

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
PINELANDS RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, 23 OCTOBER 2023 HELD AT THE PINELANDS LIBRARY HALL AT 19H00.**

**EXCO PRESENT:**

- |                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Desray Britz     | Chair                              |
| 2. Marilyn McNamara | Vice-Chair & Parks and Open Spaces |
| 3. Emily Bolton     | Secretary                          |
| 4. Nasir Adam       | Treasurer                          |
| 5. Aslam Clarke     | Environment                        |
| 6. Justin White     | Water and Sanitation               |
| 7. Yazied Davids    | Media                              |
| 8. Jessica White    | Plans                              |
| 9. Kabelo Mashile   | Social Development                 |
| 10. Robby Robertson | Traffic and Roads                  |

Item	Portfolio	Notes
1	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	Desray Britz welcomed all present. Each 2022/2023 executive member introduced themselves and their portfolio position.
2	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	The minutes and agenda were received. 2022 minutes were proposed by Aslam Clarke and seconded by Christine Morgan.
3	<b>Matters arising</b>	None.
4	<b>Brief updates from exco portfolios: PARKS &amp; OPEN SPACES</b>	<p>Parks &amp; Public Open Spaces falls under the Recreation and Parks department. Pinelands is part of Area North which includes Durbanville, Bellville, and Platteklouf.</p> <p>Number of Pinelands Parks: <b>15</b></p> <p>Parks have play park equipment such as swings and slides. Examples of Parks are Protea Close Park (off Nerine Avenue and Protea Close) and Sunset Crescent Park aka The Triangle Park (off Sunset Crescent/The Triangle/Oude Molen). Public Open Spaces do not have play equipment. Examples of Public Open Spaces are Inverness Avenue (off Mountbatten Avenue) and Julianaveld (off Morningside/Julianaveld South/Julianaveld North/Queens Way).</p> <p>Number of Pinelands Public Open Spaces: <b>23</b></p>

1. **MOWING:** Elsiekraal River Canal embankments, Parks, Public Open Spaces, Verges along Forest Drive but **NOT** the verges in front of houses.

Mowing delayed due to service provider's contract being cancelled. The new contractor was appointed on 10 October and should be in Pinelands the first week of November 2023. No timeline as to when the backlog will be cleared.

Per the Recreation and Parks department's Mowing List for 2023, there are 5 No Mow areas, from June through October, although the months might shift due to climate change. The No Mow initiative allows for the conservation and protection of wildflower species, enabling them to complete their growth cycle including the dropping of seeds that are collected, stored, and sowed.

**No Mow Areas: 5:**

- \*Coronation Park (off Elizabeth Avenue/Ennerdale Avenue/ Mountbatten Avenue),
- \*Inverness Avenue Public Open Space,
- \*Julianaveld Public Open Space,
- \*Sunrise Circle, and
- \*Wattle Grove Park

Coronation Park to be removed from the No Mow list as it is not a viable candidate for wildflower reintroduction.

Sunrise Circle was mowed during the No Mow period although it had been identified as a wildflower reintroduction site.

**Proposed No Mow Areas: 4**

- \*Kings Place Public Open Space (off Mountain View/ Broadwalk/ Peak Drive/Keurboom),
- \*Morningside/Avonduur verge (from Forest Drive to Old Mill Road),
- \*Woodside Drive, and
- \*Elsieskraal River Canal on the Howard Centre side, from Nightingale Way to Ringwood Drive, with a 2-metre mow zone next to the canal edge.

2. **TREE MANAGEMENT:** Tree Planting, Removal and Pruning in the Elsiekraal River Canal area, Parks, Public Open Spaces, Verges along Forest Drive **AND** Verges in front of houses.

Delayed due to a tender dispute. Per National government legislation, a tender dispute can take up to 180 days to be resolved. No timeline as to when the tree removal backlog will be cleared. The Pinelands Ratepayers and Residents Association and Councillor Davids support a suggested tree replanting guideline that for every tree removed, two trees are planted. Pinelands **IS** a Garden City after all.

To address safety concerns, at an on-site meeting in November 2022, it was agreed that pruning lower tree branches and the removal of dense shrubs along the Elsiekraal River Canal would be done as a high priority, but this project is still outstanding.

Residents may request that the City of Cape Town supply trees for their verges to be planted by the City of Cape Town or for the resident to plant. The resident will need to complete an [Application for Tree\(s\) Planting](#) form. The appropriate tree species will be determined in conjunction with the Area Manager. The watering of the trees is the responsibility of the tree adopter. All trees planted on verges remain the property of the City of Cape Town and pruning or removal requires the Parks department's authorization.

If you wish to plant your **OWN** tree on a verge, a [Wayleave Application](#) form must be completed due to the underground municipal utilities such as water and sewer pipelines.

