

MINUTES of the Wilderness Ratepayers and Residents Association's Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 15 February 2017 at the Wilderness Resort Hotel and Spa at 18:00.

Please note these minutes have been approved by the committee but require adoption at the AGM to be held in 2018.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The chairman welcomed all present and noted the following apologies: Merle Mobsby, Ulrike Nielsen, Yvonne Barnard, Phillip Kuypers, Susan and Kemsley Hall, Erna van Wijk, Margaret Roten, Peter Joubert, Ada den Hollander, Dirk Ackerman and Roxi Blum.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and matters arising therefrom.

These were unanimously approved.

3. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman, Neville Ewing, presented the following highlights of the past year. These are in addition to the items contained in the written report that was circulated with the Notice of Meeting.

Environmental – Chris Burlock.

There were two beach clean ups last year. One coincided with the World Beach Clean-up Day. A lot of rubbish was collected so it was very successful.

WESSA introduced beach stewards who distributed WRRRA pamphlets during the season.

Dogs on the beaches – This trial was introduced with the consent of the Gorge Municipality and SANParks as no-go dog areas have never been observed. The beaches up have demarcated into three “zones”. So far the trial is working fairly well because of the signage, but there are still some people who refuse to obey the signs and the by-laws. In the off-leash beach areas, the owners of the dogs must always be in control of their dog and pick up their dog pooh.

The residents of Wilderness are asked to assist with enforcing the by-laws. The municipality does not have enough staff to monitor the beaches at all times.

There are also new signs to ask people to pick up their dog pooh everywhere in Wilderness.

WRRRA sponsored recycling bins for batteries and globes have been located at the hardware.

WRRRA supported the SPCA Woofathon which was also a huge success.

WRRRA collects funds for PAWS to assist the less privileged with dipping, deworming and sterilizing their pets.

Services and WRRRA hosted talks – John Miller.

There have been four very successful talks hosted by WRRRA and organized by John Miller. John Millers portfolio is to deal with services such as water, sanitation, refuse and electricity issues. He has developed a very good relationship with the managers at the

municipality and this helps with resolving problems that arise from time to time.

Business/B&B signage & WIP – Cornell Barnardt.

WRRRA has standardized the B&B signage throughout Wilderness. During the year these have all been cleaned and fixed.

WRRRA has produced a “Welcome to Wilderness” pamphlet given to B&B’s to give to their guests asking people not to tip or give money to the vagrants, explaining the monitor program, beach safety etc.

A new wood bin behind the Blue Olive has been built with a wire mesh roof and lockable gate which has been very successful in storing rubbish bags for collection by the municipality.

Freida Rabie and her team from Cocomo has recently re-painted and decorated the tunnel at the Caltex garage. This is greatly appreciated.

Roads - Doug Wilcox

Doug is liaising with the roads upgrade contractors and placing relevant information on the web site.

Whites Rd has been a problem, especially speeding, but all the issues are being dealt with.

Good progress has been made with the upgrade of Heights Rd and WRRRA has received good feedback and response from residents.

Safety and Security - Ian van Rooyen.

The monitors are part of this portfolio. Over R 20 000 was raised for the December security project which, apart from one incident, was a very successful season.

The monitors are going to be getting new uniforms with clear WRRRA identification. The current more mature and reliable monitors have all been employed for more than a year.

Over the Christmas season WRRRA instituted fun No Parking 'tickets' for people who park on the pavements and in areas where no parking is permitted.

The community has had a big impact on the various projects WRRRA undertook. The fire along Lake Rd was an example of the community joining forces to assist when there is a crisis and raised over R25 000 for the affected families.

Pam Golding Properties very generously gave each monitor a hamper for Christmas which was greatly appreciated.

One of the growing concerns is the increasing crime situation in Wilderness. WRRRA works very well with SAPS and Wilderness Station Commander W/O Bennie Boshoff. WRRRA is now going to be in an official agreement with SAPS to represent Sector 5 at the George Community Police Forum.

SAPS and WRRRA are wanting to roll out CCTV cameras throughout Wilderness. Very advanced cameras and systems are necessary if the system is to be effective. The chairman appealed to everybody to

contribute and partner with WRRRA to install systems throughout Wilderness. SAPS has undertaken to monitor the cameras and to host the recording equipment.

Communication – Donald Goldfain.

WRRRA has developed an “Estate Agent Pack” that will be given to estate agents to give to all new residents in Wilderness.

Website – Doug Wilcox also looks after our website which has been upgraded and re-designed to be more user friendly. The website is very interesting and gives a lot of interesting and important information.

The newsletter has also been revamped and WRRRA has have received very positive feedback from members.

Margie Von Zeil thanked the committee for all the work being done.

4. Treasurer’s Report and adoption of the Audited Accounts.

Ratepayers’ subscriptions and Wilderness Improvement Program funds are recorded separately. The chairman went through the financials and explained all the income and expenses.

The Financial Statements were unanimously adopted.

5. Other business of which due notice has been given.

None Received

6. Amendments to the Constitution.

Hoekwil ratepayers may be amalgamating with WRRRA so the constitution will need to be amended so that they can be incorporated.

Touwsrante is not included in the proposed amalgamation at this stage.

All agreed with the amendment to incorporate Hoekwil ratepayers.

7. Ratification of Annual Subscription.

Agreed to remain at R160 for the year.

8. Election of Executive Committee.

The committee is made up of up to 12 people.

Retiring this year are: Neville Ewing, John Miller, Ronnie Board, Donald Goldfain and Ian van Rooyen.

Ronnie Board has stepped down from the committee but will stay on as auditor for WRRRA.

Also retiring because they were co-opted during the year and need to be re-elected: Cornell Barnardt, Deirdre Marcus and Doug Wilcox

Niel Viljoen and Vanessa Hau-Yoon will be stepping down after 5 years.

Staying on for the 2nd year of their 2-year cycle are Chris Burlock and George Markgraaff.

The following new committee members were nominated:

Jeremy Eccles who is a civil engineer

Ryan Kaye is an environmental analyst working at NMMU

The committee for the coming year will therefore be: Neville Ewing, John Miller, Ronnie Board, Donald Goldfain, Ian van Rooyen, Cornell Barnardt, Deirdre Marcus, Doug Wilcox, Chris Burlock, George Markgraaff, Jeremy Eccles and Ryan Kaye. Jackie Berry has agreed to act as Secretary for the new committee.

9. General.

The following items were raised from the floor:

Bushes that were cut down by Eden District Municipality along Kingfisher close need to be removed.

The internet service in Wilderness is very unstable. WRRRA will look into this.

Power lines that are above ground are unsightly and a hazard – John Miller will investigate to see if there are any policies regarding the power lines.

Green cables have been seen being laid along the N2 – these are new fiber optic cables being installed by Telkom.

The meeting was closed at 19:05

Signed

Chairman

Date.....