

# **NORWOOD ORCHARDS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**18:00 on 19 March 2019**

**Present:** Per Annexure A

A quorum being present, the meeting started at 18h10.

Lifeline were thanked for use of the facility to hold the AGM, and Richard and Isabella Holden were thanked for hosting the meeting.

### **1 – Presentation of the Chairman’s Report**

BM reminded those present that the Chairman’s Report is available on the website. BM gave a synopsis of the contents and explained the objectives, structure, funding of NORA. He described the following areas of activity:

- Awareness of Town planning affecting our area, with special reference to Heritage, public spaces, maintenance of high foot traffic areas
- To represent the area in communications with city council
- To work with area councillors
- Outside of our mandate were issues of individual service delivery, law enforcement (although we do work with CAP in a limited way), and logging of calls

Past successes were noted, including achieving reduced densities in Paterson Park project, restoring the servitude alongside the Norwood Mall, restoring Norwood Park.

This year’s successes were noted, as per the AGM presentation.

At this point BM asked B Lombard to present the financial statements to the meeting. BL summarized the financial results for the year which reflected a surplus of R32 607, the main contributors being Love Norwood Day and subscriptions and

donations, although subs were only being paid by less than 5% of residents. Expenses include a gardener at Norwood Park 3 times a week and a cleaner for Grant Avenue / The Avenue 2 days a week.

BM resumed his report, summarizing current issues, in particular the Nodal Review, New Town Planning Scheme and Inclusionary Housing Policy, and their impact on the neighbourhood.

BM emphasized the need for residents to be active and move for changes that improve the neighbourhood. In this context he urged residents to pay their subs!

## **2 - Councillors' Reports**

EH spoke first. She complimented NORA on its positive activities and interaction with councillors. She spoke of the problems inherited from the previous council e.g. the houses purchased in Orange Grove as part of the BRT down Louis Botha Ave. These had been hijacked as no provision had been made for security or maintenance, and it was proving difficult to evict them. Have at last succeeded in getting a court order to vacate.

Paterson Park Recreation centre had been badly mismanaged. EH very aware of loss to community of facilities. An action committee was being formed to remedy including lawyers, technically competent people etc. and she wanted BM to join.

EH had met the Houghton Residents Association to explain the Nodal Review. She was willing to do the same for NORA.

She complimented BM on his initiative in conducting the extremely informative walks through the neighbourhood.

She accepted BM's and other members' criticism of the DA's management of the city, but reminded the meeting that they were a minority party trying to deal with a messy inheritance from the ANC, and having to work with a difficult partner in the EFF.

DF then spoke, adding his compliments to the work of NORA. He stressed the need for active citizenship.

With respect to the Nodal Review, the Melrose RA had held a meeting to outline their objections. JUST had been formed to pursue, in court, residents' legitimate objections to elements of the Nodal Review, the Town Planning proclamation of February 2019, and the inclusive housing policy.

DF acknowledged the DA's service delivery shortcomings, but quoted the 10 years it had taken the DA in Cape Town to put right the inheritance from the ANC.

With respect to the Orchards Clinic, DF said the original structural faults had been rectified and believed that construction will restart in the next week or so.

### **3 - General**

At this point BM opened the meeting to the floor.

- A resident of Garden Rd spoke of public drunkenness and other illegal activities on the corner of Louis Botha & Garden Rd. Complaints to JMPD had not helped. DF was aware of the problem and was trying to get the shebeen shut down.
- Concern was expressed at the damage done to the pavement at Orchards Clinic (and a related sewage problem?). DF stressed importance of finishing the job, which would improve pedestrian walkways etc. BM asked for email address and would take the matter further
- R Holden said the BRT, planned to take 6 months, had already taken 2 years and was far from complete. Pedestrian security was non-existent. He questioned the need for the retaining wall at Houghton and believed the project was not adhering to Health & Safety regulations. DF pointed out the requirement to use SMMEs and local labour plus poor project supervision had led to shoddy work. EH and DF would raise concerns to Council
- Another complaint was raised regarding drunkenness and lewd behavior in the William Rd parking lot
- BM said this was a general problem and stressed the need for access to a competent, concerned JMPD official to deal with these concerns. BM suggested a meeting with Garden Rd residents and JMPD. EH said she would coordinate.
- BL had liaised with Pizza Hut, Nandos and Woolworths about William Rd parking lot. Shop managers are engaging with landlords. Need a permanent security guard to control the parking lot and cleaners to maintain it.

#### **4 - Election of Committee**

BM then proceeded to the election of a committee for the new year.

Nominations had been received for B McDougall, B Lombard, N Hocter, M Behr and B Janse van Rensburg. All accepted their nominations, and were elected unanimously. BM asked for any other nominations from the floor but none were forthcoming.

#### **5 - Other business**

BM was meeting the residents of Oaklands on March 20<sup>th</sup>. They had expressed a wish to merge with NORA. He would report back to NORA committee and if so recommended, a Special General Meeting of NORA would need to be convened to explain the rationale and conditions that would need to be fulfilled for a merger to take place.

**The meeting then ended at 19:30**

**Approved by the Chair:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B McDougall', is written over a horizontal line.

**31 March 2019**

**Annexure A - attendees, per attendance register:**

Committee members – B McDougall (Chair), B Lombard, N Hocter, M Behr

Councillors – E Huggett, D Fisher

Ruth Nowosenetz

Steve Jaspan

Louise Marx

Delicia Moraleda

Antonella Dixon

Richard Holden

Rosalie Jacobson

Wendy & Les Davis

Nadia Loewka

Waldo & Marita Alexander

Elain Steinberg

Brent Cloete

Genna Robb

Geoff Horwitz

Kevin Friedman

Barbara Schultze

Eda Meltzer

Shelley Gittleson

Bradley Janse van Rensburg

Taryn Rose