

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Wilderness Ratepayers & Residents Association held on Wednesday 18th December 2013 at 18h00 at the Hoekwil Primary School

Welcome and Apologies:

Neville Ewing welcomed all present to the 43rd AGM. Previous chairmen of the WRRRA, were also welcomed as was Councillor Leon van Wyk.

The following apologies were received:

Derek and Jackie Jaques, Ulrike and Richard Niesler, Gerrit Schwartz, Erna van Wijk, Case Rijdsdijk, Jeff and Pat Bolus, Eckhard and Leonie Muller, Victor Ross, Paddy Bomford, Trevor White, Claus Martin, Massimo Mariotti, Desire Zwahlen, Meish Getz, Pam Le Pan, Meryl de Wet, Maureen Johnston, Johan Kruger.

Adoption of the minutes:

Adoption of the minutes of the AGM held on Monday 10th December 2012 was proposed by Merle Mobsby and seconded by Peter Mundell.

Chairman's report:

The official chairman's report was e-mailed to all members prior to the meeting, and was taken as read.

The Chairman, Pieter Naude thanked everyone present for their continued support and encouragement throughout the year. He attributed the success of the year largely to an approach that has been adopted to co-operate and work with the municipality and thanked them for their assistance.

Pieter Naude then gave a presentation regarding the work that has been accomplished in 2013.

1. One of the areas that has been dealt with successfully has been the trained village monitors.
2. Tourism continues to be a priority, but has unfortunately not been given the attention it needs.
3. The Wilderness wall project was explained, where a partnership with Sanral was entered into whereby WRRRA has been able to raise funds for the Wilderness Improvement Program (WIP) by using the wall for advertising. "The wall" is considered an outdoor walk-through information area, an important part of which is the paving which was donated by Bertie Basson and others who gave money, labour and time in order to clean up and pave the area behind the building from The Girls to the side of the pharmacy.
4. The Dolphin Project was spearheaded by Trevor White. This entailed cleaning and levelling the parking area, putting down wood chips and creating a garden along the pavement area along Leila Lane. The community participated in this by donating their time and plants. The municipality also donated trees which were planted along the north and

- east boundaries of the parking area.
5. The tunnel next to the Caltex garage was painted by Frieda from Cocomo.
 6. The planters on the Island on the N2 were re-done thanks to Corrine Roff.
 7. A garden was created at the entrance to Constantia Kloof by the residents.
 8. These are just some of the projects completed by the WRRRA and residents.
 9. The parking issue in the village still needs to be looked at in the new year, as parking in the village is a problem. WRRRA are negotiating with Sanral to open more parking bays next to the Milkwood village.
 10. GIPTN – Pieter Naude explained the discussions that have taken place between WRRRA and the municipality and the reasons why a temporary terminus will be put across from the Karos hotel. A lot of consultation must take place and WRRRA have made public the community opinions on this. Phillip Parsons has been appointed as the representative for Wilderness to liaise with the consultants and municipality.

This is at the top of the list of projects that need to be dealt with in the new year.

1. The response to the Business Initiative has been very disappointing. It needs to be picked up in the new year and local business must get on board so that business and tourism in the area can benefit.
2. The questions that need to be asked of the WRRRA, is what is 2014 going to hold for us? Are we still relevant? Are there things that need to be changed? The committee will look at what the community expects of us and work toward those objectives.
3. There are other communities within the Wilderness area that also need our assistance. Problems within the Kleinkrantz and Wilderness Heights areas need to be addressed.

Pieter Naude closed his presentation by thanking everyone.

Don Cameron proposed an adoption of the Chairman's presentation and thanked Pieter for his hard work.

Matters Arising:

The speed limit on Waterside road – as there is no enforcement of the current 60km speed limit, it is not going to help reducing the speed limit to 40km. Other ways of forcing motorists to slow down need to be looked at.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report was sent with the Chairman's report to all members prior to the meeting.

R25 000 was received from the ward committee.

Annual WRRRA subscription fees will remain R100 for the coming year.

Election of the Executive Committee:

Pearce Johnston has tendered his resignation and will not stand for election for another year.

Hugh Pharoah, Trevor White and Neville Ewing remain on the committee for a second year.

