



since 1975
DE WATERKANT CIVIC ASSOCIATION
PO Box 821 Green Point 8051

Minutes of DWCA Annual General Meeting
held at The Dining Room, 126 Waterkant Street, De Waterkant,
at 18h00, Tuesday 18th March 2014

Attendees:

Management Committee

Elda Storck, Chair
Theo Nortje, Treasurer
Francesco Uys Rootenberg, Secretary
Heather Parker, Secretary
Ian MacMahon
Gert Coetzee
Deon de Wet
Annalien Loots

Apologies

Norbert Furnon-Roberts
Neil Viljoen
Andrea Erwee
Karen Muller
Tobin Shackleford
John Gray
Bruce Speirs
Hermina Friess
Thomas Friess
Norbert Furnon Roberts.
Donald Paul
Christine Downton
James Hoskins
Stephen Wiper

Dave Bryant, Ward Councillor
Bernie Spiro

Proxies from:

Elma Hamman
Mischa Nagel
Richard Gush
Celeste Baggenstos

Amyr Abdullah
Niels Colesky
Robert Shackleford
Allan Watt
Roger Webb

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees and thanked Sarah of The Dining Room for accommodating the AGM of the DWCA meeting in their beautiful space.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the previous public meeting were passed. The chair noted that no feedback had been received.

3. Reading of Members List and allocation of voting ballots

The chair read the list of members and asked those present who were eligible to vote or who were representing others as proxies to make themselves known and to collect their voting ballots for the election of the 2014-2015 Management Committee and any other votes.

Chair furthermore requested that the AGM retrospectively approve the admission of two members who had submitted their membership requests late. The AGM gave its approval. TS requested that in light of the accorded grace another belated request for admission that had been sent to the Chair after the closing date for membership be accepted. The Chair and AGM gave their approval.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair noted that the DWCA's vigilance regarding issues such as the usage of the built environment and licencing have secured continued value of De Waterkant for its residents and businesses.

All of DWCA's efforts are an investment in the quality of the future. These efforts must continue to aim to maintain fine balance between interests of businesses and residents in order to keep the village alive.

The Chair noted that the small scale of De Waterkant makes it more suited to small businesses. The mediating role of DWCA therefore remains important in safeguarding identity of the village when faced with large-scale developers and entrepreneurs. The DWCA plays a role in easing the tension between the unique needs of a small heritage area (with few heritage actual properties) and the attraction it had to those who wished to exploit its charms for their personal or pecuniary benefit.

The Chair noted that it was the task of the DWCA to keep De Waterkant's unique character whilst not turning it into a museum.

There was a continuing need for the DWCA to continue to oppose developments or events that are inappropriate to the scale and infrastructure of the neighbourhood.

The Chair welcomed the candidacy of Andre Erwee to serve on the MC.

The Chair noted regarding the following challenges and opportunities for the DWCA in 2014:

- parking will be a key issue as ongoing COCT and local initiatives take shape
- means to improve local security need to be re-considered
- issue with feral dustbins add to a sense of decay and needs to be resolved
- monitoring of progress with De Smidt Street steps is required

Chair opined that mutual interdependency between COCT and the city's active citizens is recognised. DWCA fulfills a key and occasionally thankless role in helping to build a future for the neighbourhood and the greater community.

[N.B. Chair's Report is available in its entirety on the DWCA website]

5. Treasurer's Report

During the course of 2014-2014 the following income was received by the DWCA:

- R14,600 income from membership fees
- R15,000 income from donations relating to film shoots

Treasurer particularly thanked to TS for supporting continued membership of the properties under his care.

Expenditure in 2013 has principally been on venues for meetings, printing, website, membership of the Civic Alliance and PO Box rental.

The treasurer notified the AGM that:

- 2013 opened with a balance of R63K
- 2014 opened with a balance of R87K

Treasurer noted that improved balance was also partly due to discovery of R3K in a dormant account.

Treasurer and the Chair opined that a decision was needed regarding placement of these funds and suggested that two thirds of the balance be placed in a savings account in order to generate interest on these funds rather than simply expend money on bank costs.

The AGM voted to place R60K in a dedicated savings account, with no votes against the proposal.

[N.B. Treasurer's Report is available in its entirety on the DWCA website]

6. Presentation on Solid Waste in De Waterkant

GC presented an overview of treatment and issues with Solid Waste in De Waterkant.

a.) Recycling

Urged members to make an effort to join Waste Plan recycling scheme. GC noted that the scheme involved no cost to the participating members and had reduced "normal" waste in his household by two thirds.

TS recommended that Waste Plan make an effort to pick up recycled rubbish on same day as normal rubbish. DWCA to liaise with Waste Plan to review feasibility.

b) Feral waste

GC noted that rubbish bins left in the street outside correct collecting times attracts scavenging and led to litter being scattered around De Waterkant.

GC has contacted the council and asked for follow-up, which led the council to send a reminder to residents and local police to take action against offenders.

This has resulted in a reduction of feral waste from 9 bins two months ago to 2 bins over the last fortnight

c) Litter along Strand Street

Phenomenon of vagrants camping out between Piazza and Upper Strand Street has led to severe littering along Strand Street. Green Point Ratepayers has taken various initiatives to clean up the area, but litter continues to be deposited.

GC opined that a widely-based Signal Hill–Upper Strand Street–Quarry pressure group is required in order to secure proper attention for this vulnerable area.

GC recommends that residents use the Service Request form on COCT website as an effective way of ensuring that there is council follow-up on issues such as litter and any other concerns relating to public space.

