

SIMON'S TOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
22 MARCH 2022 @ SIMON'S TOWN COMMUNITY HALL

PRESENT: Register taken at the door

APOLOGIES: Recorded

WELCOME – STCA Chair Simon Metcalfe welcomed members, recognised and thanked Ward Councillor Simon Liell-Cock, local resident Speaker Felicity Purchase and extended a warm welcome new Mayor, Geordin Hill-Lewis.

QUORUM - A quorum was established.

OPENING AND INTRODUCTION OF MAYOR GEORDIN HILL-LEWIS

The Chair provided the Mayor with a brief overview of Simon's Town saying that although it was generally a happy place to be, it had a few challenges, not least living on the urban edge with three out of the four baboon troops that are resident in the south peninsula.

Co-existing with the baboons was socially divisive and the STCA was seeking solutions. NCC's Urban Baboon programme was under huge pressure to do more and while we appreciated the city's efforts, the current strategy is not really fit for purpose; we need a long term solution.

The STCA has established a good relationship with Solid Waste Cleansing and we are collaborating well. Simon Metcalfe urged the Mayor to help improve the overall governance related to baboon issue and help us work with responsible authorities and land agencies to design a better strategy. Simon's Town enjoys being part of the best runs metropolises in the country and appreciates recent upgrades to its beaches.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Mayor notes the impressive turnout and said it's a pleasure to be here. Wonderful to see a full hall of engaged present residents. He appreciates the advance correspondence and the introduction. Pleased to see his colleagues, Ward Councillor Simon Liell-Cock, Pat Francke and Alderman Felicity Purchase.

The mayor presents an overview of what he and his team are trying to achieve in Cape Town. There is a marked decline in services across the country – services that we depend on, e.g. the collapse of our public transport system, an infrastructure that's been there for hundreds of years which has just been stripped down and destroyed. Cape Town can do more to be a beacon of hope for the country. To be an example of when citizens take responsibility and aim for excellence.

The mayor made several points:

- Climate change meant Cape Town might receive less rain in future. It was essential to prepare for water shortages and continuing electricity blackouts. The city aims to deliver water via additional channels such as aquifer drilling, treatment of wastewater and more. Constitutionally speaking, this is going beyond the narrow definition of what its responsibilities are.

- The city aimed to be the best place to do business in the country.
- Residents all had a role in making the city work better.
- The SAPS law enforcement officers deployed in 11 precincts have altered crime stats – we are the only city in SA where violent crime is going down.
- Infrastructure investment is imperative in order to keep up with population growth and to grow our economy.
- Despite many problems the municipality must not feel overwhelmed or dampen an optimistic view of the future. The city aims for excellence and achieving a global standard of service delivery. This necessitates a relationship and feedback loop with residents and associations.

The Mayor said he is quite obsessively focussed on litter – cleaner water and rivers. His message in the clean-up campaign is not that the city is going to clean up but that residents take responsibility for keeping our city clean for future generations. He urged us to spread the message of common civic pride – doing the basics better. By investing in our infrastructure, we can make serious headway in achieving a city that we can feel hopeful about. He thanked his colleagues for all they do – hardworking Simon Liell-Cock, Felicity Purchase who is a ‘veteran’ of the far south and a great asset as the new Speaker.

The mayor stated that Baboons were new territory for him but it was clear that the city was the only agency that is trying to do anything (whether successfully or not), and at great cost. As a newcomer to this issue, he agreed that a change of strategy is required. Having consulted with Felicity Purchase, both agree that SANParks in this area (Cape Point Reserve and Boulders Beach Penguin Colony) are the most profitable parks in the country, to the extent that they subsidise every other park in the country. Not enough is being done by SANParks to manage the situation inside the parks. Engagements with SANParks are in their infancy but they are underway. Felicity Purchase comments that the city may need to consider taking SANParks on legally, if required.

The Mayor thanks the STCA for the invitation and invites questions from the floor.

