

# MINUTES OF DEAKIN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.00 p.m. 20 NOVEMBER 2019

The Bridge Club, Duff Place, Deakin

## 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The President welcomed all to the meeting.

## 2. PRESENT:

J. Adams	J. Davis	J. Grant	K. Roche
K. Baldwin	J. Denham	R. Hill	J. Seaborn
L. Baldwin	J. Elliott	T. Hodge	M. Simmonds
Z. Barac	J. Fagely	G. Howieson	D. Simmonds
T. Bartlett	M. Fatseas	M. Jennings	J. Stedwell
M. Baumgarten	W. Fletcher	D. Johnstone	B. Taplin
J. Bell	R. Game	V. McMullin	R. Tegart
K. Blue	S. Game	A. Merz	A. White
J. Cahill	J. Gilchrist	D. Merz	G. Wilson
B. Campton	G. Goodman	P. Milligan	L. Wilson
E. Campton	D. Goodman	J. Mostyn	B. Wimmer
W. Daniels	S. Goodspeed	M. O'Brien	R. Wood
G. Davis	H. Grant	N. Pushak	R. Zargoff

## APOLOGIES

H. Allnutt	K. Hambly
P. Boege	S. Howieson
N. Davis	Y. Scales

**PROXIES:** No proxies were received.

## 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 21 NOVEMBER 2018

Moved J. Bell, seconded M. Baumgarten that the Minutes be accepted. Carried.

## 4. REPORTS

### a. President's Report

Dr George Wilson presented his report on the past year's activities. While not many meetings had been held, attendance at meetings had been good with most business being handled by email. Much of the committee's activities is covered on the website and in the Newsletter.

As a result of an extensive letter box drop in 2017-18, membership had grown and now stood at over 130, with 280 on the mailing list. Issues and activities included:

**1) Online survey: the purpose of this was to determine if DRA could be more than just the Deakin Residents 'anti-progress' Association.**

It identified a number of activities, in which members thought they might like to get involved.

- a) Gardening beautification
- b) Shops
- c) Roundabouts
  - i) Latrobe and Rosemary Dobson Park's maintenance and restoration
  - ii) Improving Nature Strips
- d) Street Libraries – like the one in Barron St
- e) Developing a Community Garden
- f) Reviewing bicycle routes
- g) Suburb-wide infrastructure
  - i) battery
  - ii) power sharing
  - iii) improving communications technology
- h) A Community Party in Latrobe Park

**2) Major issues that took our time considering 'less than adequate development proposals'**

**a) Aged Care Facility on Grey St**

- i) We were astounded early in the year to find that the project had been approved. On checking why we had had no feed back it seemed our submission had been 'lost'.
- ii) DRA had previously commented on parking, traffic and apparent breeches of codes and rules
- iii) Subsequently John Bell and Di Johnstone led our scrutiny of those issues and potential impact on our suburb.
- iv) We conducted a traffic survey of Grey St, especially during student arrivals and departures at the Girls Grammar School – see photo on our website
- v) With professional support from Ted Streatfield - we confirmed that the approved project:
  - (1) exceeded current plot ratios, i.e. it is too big for the site.
  - (2) breached the National Capital Authority's Development Control Plan for a site adjacent to Adelaide Avenue, and
  - (3) underestimated its impact on traffic and parking,
- vi) Two committee members made substantial donations to cover DRA costs. Many others also donated - thank you.
- vii) In the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, VP John Bell represented us and made the strongest presentations,
- viii) Eventually DRA agreed to a reduction in the building's capacity, its traffic and parking impacts, additional landscaping on its surrounds, improvements in pedestrian safety and other road users in Hopetoun Circuit plus further negotiations with the ACT Government to ease traffic chaos on Grey Street in school peak periods.

**3) Light rail**

- a) DRA remains concerned about
  - i) comparative cost of the technology
  - ii) cost of supporting infrastructure, in particular new bridges

- (1) in front of the Lodge
- (2) on Adelaide Avenue crossing Hopetoun Cct
- iii) impact on existing bus services
- iv) parking at Deakin shops by commuters
- v) detail of Novar /Kent St proposed interchange to Molonglo?
- vi) visual amenity of area outside Deakin
- vii) heritage values of the Parliamentary Triangle and the Lake.
- b) Commonwealth approval is needed under the EPBC Act where an 'action' has significant impact on one of nine matters of National Environment Significance or Commonwealth land values.
- c) DRA believes this applies to the light rail proposal and made representations that an Environment Impact Statement is needed. Indeed, we believe there should be Public Inquiry which is possible under the EPBC ACT.

#### **4) Traffic speeds**

##### **a) 2017 letter - interim reply only - issues remain**

- i) Pedestrian crossings
- ii) why is Hopetoun Cct past the shops 60 kph
- iii) Manuka and Kingston are 40kph
- iv) Traffic calming was agreed as part of the negotiated settlement in ACAT

#### **5) Changes to concessional leases**

- a) DRA fails to see why the transfer of an asset from one class to another should benefit the leaseholder rather than the community as a whole. The issue has been raised at several properties in West Deakin

- b) Also

##### **i) Deakin Soccer Club**

- (1) Restaurant,
- (2) Fears about same process for fields

##### **ii) St Luke's**

- (1) Ministers words not in the public interest to consider the Development Application
- (2) refuses the proposal to remove the concessional status from the Crown lease, and
- (3) However the site cannot remain vacant. We wonder what next.

