

Minutes of the OCA 2019 AGM, held at the Obs Community Centre hall.

Date	26 th November 2019	Time:	Meeting started 6.12pm
Minutes by	Leslie London	Chair:	Tauriq Jenkins
<p>1. Apologies, proxies and confirmation of quorum: There were 106 validated members of the OCA as at the start of the meeting. 50 members had registered and were in attendance. Sheila Barsel confirmed that there were a total of 24 valid proxies received and the meeting was quorate.</p>			
<p>2. Adoption of minutes of previous AGM held on November 13th, 2018. A correction to the minutes was accepted to reflect that at the end of the 2018 AGM, a decision was made to call a SGM to consider the implications of legal action on Malta Park and the Anson. Leslie London moved adoption and Wendy Steytler seconded</p>			
<p>3. Chairs Report</p> <p>3.1 Before the Chair gave his report, a resident from the circus, Kami Gordon, expressed her thanks to Tauriq Jenkins and was worried that if he was not there, the circus residents would be vulnerable. Tauriq thanked Kami for her support but reassured her that the Civic would elect a committee able to address the needs of the whole of Observatory.</p> <p>3.2 The Chair then delivered his report, <i>See Addendum A</i>.</p> <p>3.3 The Chair was asked about the sub-group reports, which did not appear to be reflected in his report. The chair replied that the sub-group reports had been circulated with the newsletter and that the AGM was not intended to hear all the sub-groups. However, the Chair invited sub-groups to speak to their activities. Carolyn Neville came up to speak to the work of the Liquor licensing and noise group.</p> <p>3.4 Tauriq explained that the portfolio has disbanded as an OCA sub-group and Sheila has taken on liaising with a community group, involving Carolyn that formed spontaneously to address these problems. Carolyn explained that noise and liquor licenses were normally dealt with together but had become separated. Two liquor licenses were objected to – Lobey’s and Springbok Bar (because they planned to hold outdoor activities). Result of the Tribunal, where the Chair represented the OCA on behalf of residents, is still pending. Carolyn noted that noise should be reported to City and to Police to lay down a paper trail to inform any future licensing decisions. A resident raised noise in relation to Gandolphs and Carolyn invited her to liaise with her. Carolyn clarified that the committee is not acting on behalf of the OCA but liaises with the OCA via Sheila.</p> <p>3.5 A question was asked about why three committee members and one task team member resigned from the Man Comm and why the Chair’s report did not address this. The person raising this question noted her own discomfort in working with the Chair as the reason for her resignation. The Chair responded that he understood the clashes to lie in different views over how the circus matter should be dealt with. Members then asked the chair to focus on why the conflict led to the resignations and to reflect on criticism of his leadership. The Chair indicated his willingness to apologise if he had offended the specific committee member. Marc Turok pointed out that decisions were made by the Man Comm and, while one need not agree with all decisions, one cannot hold one person responsible. It was a collective process. Reference was made to the mediation process initiated between the Chair and two Man Comm members. The chair noted that some people would not feel comfortable with his leadership style. A member of the constitutional committee stated she resigned because of Tauriq’s leadership and disputed that the reason was because she was not committed to human rights. It was said that the Chair’s report that did not fully reflect the activities of the organization.</p> <p>3.6 Questions were raised about the problematic relationship of the chair, who was the Ward Committee rep, with the Ward Councilor. It was pointed out that the difficult relationship was not just one that applied to the Chair, but the Ward Councilor was very problematic in the way he interacted with other Man Comm members. Although a question was asked about the absence of Ward committee reports discussed at Man Comm, it was confirmed that Ward Committee matters were discussed at the Man Comm meetings and the minutes reflect that.</p> <p>3.7 A speaker from the floor noted that it is important that people should give critique but it was becoming disruptive to dwell on these criticisms. We have many challenges to address in Observatory and should</p>			

<p>move forward. A number of appeals was made to move on from dwelling on the criticisms of the chair and to get to the business of the meeting, particularly the need to vote in a new committee. The meeting accordingly noted the concerns raised but agreed to move on to the next item.</p>
<p>4. Annual Financial Report</p> <p>Joy Robinson presented the Financial Statements, <i>See Addendum B</i> OCA has secured its NPO certificate. Joy was congratulated for her dedication and conscientiousness throughout the year and an excellent financial report. It was reported that OCA met with OBSID about how the two organisations could work better together. Payment to Advocate de Jager was discussed. The Treasurer explained how much was paid and when but the Man Comm cannot explain the exact process by which authorization for this expense was issued. This gap led to the Man Comm adopting a procedure for approving spending to avoid a similar recurrence in future. Marc proposed accepting the financial statements, seconded De Vos</p>
<p>5. Announcement of motions received – No motions were received</p>
<p>6. The Election officer (Craig Stewart from the Warehouse) was introduced. He outlined the voting procedures</p>
<p>7. Voting proceeded as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chair: Leslie London was the only nomination and was duly elected: 62 votes yes; 6 abstentions b. Deputy chair: Sheila Barsel and Tauriq Jenkins were nominated. Sheila was elected 55 votes against 11 for Tauriq and 3 abstentions. Sheila was duly elected c. Secretary: no nominations d. Treasurer: Joy Robinson was the only nomination and was duly elected: 66 votes yes; 1 abstention e. Communications: Edwin Angless was only nomination and was duly elected: 55 votes yes, 1 abstention f. A&H: Andy Goedhals was nominated by Marc Turok and Marine Le Blond, he clarified his background to the meeting and was duly elected: 38 votes yes, 7 abstentions. g. LDG: no nominations were made. h. TRUPA: Marc Turok was nominated by Margot Lyn, seconded by David Aitcheson; Tauriq was nominated by Marc and seconded by Leslie; Marc was duly elected: 18 votes, Tauriq 12 and 32 abstentions i. Arts, Culture and Sports: Janet Cronje was nominated prior to the AGM; Tauriq was nominated by Leslie and seconded by John Green. Tauriq was duly elected with 46 votes; Janet 19 votes; 0 abstentions j. Social issues: Kiki Bisogno from Ferdinando's pizza was only nomination and was duly elected: 59 votes and 5 abstentions. k. Car Park: de Vos Rabie was only nomination and was duly elected: 57 votes and 0 abstentions <p>The Election Officer noted that there were no nominations for the positions of Secretary and LDG convener and the Mann Comm would need to decide how to fill these. He then handed over to the incoming Chair.</p>
<p>8. The incoming chair thanked the outgoing committee and the participants. He voiced the hope that we can build a strong united civic that would be inclusive and strengthen democracy in Observatory. The new Man Comm will meet briefly next Tuesday 3rd December at 6pm to take stock.</p>
<p>9. Meeting ended at 8.30pm</p>