DRAFT MINUTES - Observatory Civic Association ManComm Meeting			
Meeting Date	28 April 2020	Time	18h00
Venue	Zoom at home	Chairperson	Leslie London
Minutes by	Bridget Simons		
MComm Attendees	Leslie London (LL). Sheila Barsel (SB), Edwin Angless (EA), Kiki Bisogno (KB),		
	Tauriq Jenkins (TJ) (arrived 18h30), Joy Robi	nson ( <b>JR</b> ), Mar	c Turok ( <b>MT</b> ),
	DeVos Rabie ( <b>DR</b> )		
<b>MComm Vacancies</b>	L.D.G, Secretary		
Apologies	Andy Goedhals (AG),		
Absent	Pauli v Wyk ( <b>PvW</b> ).		
Invitees	Peter Breitenbach (PB), Bridget Simons (BS)		
ADMINISTRATION			

ADMINISTRATION		
Topic	Responsible	Timeframe
1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES		
Members were welcomed. Meeting was noted as quorate.		
TJ arrived 18h30; PvW absent		
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2. BUSINESS FORUM REVIVAL		
2. BOSINESS FOROIVI REVIVAL		
II welcomed DD and thanked him for his offer to halp ravive Ohe		
<b>LL</b> – welcomed PB and thanked him for his offer to help revive Obs Business Forum.		
PB – nothing done since the Initial outreach a few weeks ago and		
now heavily involved with Vodacom healthcare response to COVID.		
Happy to commit to reviving the Business Forum but needs to know		
timelines, what is required, etc.		
<b>LL</b> – timeline flexible, but the quicker a functioning business forum		
can be established the better – whatever steps are made towards		
achieving this goal, will be valued. A functioning Business Forum		
could be vital in assisting small businesses during COVID and if		
COVID funding can be procured simultaneously through the Ward		
Council or Ward Committee, the result could be a win-win situation.		
Any progress in this regard would be better than the current stasis.		
Ultimately the vision for the revival of the Business Forum during		
COVID is to help local businesses prepare optimally for the		
resumption of business as lockdown restrictions are eased.		
PB – spreadsheet of local businesses has 147 entries but the listed		
businesses may not all be operational.		
<b>EA</b> – ObsID set up a business forum that is not very active but,		
because the economy of Observatory is dependent on local		
businesses, ObsID is keen to share ideas and contribute to the		
revival of the OCA Business Forum in a bid to help local businesses		
get back on their feet.		
<b>LL</b> – in the absence of new ideas, it is hoped that PB will at least feel		
encouraged by lots of goodwill from ManComm.		
The Ward Councillor has asked for an annual wishlist budget but		
apparently only line item requests related to the effects of COVID 19		
will be considered. If this budget is still available, OCA will		

endeavour to secure funding for businesses negatively affected by the COVID lockdown. **KB** – as a small business owner, a reinvigorated Business Forum will be beneficial in light of all the confusion around restrictions with regard to what businesses will be allowed to operate, when, and under what conditions – small businesses need clarity. Perhaps an administrative WhatsApp group should be set up to deal with these concerns. It would be particularly useful now, in terms of COVID, to have a forum to monitor the assistance businesses are being given by the community as well as each other. Perhaps OCA could team up with ObsID to pool resources in this regard. SB – important to establish a data base of what businesses are still operating before setting up a WhatsApp group. Administrating a Whatsapp group of 147 businesses and coordinating the needs of the group will be an onerous task so it is essential to establish the efficacy of this strategy in facilitating the revival of local businesses. MT – there are different kinds of businesses involved (from food to hardware) and each may need different information and guidance with regard to issues related to re-opening – this should be considered in formulating interactive platforms such as WhatsApp groups. **LL** – this set of ideas may be useful for PB to run with – if businesses want a WhatsApp group, perhaps PB can set it up and someone will offer to administer it. PB **PB** – will start by validating the data base and will segment the businesses into types against the government's protocol in terms of different lockdown levels. By separating businesses into groups, it will not be necessary to address all 147 concerns at the same time unless a general announcement needs to be made – relevant groups of businesses can be focused on as and when they open in terms of the progression from one level to another. Will approach ObsID for help in consolidating the data base. A structured approach should be made in engaging with particular businesses rather than forming an umbrella WhatsApp group – OCA needs to be sensitive in terms of what information people are given – the approach should not be top-down. Individual issues, challenges and needs should be polled from the businesses themselves to offer the appropriate help or advice. **MT** – ManComm needs to support PB in terms of advice/assistance. **PB** – contact via WhatsApp is preferable to email and a direct call would be best in the event of a particular task needing urgent attention. **EA** – rather than adding PB to the OCA ManComm WhatsApp group EΑ which would result in a communication overload, a WhatsApp group should be created exclusively for the Business Forum. SB, KB and DR volunteered to join PB as founding members of the Business Forum WhatsApp group. **EA** will be involved as ManComm member in charge of communications. **LL** – to summarise, PB will enlist businesses on the spreadsheet to join the OCA Business Forum, beginning with businesses scheduled

