



Since 1975

DE WATERKANT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 821, GREEN POINT, 8051

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON MARCH 28, 2017 18h00,

VICTORIA JUNCTION HOTEL

Management Committee: Present

- Ian McMahon, chair@dwca.co.za
- Heather Parker
- Annelien Loots
- Gary de Klerk
- Deon de Wet
- Deon Redman
- Theo Nortje

Apologies

Francesco Uys Rootenberg
Garth Psaradelis

Official representation

- Dave Bryant, councilor
- Norbert Furnon-Roberts, Ward Committee Representative
- Marius Swanepoel, CID

DWCA members/members of the community

Elda Storck	Niels Colesky	Tobin Shackleford
Kris Rossouw	Anders Hoglund	Lars Hedberg
Edma Colliston	Allan Watt	Donald Cameron
Karen Muller	Enrico Tarantino	Lushtie (?) Burger
Mark Wuger	Mary Bailey	Seton Bailey
David Adams	Nelia Bekker (Revel Fox)	Kirsten O'Sullivan
Christian Bock	Gregoire Fontaine	

1. Welcome & thanks

The chair welcomed attendees.

2. Chairman's report

Following is an edited version of the report as delivered at the meeting.

As a committee, we have not always agreed on every issue, the method of achieving our goals and the way forward; but as a democratic body, we have always found the path of respectful growth, mutual understanding and agreement to these issues.

As a civic association we are tasked with determining the community view and response to many items, from building plans and renovation designs, to noise issues, parking constraints, events and 'Crime and Grime', as Marc likes to call it. Also on that list is the DWCA's comments on City legislative changes and policy amendments that are sent to us through Annalien.

I'll start out with the fiscal. We see stable numbers in terms of membership subscriptions.

At the beginning of this year, we invested our cash reserves in an interest-bearing account. This realised a R4 200 interest.

We spent some of our funds on a consultant, and have plans to bring on paid expertise in the future where ours is lacking, especially when it comes to issues such as building departures. Thanks, Theo.

The **Built Environment Sub-Committee** saw many challenges this year, with a few hotly contested developments and departures taking centre stage. These include 32 Napier and the mess that happened there with the collapse in lateral support; Cape Quarter 1 and the process of that application and departures and all the new deferments that are bound to affect us going forward; Strand Street build, The Coin Exchange signature development, and more.

The difficulty lies in the pressure on the City to create more affordable housing, and with their densification policy. How does that affect us, as investors, residents, tenants and business owners – and how do we juxtapose existing rights against new policy? As a committee we try to ensure that developments stay within their legal framework, and we contest departures that would negatively affect our area, using tools like the HPOZ as means to understand heritage versus growth. We try to keep abreast of things, but we know we are not experts on that field. That is why we made a decision to bring in experts as and when our lack of knowledge of the system, of policy or process heads us down a path of paralysis, not from lack of will, but from not understanding the ever-changing legal framework.

We have joined what is known as **The Cape Town Civics Conversation**. In 2016- 2017 the Development Action Group (DAG) hosted a series of Civic Conversations, with 34 organised civic associations from across Cape Town, ranging from Ottery to Sea Point, Mitchells Plain to Stellenbosch. The Civics Conversations emerged from a city-wide review of developments being contested by over 25 civic organisations. The

Civics Conversation addressed contested developments being approved by the City of Cape Town, including infrastructure upgrades and alterations, shopping malls, gated housing projects and new upmarket apartments. The objections (either in or out of court) are that these specific developments in some way or other undermine heritage (both cultural and of the built environment), are inconsiderate of people's views, and/or threaten the natural environment.

Some of the findings:

- City of Cape Town had not followed correct public participation procedures or had made it a tick-box exercise;
- New apartments were reinforcing an exclusionary property market for the superrich and ultra-wealthy;
- Critical biodiversity areas were being encroached upon by gated housing developments and shopping malls impacting on environmental sustainability, food security and water resources;
- Heritage value of an area was being undermined by new developments and refurbishments;
- Residents are unable to afford rentals and are evicted to the periphery of the city – far away from livelihood opportunities, entrenching apartheid spatial planning legacies;
- City policies such as Spatial Development Frameworks are not followed, with new developments deviating from the SDF;
- Developments are being approved without adequate infrastructure upgrades;
- New mega developments being approved, despite significant social and health impacts;
- Limited developments and investment in historically disadvantaged areas such as Cape Flats etc.
- The selling of state land to developers for private interests.

A serious concern shared by the civics was the limit to which they were able to influence the development outcomes, despite objections being raised in court or with municipal tribunal and through legislated public participation processes. They propose the following way forward:

- **Expand the network:** Next Civic Conversation to include a wider range of civic organisations from across Cape Town and surrounding municipalities.
- **Constitutional lawyer:** To source a constitutional lawyer who can review two aspects of the municipal planning tribunal: the constituting members of the tribunal; and the executive decision-making power of the Mayor.
- **Understanding legislation:** Support to local civic organisations to deepen their knowledge, skills and abilities to work with key government policies and legislation, including Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (2013), Heritage By-laws, Environmental Impact Process, Municipal Budgeting and Public Participation, and
- **Demonstrate solidarity** through joint action related to urban development matters:.

The next Civic Conversation is to be held next month, April 2017.

Thanks to Garth and Gary, and Deon. You have done much work with much more to do – thank you!

Events, Film and Noise Sub Committee Francesco (who sadly leaves us, as he moves to Amsterdam) and Deon Redman had their hands full once again, with ongoing discussions to limit the noise issues. The Deck Pool Venue, Arc Secret Summer Pop Up (Cape Quarter 1), Manhattans, Piano Bar and Sky Bar all had to be approached.

