting held at the Community Hall, Oaks Estate, 7.00pm, Thursday 7 November 2013.

**Present.** Karen Williams (Chair), Dan Heldon, John Bruggeman, Alex Saeck, Michel Starling, Ewan Maidment.

**1. Apologies:** Judith Saeck.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting.** Moved John B, seconded Michel, that the minutes of the meeting held 7 October be accepted. Carried.

### **3. Matters arising**

**# Telstra meeting** re extension of NBN to Oaks Estate has been indefinitely postponed following election of new Federal government.

**# Master Plan.** Karen reported that she had been informed by Petra Oswald (ESDD) that:

- the draft Master Plan will not be released until February 2014;
- ESDD will be sending a Master Planning update to all residents, including an executive summary of the Heritage Report and notice of the February release of the draft Master Plan and Heritage Report.

It was agreed that the revised time-line is disappointing. From the point of view of the consultative process ESDD has abrogated its responsibility to ensure an open public discussion of heritage issues in relation to the Master plan design. ESDD appears to be sidestepping incompetence that has emerged from a lack of understanding of the heritage decision-making process. In 2014 the centenary celebration will have passed and the opportunity of tying the Master Plan to heritage publicity will have been missed.

Petra had reported to Karen that the Master plan would still be based on the heritage study findings: the heritage report is commissioned by ESDD to inform the design of the Master Plan. There just won't be any heritage registration decisions made by the Heritage Council based on that report occurring as part of the Master Plan process. Karen also reported that the opportunity for heritage registrations has not passed, but we are well down the priority list.

The Committee agreed to find ways to prioritise heritage assessment and registration. The Master Plan, Precinct Codes and Heritage Listings need to be completed in conjunction with each other, with a concrete delivery time for all three, in advance of land releases in Oaks Estate which will take place in 2015. We should be ensuring that no government land sales occur until all heritage issues are resolved.

It was agreed

- to include a report in the OEPA newsletter,
- to contact the Ministers and by letter and personally, although some members of the committee thought that it would be useless to talk to them,
- to inform Kate Lundy and Gai Brodtmann,
- to contact the Heritage Council (Duncan Marshall), and
- to publicise the matter by radio, though there were some reservation about how that should be handled.

**# Boundaries.** A meeting is being organized with John Holland Rail re uses of the railway lands. Waiting to see whether they will meet us on site. Aiming to meet in mid December.

**# Traffic.** Ewan still to write to Gary Byles, Executive Director, TAMS re follow-up with Roads ACT re prioritization of footpath construction and traffic calming on Railway Street.

**4. Financial Report.** Alex reported \$2,138.54 expenditure for the year from 1 Jan 2013 to date. Income for the same period is \$647.17.

Alex has a receipt from Oskar Memorials for \$805.00, being the cost of production and installation of the cast bronze plaque.

Additional expenditure incurred for advertising, catering and cleaning associated with celebrating the dedication of the memorial plaque for Bede Tong's land grant on 27 October amounted to \$826.95. Moved John B, seconded Michel, that the expenditure be endorsed and Karen reimbursed.

The committee noted, with gratitude, that Alex had donated concrete and sand for construction of the plinth for the Bede Tong's memorial rock.

**5. Bede Tong's memorial follow-up.** Senator Kate Lundy made the dedication; the event was well attended by former and current residents of Oaks Estate, about 100 in total, and was greatly appreciated by Bede and his family.

**6. Centenary Events – Party in the Village and Oaks Estate Portrait of a Nation art project.**

Rachel Bowak and Michel are organizing artworks in Oaks Estate under *Portrait of a Nation: Unmade Edges – Distinctive Places*, in conjunction with similar events in Tharwa, Hall, Uriarra, Pialligo and Stromlo. In Oaks Estate there will be: an *Oaks is Gold* trail; a community paste-up workshop on 16 November; water tower projections of historical photographs by Michel 17-24 Nov; and a heritage walk conducted by Karen on 24 Nov,

Michel reported that he has \$1,250 available for the Unmade Edges Party in the Village to be held on 24 November. Insurance will cost about \$500 and the band, *The Fuelers*, will cost \$400. The remainder will be needed to cover toilets, garbage bins and a generator. There will be an official opening at 4.00pm. Performances will include McGrath Irish Dancing School, *Stik n Move*, a Tongan cultural group, *The Fuelers*, and others. Activities for kids will include a jumping castle, a bucking bull and extreme adventures organized by the Scouts. There will also be a vintage car display and exhibits by the ACT Fire brigade and others. IGA has donated food. Any profit from sale of food would be distributed 50% to Scouts and 50% to OEPA.

Organisation is being carried out by Michel, Dan, 'Alopi Latukefu and others, in total 14 volunteers, including 6 people from public housing in George Street. A planning meeting will be held on Saturday 8 Nov. Set up for the party will be at 8.30 am on 24 November.

There was a vigorous discussion about the nature of the OEPA's connection with the centenary events. It was pointed out that the Party in the Village was a community event conducted under contract between Rachel & Michel and Centenary of Canberra. A public meeting, held in Gillespie Park under the auspice of Parties in Your Village (Amy Moon), had agreed to combine the Portraits of a Nation and Parties in Your Village events. As such, OEPA gives support and volunteer effort, but has no management input.

**7. Blackboards.** It was agreed to review the structures and locations of the blackboards before the next meeting.

**8. Fire fighting trailer for Oaks Estate**

Agreed to discuss further at the next meeting, Noted that ACT Rural Fire Service would need to meet with the OEPA and/or the community. Location was an issue. Training would be involved.

**9. Resignation of John Bruggeman.** The Committee expressed its appreciation of John B's continued interest and commitment to the Association. It was agreed to postpone acceptance of his resignation until such time as John leaves Oaks Estate.

**Other business.**

# Bus fares. Letter received from Katy Gallagher confirming that Oaks Estate bus fares will be maintained at current rate of \$2.40 per adult and \$1.20 concession, and that Oaks Estate school children will be able to apply directly to QCity buses for a NSW student term ticket at the applicable ACT rate.

Agreed that OEPA write to the Chief Minister accepting the offer, and that the Committee thank Terry Williams for negotiating the arrangements.

# Community Hall signage. Suggest to Southside Community Services that corporate style signage be erected under the heading, *Oaks Estate Community Hall*. Agreed.

# Notice board on wall of empty shop on the corner of Railway Street and McEwan Avenue. Move to Neville's grog shop in McEwan Avenue. Agreed.

# Newsletter. Issue in early December, to include: 1. an outline of key issues of master planning – how it affects everyone, *eg.* public housing to remain for 10 years; 2. notice re vacant allotments in the garden.

# Website. Noted that the OEPA had been approached with an offer to revise the appearance of our website and its user interface and would need to grant administrative access to do so.

# Progress Association business. It was agreed that OEPA committee members should not be criticizing each other in public.

# TAMS donation. It was noted that TAMS is supplying a string of coloured lights and 50 shrubs.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.