- Eileen Heywood CPF – Question 1 - Erf 1 Glencairn huge fire hazard, alien vegetation needs clearing. SLC’s answer re Erf 1 – it’s a privately owned piece of land, we know who the owner is and he is never going to pay. Mayor has a meeting with Barbara Creasy re firebreaks which should be maintained. Question 2 – unhappy with the depletion of law enforcement, metro police and traffic officers in our area. When will this be addressed? Mayor answers that the training college has a certain capacity (re LE officers) – pinched from certain areas around the city to make up numbers. Announcing a massive investment in law enforcement shortly – first purpose is to return those officers and once that is done to spread out officers around the city. They can now handle bigger volumes of new recruits
- One attendee (name not recorded) observes that the Navy is not doing what it needs to do in terms of the baboons, especially. Mayor acknowledges the point about the Navy. Simon Liell-Cock will be meeting with the new Flag Officer Fleet who wants a better relationship with the residents.
- Paul Bannister – refers to the ‘Vision for Simon’s Town’ which was presented before. Stakeholder engagement is crucial – even in the Navy there is a split. He believes that the town needs to raise its own money and that the job of STADCO needs to be reimagined. We need affordable housing for sale, not just for rent. He would like to see more localised approval on building plans as the Architectural Advisory Committee seems intent on preventing development. The railway needs to be operational, and we must have a better system for managing parked cars. Why not have

renewable energy solutions on the mountains behind us – a wind farm, even with just two turbines. The Mayor loves the vision of fixing South Africa one town at a time. Please invite him to a clean-up, he'll join in. Agrees re stakeholder engagement which is why he accepts these invitations. Agrees council has assets, agrees that affordable housing is essential (land release) and remarks that ALL land assets are open to land grabs and this is one method of preventing that from happening. As regards renewables – he wants the city to put out a tender for city bought independent power in an open bid process.

- Debbie Scholtemeyer – What is happening with Da Gama Park who have had no water for two weeks? De Villiers Way, no water pressure? There has been a known water problem since December. Why can't Glencairn's budget be tapped into to ensure adequate supply and pressure? SLC answers that Da Gama Park falls under the Navy/military. Welcome Glen is being switched over to another reservoir.
- Ian Goldman – warming in Arctic and Antarctic. What is Cape Town doing in terms of planning for sea level rise? Mayor – plans afoot to reduce emissions by using renewable power – most important. Plan for severe weather events and less rainfall. By the end of the decade, we will be able to provide half of our water needs ourselves, without national infrastructure. When we switch over to recycled water, we need public to buy in. On flooding – this affects low lying informal settlements. Making sure stormwater drains are clean, and so on. Lastly – city does not spend enough time thinking about the future. The Mayor plans to set up a unit for future planning and resilience – a team comprising expert level researchers, demographers, urban planners, and so on, to spend quality time looking at what Cape Town will look like. Felicity Purchase comments that the city is looking at all new public transport by 2030 which will also be sustainable/using renewables.
- Pastor Shaddie – comment / question. The community supports My Father's House financially for which he is grateful. Are there any relief plans from the city? Mayor - there is no further money for COVID relief – there is a limited amount remaining.
- Jenny Trethowan, Baboon Matters – would like to meet with GHL.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Circulated - taken as accepted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Circulated and taken as read.

- Additionally, active citizenship is encouraged. Please log a service request. Everyone must learn how to report via the city's system, and we will get better results. The STCA will back the issue if the correct processes are followed, as in the case of traffic complaints by Rhoda Moore who, with persistence, is getting somewhere.
- The Gardens Project is very successful – thank you for all the support.
- Great success in certain areas, particularly in the engagement with Solid Waste and sorting out the collection system as well as talks with Coastal Management generally.
- GEESE – an acknowledgement of all Cilla, Lady Bromley has contributed to the management and upkeep of the Glencairn Wetlands over the years.

- Calls for anyone who would like to get involved in any areas of the civic – we are happy to accept anyone who wants to make a contribution and we can make a fit.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Pack was distributed to the membership. Taken as read.

- Costs have gone down – membership has remained static.
- The Exco approved the current year's financials on 13 January 2022.
- Tim Skea thanks our Honorary Accounting Officer Alan Roberts for his time over the years.
- Alan Roberts presents his report and in turn thanks Tim Skea for all the hours he has put into the association.
- Proposed adoption of financials Yvonne Mawhinney, seconded by Alan Mitchell.

ELECTION OF EXCO

- SM introduces the current Exco who are willing to stand for re-election, and the new nominees, Nadima Smith and Eugene Loftus.
- Proposer for acceptance of the Exco, Arne Soderlund, seconder Rhoda Moore.
- Current Exco – Simon Metcalfe (Chair), Michael Richards (Vice Chair and Property), Tim Skea (Treasurer), Merle Evertse (Membership, Esther Le Roux (Secretary), Cilla Bromley (GEESE), Eugene Loftus (CPF), Nadima Smith (Enviro Hub)
- Chantal Carstens Luyt volunteers as does Debbie Scholtemeyer

CLOSE OF MEETING AND REFRESHMENTS