In addition to formal complaints the Noise Sub-committee also tracked informal complaints about noise that were raised on the DWCA WhatsApp Group.

We'll discuss this in more detail at our first public meeting, in May.

Parking saw much progress. The sub-committee of Deon, Garth and myself had five meetings with Transport for Cape Town, attended by traffic, developers, management and others. The result was the establishment of a committee to look at 1) dealing with the immediate issues of traffic flow relating to the closing of Napier street and the subsequent fallout of delivery trucks and other large vehicles in the village; and

2) A process to start a new TMP (transport management plan) which, once established, could result in flow and access upgrades to DW, additional signage and traffic lights, as well as a conclusion to the parking problem we are faced with.

The **closure of Napier** brought with it congestion. The committee hired Sarah Chow, an engineer for Traffic and Transportation at GIBB, to look at changes that could alleviate this. The fees were paid by Tower Property. Both DWCA and GPCID weighed in, and it has been signed off for completion starting soon!

The TMP process will take a little longer to deal with – it relates to paid and/or residents permit parking – and we will share more on that at future meetings.

I'd like to publicly thank Garth Elliot (Head: Transport Network Development: TDA Cape Town) and Deon Manual, and their staff from TCT; Arin Whare for CT Traffic department; and Marc and all the others on that committee for making this collaboration a first for Cape Town. It is the first time the public is working with the City to alleviate and fix transport issues.

Communication was a major drive this past year, and Heather has been instrumental in preparing DWCA newsletters and alerts for distribution both electronically and through postbox drops when appropriate.

Our various methods of communication include the Village's Facebook page and our Whatsapp group. We also embarked on a membership drive. Thanks for Heather and her team for all the communication and calling us to order!

Safety and Security has been a headache not only to us as residents, but also to CID. We have seen an increase in break-ins, muggings and theft recently, and because we have many building and renovation works underway, where many a finger of blame is pointed, the CID has been kept busy. We as a community need to step up in this regard and have been requested to alert the CID to ALL suspicious behaviour: call the Patrol Car on 0822 143 228.

Events. De Waterkant is a hub for film shoots, stadium concerts, and events such as the CT Carnival. Some of us welcome Carnival; others see it as a nuisance, and a violation of our right to peace. Whichever side of the fence one sits, our responsibility as a committee is to strive to ensure that the operational concerns are reported on, and those weak areas are better managed in future events. For instance, we thank the event company for putting up road blocks – but an unmanned roadblock does little to stop taxis and private cars from coming in and parking in our driveways.

Dr Smidt park. The fence was completed and although it is currently a grass-free bowl, when the drought lets up we can arrange some rehabilitation there.

We thank the City and our Councillor Dave Bryant as he manages a new ward with new challenges and new issues. There are times when we pulled our hair out at the City, their policies and their actions; and there are other times when living here makes us proud, when the city administration gets it right and when it runs smoothly. It is our responsibility as citizens to engage with our representatives, to assist with the administration, to do our bit and help make democracy work. Let's take to heart the City's tagline: "Making Progress Possible. Together".

Finally, in a year when the world appears to have gone mad, with Brexit, Trump, Zuma's finance ministerial shuffle, acts of terrorism, kicking and screaming in the Spur, we realise that beating negativity comes down to what we as human beings do – do for ourselves, for our communities, for those less fortunate and do with complete altruism. So, thank you DWCA members, for signing up and taking the time to attend our meetings; and a special thank you to the management committee for their many hours of work.

3. Financial report

Theo reported that membership sees 12 new sign-ups for the 2017-18 year.

Little has changed in the past year in terms of cash movement. Status to date:

R26 500 in current account.

R86 000 in 32-day call account.

TOTAL: R112 500

4. Dave Bryant

The points made in the chairman's report resonate, as these are issues for neighbourhoods throughout the city.

Dave urged DWCA residents to interact with the Foreshore Freeway project, currently on exhibition in the Civic Centre, as what happens there, ultimately, will affect us.

In his new Dave has 4 police stations and 7 different CIDs, but will do his best to be as available as possible.

5. CID on crime and grime

Marius Swanepoel for CID said the start of 2017 has been better than previous one. He reiterated that all victims of muggings should report these to the police, in order for the police to have a realistic intelligence of what's going down, and respond appropriately to hot spots.

There has been an uptick in house robberies in the City Bowl, and these have been accompanied by violence. He asked for increased vigilance, especially in the use of zoned burglar alarms.

He urged all to continue to use the vehicle number to report suspicious activities. This is what CID needs for proactive patrolling.

6. Other business

Ian asked for a show of hands with regard to overall opinion re Carnival being on Somerset Road. There was a large majority. Ian asked that all who have comments, suggestions or complaints to contact him in the next 48 hours before a meeting with the responsible authorities, so that he can carry through consolidated thinking from De Waterkant.

Ian invited those who are not on the WhatsApp group to join. Heather is the administrator: WhatsApp her on 082 492 7903. Ian also asked that residents of the area are proactive not only in reporting things to the group, but also to the correct authorities (e.g. potholes, rubbish bins left out, etc)

7. Election of the Management Committee

Francesco is no longer able to serve on the MC as he is now based in Netherlands.

All other existing MC members agreed to continue serving. The meeting voted them in unopposed, and as a group.

There are three new members to the MC, all of whom were also voted in unopposed as a group: David Adams, Enrico Tarantino, and Gerhard xxx

9. Next Meeting

The next public meeting will be on the first Tuesday of May, at 18h00. Please keep an eye out for venue details, which will be announced on the Village Facebook page, and on the WhatsApp group.

The meeting closed at 18h45.