

**MINUTES OF THE FERNWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2002 AT 18.30 AT THE FERNWOOD PARLIAMENTARY SPORTSGROUNDS, RHODES AVENUE, FERNWOOD**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Mr Tony Bell, the Chairman of the Fernwood Residents' Association (FRA) extended a warm welcome to those present. He remarked on the good turnout of residents at the meeting.

He then introduced the FRA committee members, and noted each member's portfolio. He thanked the committee for their enduring commitment and voluntary service to FRA.

An attendance register was taken, reflecting the names of those residents attending. Several apologies were noted, including that of Mr Chris Wolf, a committee member.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The proposed agenda, issued to the residents in the Fernwood Newsletter of September 2002 and on entrance of the meeting, was adopted.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2001**

The minutes of the FRA Annual General Meeting held on 27 August 2001, which had been ratified by the FRA, were taken as read and accepted.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman stated that the committee members had continued to serve diligently in their various portfolios over the past year and some progress has been made in respect to several issues, which will be reported on at the meeting. The Chairman highlighted the following issues, which were elaborated on during the meeting:

- The committee operated within the confines of the mandate predetermined by the residents
- Membership stood at 264 the last financial year (up to 30 June 2001) out of a possible 620 members and there would be a concerted effort to persuade more residents to take up membership
- Progress in the development proposal related to the Fernwood Parliamentary Sportsgrounds
- Tackling the problem on crime
- The Protea Village Claim
- Increased traffic congestion in Fernwood
- Ongoing building and sub-division pressures and illegal building structures
- Helicopter noise
- Rates policy
- Restoration of the Boshof Gates
- Security

## **5. REPORTS BY FRA MANCOM MEMBERS**

### **5.1 LAND USE: The Chairman: Tony Bell**

Mr Bell advised that FRA continued to be cautious of developers wanting to over-develop the suburb, thus steadily encroaching on its inherently tranquil and vegetated character. FRA also continued making representation with thoroughness at City Council level.

The Chairman proceeded to explain the process that has to be followed in an application for development or sub-division. This information was also posted on the FRA website. In essence, affected parties were brought into the loop, thus affording them the opportunity to raise any objections. FRA endeavored to achieve settlement between disputing parties, within the scope of FRA's mandate and legal requirements.

### **5.2 FERNWOOD PARLIAMENTARY SPORTSGROUNDS: Mr John Burdes**

Mr Burdes stated that he would not be able to add much more than that already advised to residents in the September 2002 newsletter. The process was somewhat laborious and it appeared that development of the Fernwood Parliamentary Sportgrounds, would only commence in 2004. Currently, comment from the Department of Environment Culture and Sport on the Scoping Report, was awaited, after which we would move into the full blown Environmental Impact Assessment. As the EIA phase is substantially informed by the content and scope of the Scoping Report it was very important to ensure that all areas had been fully covered. Mr Burdes gave the assurance that, especially the subcommittee on this portfolio, would continue to monitor the proposals. FRA believes that the final scoping report will more fully reflect the views of the committee and community and that the developer will be required to comply not only with the development agreement but all statutory provisions as well

The Chairman added that there had been a tremendous response from the Fernwood community, expressing their interest, during the public participation process held during April and July 2002. Approximately 240 residents attended the various briefings by the developers.

### **5.3 PROTEA VILLAGE CLAIM: The Chairman: Mr Tony Bell**

The Chairman reported that a great deal of community interest had also been shown in the possible development of Erf 242, below the Stone Cottages by the persons who had resided there about 40 years ago. Many of them were and are still connected to the Church of the Good Shepherd across the way. Although they have lodged a community land claim in terms of the Lands Act, the matter was a long way from any development prospects, as so much has to occur prior to any finality being reached in this respect. A meeting with the representative and interested bodies was yet to be arranged. Further, the usual traffic, environmental and historical impact studies have to be initiated.

FRA would be involved as an interested party to any development proposals.

The Chairman stated that he would keep the residents updated on this matter.

