

Kalk Bay and St James SRA NPC

Minutes of Special General Meeting: 1 December 2014

at the Kalk Bay Community Centre

1. Welcome & Apologies

About 110 people attended the meeting. Jim Russell, Director of the Company, acted as Chairman and welcomed everyone including Cllr. Dave D'Alton and several Council officials.

Apologies were received from Geoff and Kate Davies, Glenda Nel, and David Rennie.

2. Quorum

There were 137 registered members of the Company of whom 67 were present, thus fulfilling the quorum requirement 28 registered members, being 20% of registered members. The meeting was therefore declared to be quorate.

3. Director's Report

The Chairman presented the report of the directors of the company, noting that the SRA had been operation for just 3.5 months. The report will be posted on the website on 2 December.

4. Approval of Budget 2015/2016

Karl Leinberger outlined the key elements of the proposed budget of R1,285,000 for 2015/2016, and noted that this has been available for inspection for the past month on the website. The budget is a 4.98% increase on the budget for 2014/2015. The budget will be spent carefully on five line items: Management, Safety/Security, Cleansing, Environmental upgrading, and Social Upliftment.

The focus will remain the core business (79.1%) and only 14.7% will be spent on management and overheads. The company does not intend to acquire any capital equipment or assets, hence the costs of depreciation and insurance would be avoided, further limiting overhead costs.

Karl also outlined the proposal under Operational Projects to investigate the installation of security cameras at positions advised by security consultants, and that renting such equipment was preferred rather than ownership, assuming rental costs provide a competitive total cost of ownership.

Proposed: Lewis Gerber, Seconded: Eric Stephens.

The budget was approved by the majority of those present, and no objections were raised.

Clarification was requested on whether or not the amount of R142,560 for salaries was in respect of one or more employees. It was explained that this amount related to the 2014/2015 budget, which had been reduced to R132,560 for 2015/2016 and related to the cost of employment of the Manager.

In answer to a further query, it was explained that the amount of R 864,000 is to cover the cost of public safety services, most of which is the contract cost of Mountain Men's services.

5. Approval of Implementation Plan 2015/2016

This has been available on the website for over a year. No changes have been made to the plan since it was first explained to the community in July 2013.

A statement from the floor was made to the effect that communication with the community once a month is too infrequent and that weekly reporting is required for the community to be kept properly informed. This should be possible via a bulk email. The Manager's contact phone number should also be made known publically. In other words 'communication' is the key.

The Chairman responded that the Board is committed to good communication and the aim is a weekly email.

The Plan was approved by the majority of those present, and no objections were raised.

6. Appointment of Auditors

Karl Leinberger explained that two proposals had been received for the position of auditors: one for R13,000 plus compiler charges of R5000 and the other from AMF and Associates for not more than R12,000. He also explained that a survey by the City Council indicated that the market audit fee for an SRA of our size is about R13,000.

The appointment of AMF and Associates is therefore recommended.

Proposed: Andy Page, Seconded: Rob Ferguson.

The appointment of AMF and Associates as the company's auditors was approved by the majority of those present, and no objections were raised.

7. Election of Directors

Judge Kate Savage took the Chair for this item. She clarified a number of points regarding eligibility to vote. Voting would be by a show of hands. Constitutionally, there must a minimum of 3 Directors and there are also exclusionary qualifications – e.g. no CoCT employee, no relative of another Director, no unrehabilitated insolvents etc. etc. as per the Companies Act.

Director nomination forms had been circulated. No written nominations had been received. It was indicated that all existing Directors had made themselves available for nomination. They were Eric Stephens, Jim Russell, Andy Paige, Tony Trimmel, Bert Stafford, Kenneth McClarty, and Karl Leinberger.

There were no other nominations. Nominations were invited from the floor.

A comment was raised from the floor that it was a pity that all the nominees are men and it would be nice to have some women as well. The Chairman responded that attempts had been made, unsuccessfully, to get some women to accept nomination.

It was proposed from the floor that the existing directors should be elected en bloc and have them co-opt women later.

At this point Jo-Anne McGilvray was nominated and agreed to stand. Proposed: Chris Giffard, Seconded: Vincent Daniels

These 8 persons were then elected by an overwhelming number to be the Company's Directors.