3. **PARK PLAY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE:** Installation, Maintenance and Replacement of park play equipment. Park Play Equipment Maintenance delayed due to tender dispute which has adversely affected the installation, maintenance and replacement of slides, swings including chains, merry-go-rounds, and witches' hats. No timeline as to when the backlog will be cleared.
4. **ILLEGAL DUMPING:** Parks, Public Open Spaces, Verges, and the Elsieskraal River Canal embankments.
5. **BIN CLEANING:** Parks, Public Open Spaces, and the Elsieskraal River Canal embankments.
6. **ELSIESKRAAL RIVER CANAL:** The Pinelands-based volunteer group, Renew the Elsieskraal River, has coordinated in collaboration with NETwork for Good, a Pinelands-based non-profit organisation, the following activities along the Elsieskraal River Canal:

Cleaning of the Elsieskraal River Canal occurs bi-monthly by volunteers, the Renew the Elsieskraal River group, and NETwork for Good.

Invasive hacks of the aliens Patterson's Curse and Devil's Thorn are ongoing. 42 trees previously planted along the Elsieskraal River Canal by volunteers, the Renew the Elsieskraal river group, NETwork for Good, and the Parks department, were damaged by the former mowing contractor and will need to be replaced. Ten of the damaged trees are mature trees donated by a nursery. Wildflower seed collecting continues. Planting of the seeds along the upper banks of the Elsieskraal River Canal, Julianaveld, and Woodside Drive will occur next year. Due to the sponsorship by Pinelands residents, NETwork for Good organises the weekly cleaning, regreening and beautifying of the Garden of Remembrance and Coronation Park.

**PINELANDS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT:** With the City's approval of the Pinelands Community Improvement District (PLCID) the Friends of Pinelands Parks is being restructured and its new name is the CID Environment Subcommittee. The City is in discussions about the possibility of handing over the maintenance contract to CIDs but there is no official confirmation of the possibility or timeline. The possibility of bicycle patrols along the Elsieskraal River Canal is being discussed. The community is encouraged to assist in clean-ups or by donating plants. The Recreation and Parks department must continue to provide their services. The CID Operations Manager is tasked with supervising the services. The Pinelands CID is a top-up service.

**Your Assistance Please**

		<p>Friends of Protea Close Park is being formed. Each of Pinelands Parks needs a "<b>Friends of</b>" to be the Parks champions and to communicate suggestions and concerns to me by either meeting on site or emailing <a href="mailto:parks@pinelandsratepayers.co.za">parks@pinelandsratepayers.co.za</a>.</p> <p>In closing, I would like to thank NETwork for Good, my friends on the Renew the Elsiekraal River group, the CID Directors, Ward Clerk to Councillor Davids, Catherine Mbuza, Councillor Davids, my colleagues on the Pinelands Ratepayers and Residents Association committee, and the Pinelands community as we collectively strive to revitalise Pinelands and re-establish Pinelands as a Garden City.</p>
	<p><b>PUBLIC RELATIONS</b></p>	<p>The goal for the year was to deepen communication with Pinelands residents. We are working on updating email addresses. There was a QR code provided in the meeting to scan and update members details, or to add oneself to the email database. Each communication platform was explained i.e. website is used for longer term information; FaceBook is usually City news (but every piece of information needs to be verified first). The Muse was thanked for giving the PRRA space in their magazine which has been mostly used to share portfolio information. WhatsApp groups have been introduced with a main community group as well as subgroups: reporting of daily concerns. Cllr Davids was thanked for his input and help on these groups, especially with escalating C3s (service requests).</p>
	<p><b>HERITAGE &amp; BUILDING PLANS</b></p>	<p>The City of Cape Town has deemed the Pinelands Ratepayers and Residents Association as an interested and affected party for certain development submissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• buildings that fall within the Heritage Protection Overlay Zone (HPOZ)</li> <li>• or buildings that are older than 60 years old</li> <li>• submissions that require departure from building restrictions or title deed restrictions.</li> </ul> <p>We are required to comment on all these applications. Submission information is sent to us digitally either by the architect or owner, prior to submission OR by the CoCT as part of their formal notification process.</p> <p>Information is uploaded onto an online portal and notifications sent to the Plans working team to comment accordingly. We then collate these comments and either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stamp the plans with no objection.</li> <li>• advise the owner/architect of our comments and they can change accordingly.</li> <li>• issue an Objection to the CoCT and follow through with that process, which can be quite a lengthy one.</li> </ul> <p>We base our commentary on the Building Regulations, CoCT By-Laws and the Design Criteria Document - compiled for the HPOZ by the HAC, when the HPOZ was first formalised by the CoCT. The CoCT uses these same criteria when commenting. In addition it outlines what is required to deem development responsible within the HPOZ and we are also using this for the greater Pinelands now. These are all on the PRRA Website. In addition, we have put together a Development Policy which outlines the PRRA process and commenting criteria, and certain concessions.</p> <p>The Plans Working Group consists of the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) team of Dr. Shaun Ardendorff and John Wilson-Harris who comment on 'all things heritage.' Adriaan Lampbrechts and several other architects and town planners form part of the group that then comment on 'all things non-heritage.' Building complaints can</p>