to re-open under level 4. In identifying their needs and establishing

how best each business can be helped, PB will liaise with ObsID, supported by OCA. <b>EA</b> – as a member of the ObsID board, will be happy to liaise	EA	
between ObsID and PB, and the Business Forum.		
<b>LL</b> – the wishlist budget will be put on hold until the needs of		
businesses have been investigated.		
PB – in order to secure funding assistance for local businesses as		
soon as possible, perhaps the wishlist budget could be submitted		
now with place-holder line items.		
LL – will submit the wishlist budget to the Ward Committee with a	LL	
generic line item, such as "support for Obs businesses" – in the hope		
of getting some immediate financial relief for struggling local		
businesses.		
PB – thanked ManComm and left the meeting.		
3. Adoption of previous minutes (31 March 2020)		
SB – date in file name of the draft agenda for April should be		
corrected from 31 March to 28 April.		
EA – will do this. There needs to be written communication from	EA	
TRUPA to OCA to indicate that MT has been accepted as the official		
TRUPA representative on OCA. In addition, TRUPA needs to confirm		
their support of the Provincial Heritage Application.	2.4	
MT – will organise this confirmation via email.	MT	
<b>EA</b> moved to adopt previous minutes and <b>JR</b> seconded the motion,		
with the agreement that the clarifications above should be		
recorded.		
Adoption of Resolution Tracker		
SB – there are anomalies in the record. Will correct the record for	SB, EA	
March and send the amended document to EA and BS.		
EA and SB will discuss cleaning up the entire RT record.		
MATTERS ARISING		
MATTERS ARISING 4. Report backs and Updates:		
4.1 OCA/CAN/OBSID		
LL – Terna Gyuse from ObsCAN contacted OCA and ObsID		
regarding Shelter-in-place strategies. There are many issues –		
among them is the possibility of re-opening the station road toilets		
or alternatively hiring portable toilets and finding funds to cover		
this cost.		
Physical distancing is a problem although the homeless organise		
their own physical distancing quite well without having it imposed		
– the practicalities in this regard are problematic.		
Providing physical shelters in Obs is a problem – if tents are		
erected as temporary shelters, arrests may be made under the		
noise disturbance by-law. OCA should try to negotiate an MOU		
with CoCT to pend any prosecutions under the by-law, given the		

current situation. Judging from the follow-up with Ashraf Mohammed, it appears unlikely that the by-law will be waived. Furthermore, the erection of tents on the Village Green/Common may be interpreted as land invasion, which would be dealt with swiftly and violently. The better option may be to use halls (such as OCC) to house the homeless.

Shelter-in-place have contacted the owners of Bed and Breakfast concerns and other types of accommodation for assistance. In principle, owners are prepared to accommodate the homeless on condition that no additional fees related to rates and basic services will be imposed and that insurance will cover any damage.

**EA** – Terna sent a draft of a letter for comment. Will share it with OCA and ObsCAN.

TJ – In addition to the VulnerableCAN and the HomelessCAN, there is the ShelterCAN. CANs sent an open letter to CoCT highlighting the moral challenge presented by micro-sites, specifically Strandfontein which has relevance for OCA in that it accommodates some homeless from Obs and Mowbray, 18 of whom remain there after the 'release' of some of the homeless. Councillor Badroodien has been in touch with churches as possible micro-sites in the process of decentralisation which should be open to civil society and other NGOs outside of churches.