Pieter Naude, Phillip Parsons, Paul Nicholas, Niel Viljoen and Vanessa Hau-Yoon retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

George Markgraaff was nominated and will join the committee in the new year.

Don Cameron proposed that all existing members be re-elected.

Neville Ewing asked that if anyone would like to join the committee in the portfolios of Town Planning or Services, to please contact Pieter Naude or Vanessa Hau-Yoon. Someone from Kleinkrantz will also be co-opted in the new year.

Neville also thanked John and Marie Callanan for their years of dedication in the Town Planning portfolio, and advised that John and Marie resigned from the committee during the year.

General:

1. John Callanan said that he is against using the area opposite the Karos hotel being used as a bus terminus for the GIPTN. He felt that member participation was not asked for before the joint statement was signed.

Graham Sell agreed with John and that the bus terminus is a big issue, and wanted to know if negotiations for the permanent location of the terminus has started yet.

Councillor Leon van Wyk responded by explaining the position of the municipality and national roads. George is under the spotlight because it has been given the money for this project which must get started. None of the 650 bus stops that are proposed are permanent at this time. They will be assessed once they are operational. Various issues will be looked at to decide if the bus stop is in the correct place.

Leon van Wyk and Harrold Basson both agree that the area opposite the Karos is not the best place for the bus stop, but the whole bus service is going to be a process in deciding what works and what does not work.

Neville Ewing said that the community needs assurance from the municipality that the alternative Sanparks site next to the N2 will be investigated urgently. The community are not happy with the situation and will not accept the bus stop opposite the Karos hotel.

Pieter Naude wanted to know why this bus stop is so important to the municipality and why it is necessary. This question has not been answered.

Graham Sell made a proposal that a meeting be held to determine when the issue will be resolved and what is needed. It will be necessary to consult with the municipality, the consultants and the public.

Brian Musto wanted Leon van Wyk to give assurance that this bus stop will be

temporary and will at no time become a permanent terminus. Leon van Wyk said that all bus stops are temporary and final sites will be decided on once the site has been assessed.

There was a show of hands of the majority of people present that do not want the terminus, even if it is temporary, to be at the Karos hotel.

Pieter Naude asked Leon van Wyk to facilitate the resolution of this situation and set up a meeting with the consultants and WRRRA.

1. Don Cameron suggested that Wilderness should have a separate section in the telephone directory and not fall under George, as this is confusing for visitors and people not familiar with the area.

He also suggested that the entire Ward 4 be under one committee and not separate committees as at present.

1. Hugo Leggett asked if the vegetation on the sides of Waterside Road could be cut back as this is causing a problem with the volume of vehicles using the road. Hugh Pharoah said that he recently had a meeting with Mark Green in this regard but nothing has been done about it as yet.

Hugo also asked about the street lights and the fittings being used, as they are not all the same.

1. Marg Raubenheimer asked what the legal requirements are regarding lighting of homes along the sea front, as some have spotlights onto the beach. WRRRA to investigate.
2. Louis Fourie said that Lake Road is also a problem with cars speeding and wants to know what can be done about it. Also, the railway station area is dirty and a mess. Transnet has been approached about cleaning this area but this is an ongoing problem.
3. Peter Mundell said that there is a huge amount of noise from trucks from the logging companies using the Hoekwil road and wanted to know if there is something that can be done about this as they use the road at all hours of the night.
4. John Callanan suggested that speed traps be put up on secondary roads as people are not obeying the 60km limit and do not stop at stop streets.
5. Jan Stouthammer felt that the recycling service is inconsistent and does not work properly.
6. In answer to the question on the progress with the Karos Hotel, Leon van Wyk said that the hotel is now closed for the 3rd year and the problems are not being resolved because the body corporate has not accepted offers that have been made to purchase the hotel.

Pieter Naude suggested that the decline and the financial problems being experienced by the hotels in Wilderness are a result of the decline of tourism in Wilderness.

The General Manager of The Views hotel, told of various problems being

experienced by Wilderness because of the lack of support from George tourism who treat Wilderness as the poor cousins and do nothing to promote Wilderness. He also said that local business must get behind the Business Initiative.

Close:

The chairman closed the meeting at 19h40 and thanked everyone for attending.