#### **5.4 SECURITY: The Chairman: Mr Tony Bell**

The Chairman stated that unfortunately there has been a noticeable build up in criminal activity in Fernwood over the last year, which was concerning. Some instances were particularly severe. He showed the residents by means of a map where (reported) criminal activity had occurred.

FRA's working group on security has entered into negotiations with ADT in order to find a solution to securing the suburb effectively at a reasonable cost. The Chairman stated that the time had come to pro-actively obtain the services of a security company and he subsequently had discussions with ADT Security to look at the various options for Fernwood.

These were:

- Bicycle patrol – this option would be the least expensive but would however not be effective in upper Fernwood given the very steep hills;
- Scooter patrol- although more effective, the costs were about the same as a motorised patrol;
- Motor car patrol- this appeared to be the best solution for Fernwood, provided at least 400 residents participated in this scheme; costs would of course be driven down by the number of residents opting for this type of security.

The Chairman stated that there had been an overwhelming response from the residents to opt for the formal attainment of security, after the distribution of the September 2002 newsletter, which set out all the details of the proposal.

In about four to six weeks' time, FRA, with the assistance of volunteers, would be visiting all the residents in order to discuss participating in the motorised patrol. To make the patrol viable the support of at least 400 households, out of a total of 620, would be needed. By show of hands at the meeting, the indication was that almost all those who attended the AGM wished to participate in a motor car patrol.

The Chairman stated that he would endeavour to attain the security services at the best possible price. Persons who were already participants in other security schemes, such as Chubb, were assured that ADT would link their systems to the main control centre of ADT.

An ADT Operations Manager, Mr Rheas Munga then briefed the residents further on the options available at ADT. He advised that current ADT subscribers would enjoy a reduction in fees if residents as a whole subscribed. It was also noted that those areas with a patrol system showed a remarkable reduction in crime.

FRA and ADT would meet shortly in order to formulate the most effective patrolling system for Fernwood.

#### **5.4 TRAFFIC MATTERS- THE CHAIRMAN, MR TONY BELL, REPORTING FOR MR CHRIS WOLF**

The Chairman reported that the developers of the Fernwood Parliamentary Sportsgrounds would also be required to assess the impact of the development on traffic as it pertained to the whole of Fernwood. In the meantime, FRA was well aware of the continued illegal "rat-running" through the streets of Fernwood. The assistance of the Traffic Department was required to nail the perpetrators. They have been as responsive as their resources would allow. FRA has persisted with the Traffic Department on

various traffic issues, including the widening of Newlands Avenue/ M3 De Waal Drive and the assessment of the congestion, Rhodes Drive carried at times, due to the closure of Chapmans Peak.

#### **5.5 BOSHOF GATES-THE CHAIRMAN, MR TONY BELL REPORTING FOR MR CHRIS WOLF**

The Chairman stated that he had great pleasure to report that the Boshof Gates had at last been restored to the extent that funding allowed. He stated that R 50 000 had come from Councilor Iverson's budget and he thanked the Councilor and also acknowledged his presence at the meeting, with gratitude.

A further R 25 000 was expected from the Roland Hill Trust, administered by Syfrets. The work on the Gates would be ongoing.

#### **5.6 AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL- PROF JONNY MYERS**

Prof Myers stated that air traffic had considerably diminished over the past year as a result of the combined efforts of the residents' associations, Civil Aviation Association, related forums, petitioners and the initiators of the Cape Town Helicopter Pilots' Noise Abatement Charter. The gist of the charter was that flights over Table Mountain and other restricted areas, particularly nature reserves, would cease and that a route to the Waterfront would be via Constantia Nek, towards the N1.

Light aircrafts have certain mandatory flight routes, for purposes of safety. There was not much that could be done to prohibit them from flying in the restricted areas, but they elicited much less disturbance than helicopters.

Prof Myers stated that the various lobby groups were persisting in their efforts to monitor noise pollution over the restricted areas and would continue to pursue the regulation of flights over the protected areas notwithstanding the general lack of resources to monitor compliance.