Given the fact that Mayor Plato held two illegal gatherings at churches, preaching to captive audiences, it is clear that the strategy of CoCT is to use church-based organisations to downplay CoCT's violations that are still taking place.

The role played in colonial history by churches (especially in the Western Cape) should be considered in terms of the indigene. OCA should push for the use of OCC and the bowling green as microsites to counter the practice of churches and other religious institutions of outsourcing their responsibilities to designated parts of the community which could cause problems for repatriation.

LL – OCA has argued that CoCT should engage with communities

for local sites. Churches and other religious institutions are approached for assistance because they have buildings. CoCT will need to fund this adequately and should open opportunities for local communities to become involved.

TJ – this should not be a church-driven initiative – there is a need to understand the pattern of how CoCT engages with stakeholders – CoCT will claim they have engaged with the NGOs but their engagement is limited to Oasis, Ubuntu and the Haven who are involved in Strandfontein. Site considerations have only been entered into with churches, neglecting the role that can be played by civil society and NGOs. CoCT itself owns enough space and buildings suitable for housing the homeless.

**LL** – if OCA wants to be active, it should take the lead from the Shelter-in-place CAN.

MSF put OCA in touch with an architect who designs tents for refugee camps – the COVID situation has raised a similar need. A meeting will be set up with him, Terne and ObsID as well as anyone else who wants to be part of the conference call. If CoCT agrees to

EΑ

LL

make OCC available, the architect could advise OCA about how to accommodate people in a hall safely.

SB, KB, DR (and JR may) want to be involved.

**LL** – please send confirmation of interest to ManComm.

**KB** – the micro-site at St Peter's Mowbray started on Friday. Four homeless people from Obs are housed there currently and the Obs feeding project is facilitating meals. The aim is to house 10 people at the site eventually. The pace of the increase in the numbers housed will depend on the availability of volunteers from the Obs community.

**SB** – OCA should approach Mowbray CAN to get involved and increase the volunteer base.

**TJ** – Mowbray CAN volunteers are not involved at the St Peter's site because the Mowbray homeless are currently housed at Strandfontein. CoCT reported that Strandfontein will be closed at month end – unlikely because of extension of lockdown. Deliberations around CANs will depend on the lifting of lockdown which will influence budgeting, forecasting, support, materials, planning, etc.

**KB** – kudos to EA for his newsletters – he is doing a wonderful job.

**EA** – the wonderful job is attributable to the combined efforts of all on the OCA.

## **4.2 CAPP**

**EA** – there was a second meeting, the minutes of which will be circulated when they are received.

**SB** – the meeting went in circles – the issues discussed focused on how the civics could use the next elections to highlight their issues as well as how to field candidates that civics want to support, in addition to the issue of independent candidates and how that might work. After the vibrancy of the first meeting, the second meeting seemed to run out of steam. There seems to be no energy or drive to realise what began as an excellent idea.

**EA** – first CAPP meeting (LL and TJ were there too) was almost two years ago. This last zoom meeting seemed to be a rehash of the first meeting – a deflating experience.

**LL** – the meeting was not very productive. Very few people attended, half of whom were from Obs and some were new. The discussion was not very helpful – not convinced that civics should field candidates – not a good investment of time and energy in the current time but CAPP is a good organisation to support for the role it can play in other issues such as problematic by-laws.

## 4.3 Nuisance by-law campaign

**LL** – CoCT has brought out an amendment to the by-law that allows CoCT to send an enforcement officer to stop such nuisances as noise in nightclubs or delinquent behaviour in public places. The amendment is draconian in that it allows officials to stop and search you, search your car, or invade your home and confiscate things without a warrant. It will enable CoCT officials to arrest or move homeless people about and confiscate their property –