8. General

The Chairman and other members of the board then responded to the following statements and queries raised by those present at the meeting:

Statement: Eric Stephens moved that Jim Russell and Bert Stafford, in particular, be recognized for the tremendous amount of work and dedication they have put into getting the SRA going. This was supported with applause from those present.

Question: The SRA men are always seen walking along Main Road but not so much up the side roads. Those living up the slopes seem to be the target of crime?

Response: Perhaps foot patrols are not yet as effective as they should be and the intention is to expand the routes and coverage by the patrollers. The patrollers are being put on a tracking system (i.e. they are fitted with a chip that enables their movements to be monitored at the central control room) and it is intended that they should pass each home four times daily.

Question: Shouldn't some patrollers be incognito to improve their effectiveness?

Response: The SRA regulations do not permit this but Mountain Men do patrol incognito.

Question: Who cleans the side-streets? Requests to clean St. James Road have gone unanswered, although SRA emails have confirmed that cleansing has been done.

Response: This will be looked into.

Comment: All residents should take responsibility for keeping their immediate areas clean and not simply rely on others to do it. This statement was generally supported.

Statement: There seems to be no recycling underway and this should be encouraged.

Response: The Chairman said this would be investigated as a longer term project.

Statement: Not only dog poo but old fish are also a pollution problem.

Statement: Informal 'car guards' seem to be involved with crime and they are also encouraging illegal parking. Red lines are needed, particularly in the narrow side streets.

Response: This is recognized as a serious issue and SAPS and Mountain Men are looking at the matter. Also, previous parking surveys show that parking demand in Kalk Bay greatly exceeds supply and is now a major issue. Different modes of regulation are being considered, including pay-parking and areas restricted for residents only.

Statement: There is no security at the St James bathing boxes and drugs etc. are being traded. We are reactive to the litter / waste problem and should be proactive in making visitors aware of the problem they cause and the mess left behind.

Response: SRA patrols do go past the bathing boxes four times / day but Council has decreased their security. However, they are now looking at increasing it.

There will be greater success if every resident takes responsibility for notifying the SRA and Mountain Men of incidents. Every resident should have a number to contact on their cellphones.

Question: Are the patrollers properly selected and trained and how do they operate?

Response: They are selected and trained and on an on-going basis, continuously. They have limited powers within the law but they have radios and connections to a mobile unit for back-up.

Question: Monday rubbish collection leads to littering. Could there not be a greater Mountain Men presence at that time to reduce the mess and maybe the crime that could be spinning off?

Response: There is no quick answer but this possibility will be investigated.

Question: Why are there so few apprehensions if the patrols are so frequent? There needs to be a plan of action, especially on Mondays when the putting out of waste draws in a lot of waste-pickers.

Response: The points are noted and the matter will be taken up by the Directors. The Council has also been notified.

The Chairman explained that a schedule of directors' meetings will be published and members may attend for the first 30 minutes to table issues of importance.

The patrols failed in the beginning because of technical problems with the two systems being tried out. The third system is now in place and greater success is anticipated because there will be a monitoring device on each patroller and their routes will be watched from the central control room.

Statement: The Council's reduction of beach security is unacceptable and short-sighted.

Response: The St. James bathing box question is also about protecting the public who are using a public amenity, namely the pool, and so this is a much wider issue than just cost reduction. It appears that the Council is reviewing its decision to cut back on security at some locations. Residents should make a nuisance of themselves and send emails about such issues.

Question: Can the waste be collected much earlier in the morning on a Monday?

Response: This proposal is supported and will be pursued.

Question: Can people not be selective about what to put in the bins and rather recycle? This was generally supported.

Statement: Don't tell us that the Council is 'looking' at something. Tell them to 'do it.'

Statement: The scrap metal incentive is bringing in a lot of people lifting drain covers, copper pipe etc. They need to be run out of the area. This was generally supported.

Cllr. D'Alton's statement: He is concerned about the Council's short-sighted approach to financial saving by cutting back on essential services. And he is also concerned about the late collection of waste by the private contractor. He is bringing what pressure he can to have this corrected.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting ended at 21h35.