#### **6) Mental Health Facility in Deakin West**

- a) DRA submitted an objection to the DA for the proposed mental health facility.
- b) Bruce Taplin and John Bell with support from Ted Streatfeild drafted a statement which said that in-principle the DRA supports a mental health hospital and facility on the Deakin West site, but we strongly opposed to this proposal.
- c) We found it internally inconsistent, and among many things did not meet relevant regulations

#### **7) Integrated Plan for Red Hill Nature Reserve and surrounds**

Of particular interest to DRA is

- a) Golf course redevelopment
- b) development site proposed to be moved south and not serviced by Deakin as part of Integrated Plan
- c) Section 66 - lands adjacent to the Telstra building

Copies of the draft are available for consideration. On display on

- d) Sat 23 Nov 10am to 12 noon Coffee N Beans Café, Red Hill
- e) Tues 26 Nov 10am to 12 noon Double Shot Café, Deakin ACT 2600
- f) Submissions can be emailed to [Terrplan@act.gov.au](mailto:Terrplan@act.gov.au) by 31 December 2019.

## **8) Maintaining the garden suburb**

### **a) Park enhancement**

- i) Latrobe
  - (1) Adopt a Park Community Grants program
  - (2) Party
- ii) Rosemary Dobson
  - (1) local party
  - (2) Angelo Zorbas

### **b) Trees:**

- i) Health of the trees particularly around the Deakin shops Staff under resourced
- ii) Gardens at shops
- iii) Double Shot
- iv) IGA and other leaseholders

## **9) Melbourne Ave**

- i) illegal parking on the rapidly deteriorating median strip on the Melbourne Avenue (a nationally significant Main Avenue);

## **10) Nature strips**

- i) More generally parking on nature strips is a suburb wide concern. On street parking is restricted in many locations but parking off-street is not;
- ii) proliferation of ugly signage

## **11) Communication tower**

- i) Some very unhappy Deakin residents are concerned about the size of communications tower that has been constructed on the Deakin Oval.
- ii) This eyesore can be readily seen from many parts of Deakin
- iii) Visual pollution and further erosion of our objective of enhancing the residential, suburban, social and environmental qualities of Deakin,

## **12) Inner South Canberra Community Council**

### **a) DRA contribution to ISCCC perspectives**

- i) We need volunteers to make contributions special consultations ISCCC Survey is currently open from link on the web site
- ii) DRA intends to continue our affiliation / membership of ISCCC notwithstanding both Deakin and Yarralumla have been moved to the Woden Valley ACT electorate of Murrumbidgee
- iii) So lots to do - not enough helpers

## **13) Membership**

### **a) Has grown this year**

- i) 65 to more than 130 mailing list of 280
- ii) However we need more, especially younger members commercial members
- iii) Only very small proportion of population

### **b) Suburb statistics**

- i) 1300 dwellings
- ii) 773 families
- iii) 2800 people
- iv) Median age 45
- v) 65 years and over made up 23% of the population 31% attending an educational institution
- vi) 65% had tertiary qualification

Let's get more of them involved

#### **14) Thank you outgoing committee**

- i) Not only time but personal financial commitment of several thousand dollars
- ii) Best wishes and returning strength to Helen our secretary for the first half of the year
- iii) Note with sadness the passing of Roger Allnut.
- iv) Martin for taking on the Secretary task

George won't be standing as President but hopes to remain a member of the Committee.

- v) He is going to be most busy in coming year with other volunteer work closer to his professional expertise and honorary role at ANU:
  - wildlife conservation animal welfare kangaroos
  - threatened species

Moved J. Bell, seconded L. Wilson that the report be accepted. Carried.

#### **b. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for the 2018-2019 financial Year was tabled. There had been no significant changes to the operation of the Association during the year which had ended with a surplus of \$4291.

Moved D. Johnstone, seconded J. Bell that the report be accepted. Carried

The President proposed a vote of thanks to Simone Alabaster, for reviewing the accounts on a pro-bono basis.

Moved D. Johnstone, seconded J. Bell that the report be accepted. Carried

### **5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICE BEARERS**

M. Baumgarten, K. Hambly and J Cahill announced they would be resigning from the committee.

In the absence of a nomination for the vacant position of President, nominations were sought from the floor. None were forthcoming. The Secretary read out duly signed nominations for the positions of:

- President - vacant
- Vice-President– J. Bell
- Secretary - M. Jennings
- Treasurer – B. Taplin

- Other members
  - H. Allnutt, D.Johnstone, G. Wilson, P. Boege.

All were elected to the Committee.

Votes of thanks were moved for the outgoing Committee members. Di Johnstone spoke to thank outgoing President, George Wilson.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**a. Noise from Double Shot cafe**

A resident from Gawler Street raised the issue of noise from Double Shot, which commences as early as 3.00 – 3.30 am. The noise arises from tables & chairs being dragged around and staff chattering. George Wilson undertook to follow it up with the café owner/manager.

The meeting finished at 7.45 p.m.