#### **5.7 FINANCE: THE TREASURER: MR LAURENCE GAWRONSKY**

Mr Gawronsky thanked the residents for the diligent attendance and the signing up of membership for 2003. This ensured credibility with the City Council.

Mr Gawronsky advised that FRA was of sound financial standing. He presented the Balance Sheet and the Income Statement for the period ended 30 June 2002.

It was noted that the largest expense was attributable to legal costs in the sum of R 9388. FRA required from time to time to engage the services of specialist legal council in order to represent the interest of the community in matters of importance. These matters include, inter alia, the Fernwood Sportsground Development, Helicopter Noise and disputes related to subdivisions and building irregularities. Whilst these expenses have been unusually high for the current year they have been necessary in light of the projects currently under way. MANCOM members offer their services on a voluntary basis and are not compensated in any way from the Associations resources.

Mt Gawronsky asked that members advise him of their email addresses if not done so already in order that communications be done more cost-effectively by using electronic means.

The Chairman added that members were encouraged to visit the website at [www.fernwood-residents.co.za](http://www.fernwood-residents.co.za) to view updated information on the committee's activities and portfolios.

The Chairman pointed out that FRA made use of legal counsel only if all other avenues and resources had been exhausted.

## **6. ELECTION OF MANCOM MEMBERS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR- THE CHAIRMAN, MR T BELL**

The Chairman thanked the committee members for their commitment, dedication and assistance during the past year. He especially thanked Mr Barry Lessing, who had tendered his resignation from the committee after suffering bad health, in his absence, for his hard work and tremendous input over several years. He wished him a speedy recovery. He asked Mrs Sybil Lessing, in attendance, to convey the committee's gratitude to Mr Lessing.

The Chairman stated that he would be willing to serve as Chairman for the forthcoming year again and if there were no other nominations, the following committee members would continue to serve on MANCOM:

- Mr Laurence Gawronsky- Treasurer and Membership
- Mr Oliver Purcell- Deputy Chairman and Land-use
- Mr John Burdes- Fernwood Parliamentary Sportsgrounds and Land-use
- Prof Jonny Myers- Air Traffic Control
- Mr Chris Wolf- Traffic and Boshof Gates
- Mrs Nuku van Coller-Scribe
- Mr Tony Bell- apart from being the Chairman, he would also oversee the Newsletter, Security and Land-use, as well as the Bisset Street Development

In view of no further nomination on the table, the above MANCOM members were appointed to serve for the forthcoming year again.

## **7. GENERAL- THE CHAIRMAN: MR TONY BELL**

### **7.1 KEYS TO NEWLANDS FOREST**

The Chairman stated that at a cost of R 10.00 the Fernwood residents could obtain keys to enter the forest. The entrance had been locked in order to keep out anyone who may have intentions to bring harm to the forest.

### **7.2 OPERATING OF BUSINESSES IN THE AREA**

The Chairman advised that in accordance with a municipal ordinance some businesses could be run from a house in the area, but the house had to be occupied as a home as well. Some types of businesses, which were not conducive to the inherent character of a residential area, were prohibited. If any member had a doubt as to what type of businesses were allowed, they could liaise with any MANCOM member in this respect.

**7.3 FRIENDS OF THE LIESBEECK: A RESIDENT**

A resident asked whether FRA was affiliated to the integrated city-zoning scheme, whereupon the Chairman responded positively.

**7.4 SHOW OF CONFIDENCE IN THE CHAIRMAN: PROF JONNY MYERS**

Prof Myers thanked the Chairman for the remarkable amount of competence, energy, skill and generosity of time that he had brought to the committee. He added that it was a pleasure for him and the committee to serve under Mr Bell and to work with him on the matters of concern to the residents of Fernwood.

**8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: THE CHAIRMAN: MR TONY BELL**

The Chairman thanked all those that attended the meeting and wished them well for the forthcoming year. The meeting closed at 20.00.

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