SB, KB, DR, JR

clearly devised to counter the High Court ruling against CoCT for		
recent such infringements of the rights of the homeless.		
There is a legal network considering a challenge to the		
amendment. Nadel is working on it, and OCA involvement would		
be welcomed.		
A restrained campaign letter has been written against the		
amendment by Louise Edwards who is hoping that OCA will run a		
change.org petition in support of the objection. Marlise has elected		
to post an Amandla.mobi petition, supported by EA who maintains		
that two petitions better than one. Please comment on what OCA		17 May 2020
should be doing.	LL	
JR – OCA should be stopping them.		
LL – OCA needs to submit a comment by 17 May. Given the COVID		
situation, a request will be made to postpone the deadline, but		
certain denial will be excused as righteous adherence to the law.		
TJ – fully supports the campaign and suggests using all OCA		
resources (WhatsApp, OCA website, mailchimp, and CAN) to garner		
as much support as possible against this egregious suggestion.		
<b>LL</b> – suggests involving CAPP and greater Cape Town Civic Alliance		
in the campaign.		
MT – sent a preliminary reaction to the amendment to ManComm		
on 23 April. The amendment is very problematic and badly written.		
Suggests that others with more legal knowledge take the matter		
forward.		
LL –OCA has a couple of weeks to prepare a response which can be		
finalised in relation to the reactions of other organisations. <b>EA</b> will		
compose change.org petition and OCA will galvanise Civic and		
CANs compatriots. Louise Edwards is running the campaign	EA, LL	
network.	<b>,</b>	
<b>EA</b> – will liaise with the campaign network. <b>SB</b> offered to support	EA, SB	
EA is this role.	271, 32	
TJ – happy to liaise with C-19 Coalition group – serving on two of		
the groups in an advocacy role dealing with street-based issues and	<b>T</b> .	
could relay information and give feedback to the OCA.	ΤJ	
<b>LL</b> – the C-19 Peoples Coalition is a National coalition of civil society		
organisations with 18-20 working groups that deal with issues such		
as health, gender, legals etc. – TJ has identified two groups that		
have overlapping mandates.		
<b>EA</b> – received mail regarding by-laws – writer wants to send the		
letter to law enforcement tomorrow morning by 10 a.m. Agreed to		
write back with OCA's support – a decision in this regard needs to	EA	
be made. There is an email address for comments on amendment		
<ul> <li>OCA should encourage people to sign a petition and at the same</li> </ul>		
time, ask people to write individual emails in objection.		
<b>LL</b> – the letter of protest is reasonable and the OCA should support		
it. SB agrees.		
MT – suggests issuing a template for a letter of objection to make		
it easier for the public to write complaints.		
4.4 Comitis development		
22		

**LL**—the issue of the Comitis development was raised by someone in response to the Newsletter – not sure if this is something that needs to be challenged right now.

TJ – OCA should put lens on this issue and try to elicit information from CoCT. What has been confirmed is that the stadium is on the wishlist of LSDF. CoCT denies having seen plans but it seems that the stadium has been incorporated into the LSDF. This is a serious issue which CoCT is trying to hide from TRUP by referring to it as the Hartleyvale Stadium, which it is not. It falls into the same heritage issue as the River Club within the 2003 Two Rivers Park Framework signed by CoCT. This would be a good time to link the Hartleyvale situation with the River Club as the same forces are involved: the main financial backer of John Comitis's club is SportPesa and this company is the major sponsor of the proposed stadium development; the director of SportPeza is the partner of Jodi Aufrichtig, owner of the River Club, and Jodi is a fifty percent shareholder in SportPesa. It is important to combine the Comitis stadium and the River Club into a single narrative right now to help strategise and to capitalise on the momentum gained from the challenge to the River Club.

MT – the combination of a soccer ball struck with golf tee ironically recalls the model of COVID 19 – it is a threat made repeatedly by Comitis in the Press: that he wants to give back and that he aims to build the stadium, which appears to be an attempt to show supporters that he is doing something but it is time to shoot it down again, in the light of the wide support shown for the idea that the River Club is unacceptable, and to link with it the idea that the stadium is equally unacceptable. Whether or not CoCT has seen plans is not the issue – but collusion clearly exists between CoCT and Comitis. Perhaps OCA should ask for fresh comment on this issue, linking it with past commentary so there is a history of opposition to the stadium as part of the TRUP heritage precinct. A response from the public right now could heighten the intensity of the challenge while the issue is still topical in the press.

**SB** – the Malta Park lease expires on 31 December 2020. This issue should be included in the agenda so that any underhand CoCT dealings regarding the lease can be monitored. It is of concern that there has been little response from the Malta Park grouping to three WhatsApp messages sent in this regard. Colleen offered only marginal assistance and Trevor blows hot and cold. OCA needs to consider carefully how to resuscitate this process.