Chair noted that Service Request did not allow complainant to place requests regarding public spaces without formal addresses. GC recommended that a nearby address be used / pinpointed and that further details be provided in the comments section of the request form.

NFR recommended that residents use Erf 367 as an identification for the area of Signal Hill adjoining Upper Strand Street.

7. Open Floor Discussions

a) NFR submitted a request on behalf of Councillor Taki Amira: thus far only 5 requests for extension of liquor trading hours in De Waterkant have been received. Request that businesses who wish to trade in liquor beyond 2AM take the necessary steps to formalise this or the city will be obliged to take measures against them.

b) Request for some feedback from DWCA on Miao, the new establishment to operate in the former venue of It's A House. IMM explained history of DWCA's opposition to the application for a liquor licence by It's A House and their subsequent closure. HP gave details of the conditions set by the DWCA in their response to the application for a liquor licence, most importantly that patrons on the street be closely managed and that any music or shows organised by the new establishment end before 22h30. NFR furthermore noted that application had been discussed in Sub-Council and that the result of the discussion will be made available via the minutes of the Sub-Council once these are published.

c) Update on noise was provided by IMM. He noted that It's a House chose to close its doors, which was probably partly in response to the DWCA's vehement opposition to its application for a Liquor Licence. The Piano Bar was second in terms of noise complaints but IMM noted that as of today the establishment is under new ownership; this will require a new engagement with the Piano Bar's new ownership in order to ensure that noise pollution issues are well-managed.

d) TS requested that DWCA members who are affected by requests regarding planning permission should be pre-alerted by DWCA of any incoming requests. TS furthermore urged that DWCA decisions should not be made in a meeting following the presentation of an architect, but that the DWCA should first await an opportunity to receive feedback from affected members before positing its response. The Chair noted that some planning decisions are not controversial and therefore easy to make but acknowledged that contentious decisions or controversial projects have been deferred to allow subsequent discussion. The Chair and GC noted that the DWCA cannot take over the city's tasks and roles in terms of alerting neighbours to such matters; due process must be followed and the city is fully

responsible for ensuring that proper consultation takes place and that all stakeholders are properly informed. The Chair acknowledged nonetheless that on certain issues, such as incorrect house numbering in the relevant municipal department, the DWCA had the obligation to take action to ensure that the proper procedures can be followed. The Chair noted that the new Built Environment Committee would have to decide on how to handle the AGM's request for a more pre-emptive manner of dealing with planning permissions.

e) Regarding fire regulations NFR noted that Evacuation Plan requirements have not been fully implemented (as per January minutes), and requested business volunteers in De Waterkant to kick off preparations to ensure compliance.

f) JG recommended that DWCA considers building a holistic Master Plan for De Waterkant in order constructively, creatively and pro-actively pre-empt any negative developments by COCT and developers in which residents and local businesses will do not have sufficient levels of input. DDW noted that committee was looking at a holistic plan for De Waterkant and had invited members and residents to provide input in an earlier public meeting.

g) JG recommended that public waste-bins be adapted to allow for a more intelligent recycling of rubbish. DDW noted that discussions were ongoing with Council on improved management of rubbish.

h) JG noted that he was unable to gain access to his home in Highfield Road due to Carnival festivities. He objected strenuously to city's management of the event and other such events along the Fan Walk. NFR noted that lack of access for residents was unacceptable and should be raised with relevant city officials, viz. Brett Herron and Grant Pascoe. IMM noted that DWCA had met with organisers who had committed to guarantee access to residents and inform residents of restrictions by a pamphlet drop. IMM noted that the agreements made with the DWCA were improperly executed and that DWCA should highlight these failures to relevant officials.

i) AL and JG noted that Fan Mile is inappropriately placed in a residential area which is also a major arterial boulevard. Both deemed the use of the Fan Mile for events such as Carnival highly inappropriate and detrimental to residents and businesses. HP noted that stadium is an asset for the neighbourhood which has led to an upgrade of the area. She highlighted the need to fine-tune the use of the Fan Mile in close co-operation with the city in order to allow this asset to generate positive returns for the area whilst also minimising the negative impact on the lives of residents and the commerce of local businesses.

f) FUR briefed the AGM on feedback on the development at 21 Loader Street on behalf of Donald Cameron. He noted that at a site meeting on 20th February 2014 with Jan Cornelius of Heritage and the Architect it was agreed that the plans presented to the February meeting of DWCA do not comply with Heritage guidelines and that the architect therefore undertook to prepare new plans.

9. Voting on New Constitution

Chair noted that proposal for revisions to the DWCA constitution to ensure proper representation of residents and businesses in Management Committee was drafted in Sept 2012 and a pilot year run was approved in the AGM of 2013. The key changes to the previous constitution are:

- 1) Ratio of representativity between business and residents interests in the DWCA MC's should roughly reflect current ratio between both within the area.

- 2) MC members that have not attended more than 5 of 10 MC meetings will not be eligible for re-election.
- 3) Voting rights will be opened to members in good standing rather than to erfs, and the number of proxies limited to 5 members per member.

The proposed changes to the DWCA's constitution were unanimously passed by all those present in the AGM.

10. Election of New Management Committee

Chair proposed a vote on election of new MC by show of hands rather than secret ballot. NFR requested a secret ballot. Chair noted that since there were less nominated candidates than openings on the MC, a secret ballot would merely serve as a popularity poll.

In the following elective process, with one vote withheld, it was otherwise unanimously decided to vote for all the nominees *en bloc*.

The nominated members were then duly voted in, unanimously bar one withheld vote, as the new Management Committee for 2014.

The meeting closed at 19h34

The next meeting will be a public meeting to be held at a date and a venue to be announced.