		<p>either be sent to us or individuals can make use of the e-services portal to notify council of possible building infringements.</p> <p>What are we working on next?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees Policy - This is already uploaded on the website, but formal approval required from the CoCT - all information contained therein is from the CoCT themselves, so we do not foresee them changing the policy, but they might assist in adding information to it.</li> <li>• Verge Policy - await comment on documentation issued to the CoCT for approval.</li> <li>• We have engaged with the CoCT development department and await a workshop with them regarding policy and procedure and to discuss where due process does not seem to have followed, repeated transgressions, efficiency of complaints and to ensure the role of the PRRA remains effective and productive.</li> </ul> <p>Development is inevitable, but needs to enhance the suburb, and not obliterate the positive aspects of it!</p>
	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b>	<p>The main challenges this past year have been noise from Ndabeni, noise from Oude Molen and pollution in Camp Ground Road. We are addressing these challenges and engaging with the City, however the City needs to enforce emission standards and noise control regulations. In particular noise during the night.</p> <p>In June 2023 the noise from Ndabeni was excruciating with a total of 70 C3 logs. There was a meeting with the Cllr, followed by involvement at subcouncil and various stakeholders at 14 August 2023 which was unfortunately unproductive. There is denial from the City: essentially saying there is neither noise disturbance nor noise nuisance.</p>
	<b>SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	<p>The objective this past year was to work with NPOs, NGOs and street people. Going forward, we are trying to assess how to bring the various community organisations together to meet the community in one voice. We also aim to connect with the Department of Social Development through our NGO status.</p>
	<b>WATER AND SANITATION</b>	<p>It was explained that a cause of our issues is that there is aging infrastructure. There has also been storm water in the sewerage station and issues at the Langa pump station. Foreign objects in the sewerage system contribute to the problem. The City has allocated budgeted and they are implementing intervention and inspections. There are structural issues that need to be resolved. Residents are asked to continue to log C3s.</p>
	<b>TRAFFIC AND ROADS</b>	<p>Traffic is growing and the failure of drains contributes towards the road congestion. There is constant development and change in land use. As a community, we need to ask where Pinelands fits in with regard to the City, in particular in the context of a transport plan. We also need to address how Forest Drive is to be maintained.</p>
5	<b>TREASURERS REPORT</b>	<p>The financials were reviewed and compiled by Precision Accounting for the second year. The financials and income statement were presented. The CID expense has been reimbursed to the PRRA. Sandy McGuff proposed the financials and Justin White seconded.</p>
6	<b>CHAIRPERSONS REPORT</b>	<p>Desray Britz presented her report. She appealed to residents who have skills and knowledge or passion, to please put their hand up to join the PRRA and contribute where they can. The community is requested to continue submitting C3 requests and report (the PRRA does their own analysis of C3s to see where the pressure points are).</p>

		The passionate community was thanked. The Chair thanked the PRRA committee on behalf of John for all the willing volunteer work. On behalf of herself she indicated looking forward to a good year.
7	<b>ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	No nominations were received. Therefore, it was not necessary to vote. The executive committee members for the ensuing year are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Desray Britz</li> <li>2. Marilyn McNamara</li> <li>3. Emily Bolton</li> <li>4. Nasir Adam</li> <li>5. Aslam Clarke</li> <li>6. Justin White</li> <li>7. Yazied Davids</li> <li>8. Jessica White</li> <li>9. Kabelo Masihle</li> <li>10. Robby Robertson</li> </ol>
8	<b>GENERAL</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>PINELANDS CID:</b> Sandy McGuff (Director for PLCID) thanked the PRRA for their support. He noted that the first PLCID AGM will be on 23 November 2023. He urged residents to be involved and to sign up to be a member. To have a vote you will need to be a member (there is no charge). Email will be sent in the coming week and the forms will be available on their website.</li> </ol>
9	<b>LONG SERVICE AWARD</b>	A long service award was presented to Carol Clark by Cllr Davids: to thank and show appreciation for her many years of commitment, time and care to Pinelands and the Pinelands community. Carol explained her reason for resigning (due to her health and being overcommitted) and wished the committee all the best.
10	<b>LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD</b>	Alderman Watkyns and Councillor Davids paid tribute to the late PRRA chairperson, John Berry. A trophy was handed over to his wife, Benita Berry. Benita in turn thanked everyone for the support and help John received over the many years. She was pleased his many years of service had been acknowledged.
11	<b>OTHER</b>	A resident, Fern Robertson, highlighted the growing traffic problem in Pinelands, especially along Forest Drive. She explained an incident that occurred that morning of drivers rat running and the resultant road rage. Another issue is the 4-way stop along Morningside and Avonduur.
12	<b>CLOSING</b>	The meeting closed at 20h53.