

KALK BAY/ST JAMES RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2019/2020

As I greet you all during this unusual time which continues to have an extreme effect on the entire world's population, my best wishes goes out to you and all your loved ones, as we face an uncertain future during the Covid 19 Lockdown period.

It is as the result of regulated lockdown and social distancing, that your Committee has decided to postpone our 2019/2020 Annual General Meeting for an indefinite period, until such time that the new normal brings about the necessary changes.

In the interim, as an alternative to our normal AGM, a virtual meeting is proposed for your approval. We are distributing the various reports for you to peruse and comment on, so that we conform to the regulatory requirements of the Association's constitution. We trust that you will find favour with this arrangement. Once this process is complete it will be ratified at the next members' meeting.

Please note that in terms of the Constitution all committee members stand down at the conclusion of their annual term of office. Prospective new committee members are welcome and may forward their names to the Secretary.

The 2019/2020 Committee was Tony Trimmel (Chair), Barrie Gasson (Secretary) , Sullivan O'Carroll (Treasurer), Bert Stafford , Alain Russell, Mervyn Taub ,Ken McClarty , Shaun McDermott , Revel Donald

All members of the existing Committee are available for re-election.

Here are some of this year's highlights:

Danger Beach Park: In August 2019 a group of St. James residents formed a committee to drive the management and maintenance of the Park. The Committee comprises Jane Michaelis, Sue Flanagan, Judy Neil, Trish Ferguson, Joe Tyrrell, Graham Durrant, Sullivan O'Carroll, Shaun McDermott, and Barrie Gasson (Chair.)

The main objective was to restore safety and security of users by improving sight-lines that were obstructed by trees along the Park boundaries. Additional objectives included making it more accessible and user-friendly, making it water-wise, tapping local water resources, undertaking regular maintenance, and establishing funding mechanisms for carrying out necessary works. Funding arrangements have been set in place by Shaun McDermott and Sullivan O'Carroll and a Danger Beach Park bank account now exists.

Major cutting down, cutting back, and thinning out began in September under the supervision of professional landscape gardener Nina Innes. Private contractors did the work with funding from the SRA, RRA, Adventure Kalk Bay, and a number of private donors (Alti Steven, Angus McGee and Klaus Weichselbaumer.) A total of about R50, 000 was spent in this way. Council's Parks and Recreation Branch failed to meet their promise to participate in the work.

Since then weekly on-going maintenance has been done by gardeners Matthew and Eric provided by Trish Ferguson and Judy Neil. Angus McGee gifted a large variety of implements. The Department of Water Affairs and the City Council have been consulted regarding tapping the Capri stream and there are no administrative obstacles to doing this. Nina Innes has produced preliminary ideas for the future of the Park and these have been discussed among the Committee.

The way ahead: restoring the Park is 3 - 5 year project and it is intended that the local community shall have their say in what is to be done. Fund-raising will be required to achieve the various objectives as Council contributions will probably remain minimal. Next steps will be announced when some semblance of normality returns.

Heritage and Development: the sub-committee has dealt with some 25 applications, which is fewer than the 40 of the previous year. Four were for second dwellings and the remainder for alterations and additions among which four were for adding a storey on top of an existing ground floor. Changes affecting neighbours' views are an on-going concern and the sub-committee always urges owners and architects to be considerate and mitigate such impacts to the greatest extent possible.

Re-development of the former Atlantic Hotel ('Peppermint Palace') opposite Muizenberg Station: demolition has been approved and plans for a block of flats similar in height to the present building are going through Council's approval processes.

Farewell: Tony Kiley a professional architect has served on the H & D Sub Committee for many years. Tony is relocating to London to continue his practice. On 6 December 2019 a farewell dinner given by SRA, Ratepayers and Historical in the Olympia Bakery thanking Tony for his professional services to the community. Thanks were given to Kenneth for hosting a very successful evening.

Beaches: The action group around KB tidal pools has met and is still exploring issues around the Prasa lease with the Brass Bell.

The Kayak project is still on hold and a meeting will be held with IAAPs. The concept of a museum is to be investigated, possibly by an expert from Iziko.

Harbour: The proposed Dept. Public Works maintenance work program, which includes the installation of security gates at various points at the harbour; security cameras at strategic points overlooking the harbour area; and upgrading of electrical supply boxes, has been put on hold due to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Although commercial fishing sector is exempt from the current lockdown, the traditional handline fishing vessels is finding it extremely problematic to sell their daily catch due to the public's movement restrictions.

The lobster fleet currently operating out of Kalk Bay and Hout Bay is also finding it very challenging due to the restriction of live lobster being exported to the Far East due to Covid19. The lobster season has been extended to the end of September, in anticipation that the market will improve.

Infrastructure: Fibre optic cabling is still in abeyance although some residents are urging its roll-out to facilitate working from home in the present Covid-19 circumstances.

Business Association: There is much concern about business interruption or closure due to Covid-19. The effect on local businesses and the huge numbers of its staff contingent is a major source of concern as we head into the future. Some relief measures have been introduced to have restaurant's operate for take-away services.

Thanks: A huge shout out to Jaques Pretorius and the entire team of volunteers behind the CAN (Community Action Network) for implementing the local St James/Kalk Bay (SJKB-CAN) initiative. The broader Cape Town Together Community Action Network is an initiative that has been setup to help communities respond to Covid-19. The support from local residents and businesses has been overwhelming with donations to cater for the needs of the less privilege members of our community.

Thanks to all our Bay Watch Patrollers for the night patrols around the village streets in partnership with SAPS and the Lake Security personnel.

Thanks to Councilor Aimee Kuhl, Yvette Stephen (PA) and all officials at Sub Council19 for their support throughout the year.

Thanks to Colonel Naidoo, Captain Knapp and all personnel at Muizenberg SAPS for their dedication and support to the Kalk Bay/St James community.

A special thanks to our residents and ratepayers of St James and Kalk Bay for your continuous support and bringing your needs and concerns to the committee to resolve.

To all individuals and groups for taking care of our public greenspaces we are truly thankful for your contribution to the community.

Once again with the dedication and active voluntary participation from your committee members throughout the course of the year, the task of being of service to you is always an absolute pleasure.

The Way Forward: If we work and plan together, we can come out of the Covid-19 pandemic stronger and more prepared as a community, together with our public representatives.

STAY SAFE AND TAKE CARE!

Tony Trimmel

Chair:

Kalk Bay/St James Residents & Ratepayers Association