

MINUTES OF THE GRAHAMSTOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 6PM ON MONDAY 29 MARCH 2017 AT GRAHAMSTOWN CITY HALL

From 5.30pm as guests arrived the GRAEME COLLEGE marimba band played for us.

1. **WELCOME:** Philip Machanick welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **PRESENT:** As per attendance register.
3. **APOLOGIES:** Martin Scholtz, Jenna Holmes, Ted Botha, Olaf Weyl, Roger Embling, Eleanor Anderton, Ron Hall, Priscilla Hall, Malcolm Hacksley, Nikki Kohly, Nosipiwe Ngqwala, Roswitha Hobson, Angie Thompson and Julia Davey.
4. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** The previous minutes were accepted by the floor – proposed by Adrienne Whisson and seconded by June Venn.
5. **CHAIRPERSONS REPORT:** Attached
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Attached
7. **CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAHAMSTOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION:** Philip Machanick presented the proposed amendments to the GRA constitution.
 - 7.1 Addition to objects in the following terms: Represent the interests of all residents of Grahamstown, without prejudice to age, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, language or religion. (Pt 2.1)
 - 7.2 Alteration of membership renewals to run from date of joining or renewal instead of from AGM to AGM. There is also scope for the AGM amend the duration of membership per payment beyond 12 months. (Pt 4.4)
 - 7.3 Clarification of action that can be taken if a meeting is not quorate. There was a proposal from the floor to clarify a proposed amendment, made by Chris De Wet, to limit the power of a reduced quorum meeting so that it cannot alter the Constitution. The proposal was unanimously accepted, the exact wording to be formulated later. (See GRA constitution posted on GRA web site). (Pt 6.1 + 6.2)
 - 7.4 Change in the time limit following the end of the financial year when the AGM must be held, extended from one month to three months to allow time for accounts to be audited. (Pt 6.14)

The changes, subject to 7.3 above were adopted unanimously.

8. **Proposal to extend the period for current membership from 12 months.**

Tim Bull outlined three options:

1. Keep the duration of membership at a payment of R10 for 12 months

2. Roll over all members for 2016/17 for one year as a once-off extension
3. Extend the duration of membership on payment of R10 to 3 years

There was a range of discussion about the fee to be charged for an extended period of membership, and concern expressed at the loss of revenue that an extension for the same R10 would cause. The main rationale for the proposed changes is that the R10 fee is not a significant source of revenue and it is more important to maintain a rising number of current members.

After numerous points were discussed a vote was taken on proposal 3. Of the 47 people present 28 voted in support of the 3 year membership. 2 people voted against this proposal.

Proposal 3 was adopted.

9. Election of Committee

The new committee was nominated and, there being the exact number of nominations for vacant positions, the following were elected uncontested:

- Treasurer – Samantha Leighton
- Secretary – Tim Bull
- Remainder of the Committee (making up the maximum number of eleven):
 - Philip Machanick
 - Richard Alexander
 - Edward Gaybba
 - Steven Lang
 - Willem Coetzer
 - Ashia Nkontsa
 - Fleur Way-Jones
 - Sally Price-Smith
 - Mohammed Moorad

10. Guest Presentation

Nicci Hayes, Principal of Nombulelo High School and Warren Schmidt, Principal of Victoria Girls High School.

Nicci outlined the challenges faced by schools in Joza that aren't faced by better resourced schools, from basic equipment, transport to home circumstances including illness and even deaths in families. She expressed gratitude to the many sources of help which she and her school receive. Her commentary on the challenges that she and Nombulelo staff and the learners face veered from the highly pessimistic through to hopeful signs of improvement. Overall it was a highly insightful and interesting presentation.

Warren Schmidt began by saying that he wasn't clear what he should speak about and was happy to take questions. Amongst all the points he made were that; it was a pleasure to work collaboratively with Nicci as it is possible to have frank discussions and to tailor assistance

accordingly; and that for a civic organization like the GRA that schools represent a large section of the community and are a good place to start for community engagement.

11. Any other business

Hancu Louw (MobiSAM) gave a short address to encourage people to register with MobiSAM.

Tim Bull briefly introduced Bhopa Cleaning Services and explained that they are registering as a company in order to offer street cleaning services in Grahamstown.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.