



Minutes of De Waterkant Civic Association Public Meeting
held at Victoria Junction Hotel, Somerset Road, De Waterkant,
at 18h00 on 2nd December 2014

Attendees:

Management Committee

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

Apologies

Members:

Marius Swanepoel, CID
Tobin Shackleford
Karen Muller
Norbert Furnon-Roberts
Morten Gade
Thomas Frierr
Pieter Hartler
Gregoire Fontaine

Demetri Qually, Alderman

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees and thanked Victoria Junction Hotel for accommodating the DWCA and its members.

2. Approval of minutes

The Chair noted that no comments had been received regarding the October minutes posted on the website. The minutes are duly considered to have been approved.

3. City Council Update

Alderman Demetri Qually presented his apologies for being unable to attend due to illness.

4. Crime and grime update by CID

MS of CID noted that there is a gang of robbers operating on Cobern, Liddle and Napier as well as repeated crime incidents around Chiappini.

MS however noted that crime has gone down in last week.

4 extra security agents have been deployed during high season in order to deal with expected increase in criminal incidents.

In response to questions from attendees MS confirmed that the CID hoped to be able to maintain extra security around the new developments in lower De Waterkant, but was also counting on improved security thanks to the dedicated security services for these complexes.

5. City Notices

DWCA will support petition against approval of amended application for an office block to be built on block of 18th century Melck warehouse.

DWCA will also distribute petition to DWCA database for their consideration.

6. Built Environment

a.) ES noted that DWCA continued to pursue the matter of illegal constructions in village: wendy houses, bedouin tents (including 2 Loader) and pizza chimney.

ES to meet with Head of Environmental & Heritage Management on 3rd Dec, provide tour of neighbourhood and agree on appropriate measures and escalation procedures.

b.) Wall was improperly removed at 17 Loader due to damp problem. DWCA highlighted concern to owners but noted that the commitment to re-build the wall has not been kept.

KM noted that intervention by owners reflected those previously made by other neighbours.

DWCA will ensure that there is appropriate follow-up.

Issue will be raised in meeting with Head of Environmental & Heritage Management.

c.) Bedouin tent in Sky Bar has been removed but was replaced by an illegal wooden structure. Issue will be included in meeting with Head of Environmental & Heritage Management for follow-up.

d) Corrugated iron roof has been added to a balcony in Cape Quarter facing the Sky Bar. Will be discussion point with Head of Environmental & Heritage Management.

7. De Smidt Street Steps

Tender has been allocated to new contractor, and activity on steps has re-started in past days.

DWCA will continue to follow progress intently.

8. Management of DWCA website and archives

Due to departure of Gert Coetzee from MC, new solution is required for management of paper archives and DWCA website.

IMM appealed to members to volunteer space for storage of the paper archives.

9. Tree felled at Bell Bank Terrace

As has previously been noted in previous meetings, a very old and large fig tree on the embankment has been destroyed by the owner of neighbouring / bordering property.

DWCA noted that regardless of niceties regarding ownership that were raised by the offender it is not permitted to fell trees without a permit in Urban Conservation Area.

DWCA has alerted relevant City officials who have commenced an investigation and committed to take the necessary punitive measures if required.

DWCA is following up on the status of the investigation with the relevant official.

10. Noise, Events and Film

a) Noise complaint received regarding party at 13A Loader. DWCA noted that this was a repeat offence. Intervention would be requested from officials if trend continued.

b) FUR provided update on mediation between neighbours and Cafe Manhattan.

DWCA MC has agreed that principle of reasonableness should guide DWCA's stance in the issue.

The MC noted that complaints generally appear to be related to noise resulting from normal operations and human chatter and laughter.

IMM raised example of complaints to city from harbour residents regarding noise from I&J factory in working harbour – complaints were not deemed to be valid by city officials on principle of reasonableness.

DWCA MC is of the opinion that Manhattan has for the moment taken sufficient measures to try to reasonably manage noise issues. DWCA noted that the nature of Manhattan's operations are well-known and would reasonably include an awareness of a possible noise impact.

DWCA acknowledged right of neighbours to undertake personal measures if they wish to do so, when they believed such noise contravened by-laws.

DWCA expects all DW establishments to ensure that management of noise issues remains focused and effective, and will therefore review status of complaints regarding Café Manhattan when renewal of liquor licence comes up in early 2015.

c) TS raised concern regarding excessive noise from Miao on Jarvis Street. Noted that no formal complaints were submitted to DWCA, and that DWCA can only follow-up once it has been notified of concerns. Should issues be raised FUR will follow-up.

11. Seasonal Newsletter

Seasonal newsletter is being prepared by HP and will concentrate on noise issues in De Waterkant and will also request increased vigilance on antisocial behaviour with regard to parking and rubbish.

12. DWCA focus on rubbish and parking issues

MC noted that parking and trash issues have exacerbated in De Waterkant due to increasingly antisocial behaviour of some residents.

Penkin houses along Loader and corner of Waterkant and Dixon are particular concern areas for rogue rubbish.

Parking is a continuous issue in the neighbourhood. FUR noted almost continuous offenses on red and yellow lines next to 1 Loader that seriously obstructed traffic flow into De Waterkant.

DWCA has prepared appeal letters for improved co-operation from offenders, which can also be made available to members upon request.

13. Film shoots

One film shoot has already taken place in late November in line with DWCA guidelines.

New filmshoot planned all-day on Waterkant / Dixon for 5 Dec involving 4 crew, 20 cars, 3 trucks.

DWCA has opposed such an intensive use of vehicles.

DWCA will continue to appeal to film companies to make donations to DWCA neighbourhood improvement initiatives for film shots in light of the disruption to residents and business.

14. Any Other Business

a.) Query from TS regarding Cape Quarter advertisements on metal frames on lampposts. Posters do not have permits indicating city approval. Request to follow-up with COCT.

b.) TS noted that COCT was effectuating changes to road signs in DW.

c.) TN noted that the placement of bins by Hothouse was obstructing flow of pedestrians and traffic. Follow-up required.

d.) IMM asked MS of CID to request that Traffic Department circulate in all streets in DW and do so more frequently. Current focus on offenders around Yoga Life needs to be extended to other areas, specifically in Upper De Waterkant.

e.) IMM noted that illegal structures had been raised by vagrants on DW side of Upper Strand Street – requested follow-up by CID.

f.) KM noted that COCT trimmed plane trees in Loader Street on an annual basis but that this had not been done. MS asked KM to alert CID to request for follow-up. ES noted that trimming could not take place during Summer months.

g.) Attendees noted that potholes on Loader Street are worsening – IMM to follow up with CID and COCT on how to resolve.

h.) TS noted various incidents regarding crime – theft on Highfield Street on Jarvis, car break-in on Napier

15. Next DWCA Meeting

IMM notified attendees that the next public meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd February.

Meeting closed at 18h42.