**MT** – the Malta Park issue ties in with issues related to the River Club and Hartleyvale. OCA should draw people's attention to these issues and use the Newsletter to highlight that these concerns are ongoing. People should be asked to sign a petition and submit written objections to the renewal of the Malta Park lease. In expressing total rejection of the proposed vision, OCA should make a call for an urgent response to a request for activism.

LL – not sure that the Newsletter is the correct forum for this call.

TJ – strategically we need to connect the fact that this is influenced by LSDF of Two Rivers which is still up for comment. This situation

has the same span as the River Club in as far as how it is located in TRUP – OCA needs to launch a strong counternarrative that links LSDF and that process in violation to this particular process, and this process in violation to that because then it opens up who can comment on this situation, who are the stakeholders, and who has the right to object and through that OCA can use similar tactics, such as asking the Liesbeek campaign group to activate on this through issuing a press release, enjoining a journalist to write an article and holding a press conference. **LL** – not in agreement – completely stretched by COVID concerns and has no time to write press release – no objection if someone else is willing to run with it. Problematic to state that CoCT knows about the plan for the stadium – there is no plan and the fact that it is in LSDF is not enough for OCA to nail the city. OCA could nail CoCT with regard to the circus because it was in the plan, but the Hartleyvale situation is different. Any public statement by the OCA in this regard must be nuanced and careful – it was extremely difficult to arouse the interest of the press in the River Club situation until there were small victories to report - OCA must be careful about what it commits to. **EA** – someone needs to volunteer to lead this initiative and run any proposals via ManComm – perhaps it should be driven by the Chair or Vice Chair of TRUPA. MT – suggests that the place to start would be with an outline of the history of stadium and Malta Park, placed into the context. TJ MT, TJ and MT could write the history leading up to and including the current situation, put together the newspaper announcements made by Comitis, and then share a strategy for how to take it further. TJ – agrees with this suggestion – as MT is leader of the TRUP association and the issue easily falls under the ACS portfolio. JR –OCA is spending more than it receives, a situation that will only get worse. CoCT is not going to do anything about OCA arrears in the foreseeable future and this will remain a problem. **DR** suggested OCA may be able to register with Companies and

## 5. Financials

Intellectual Property Commission which may give OCA some leverage to get the staff of the car park back – this suggestion should be followed up.

Donations for salaries were generous but there was a shortfall of R3,325.00, paid by OCA. Some donors were thanked personally and those who did not supply email addresses, received group thanks. The screen shot that some ManComm members cannot access is the analysis of the full report that everyone agreed to have received. **DR** – with regard to the CIPC, the idea was merely to explore the possibility but it is not a route that can be followed.

JR – OCA received R1,000 from Robert Morell. Another R1000 was donated by a woman who wanted a receipt – a refund was offered with the suggestion that the donation could be paid to Kiki who would be able to issue the donor with a receipt. The woman responded by waiving her request for a receipt and the donation was kept.

Mancomm accepted financials and congratulated **JR** on her report and action.

## 6. Car Park

**DR** – the most pressing issues relate to staff. Lockdown began on 27 March and for the first three weeks staff were paid in full. The additional two weeks of lockdown was considered part of annual leave on full pay.

After the additional lockdown, it was hoped that the staff could return as security guards – this possible plan prompted the idea to register with CIPC in order to obtain a certificate to operate as a private security firm.

This is not feasible as the staff have no expertise in this regard and the people they will be required to keep out of the car park are people they know or are familiar with which would be problematic for both the staff and the people they will be required to police. As a food retailer, it is easy for Kwikspar to employ additional security staff which Kwikspar has done. To employ ObsID staff as security guards in the car park, it will be necessary to ask Kwikspar to fire their additional security guards in favour of the ObsID staff. LL – agrees that this is not a great idea, particularly as the staff would be powerless to handle any serious security incidents. In any event, security for car parks is not an essential service under level 4. EA – ObsID registered through CoCT as an essential service – will ask Amanda if OCA can do the same and how to go about classifying OCA as an ESP.

**DR** – Amanda was adamant that this cannot be done and suggested that the staff join the ObsID garden campaign but the health and fitness of the staff to garden is questionable.

**LL** – nevertheless, the staff should be asked because they may be prepared to garden rather than do nothing.

MT – suggests that the staff is brought back not to act as security guards but to manage the car park as usual. They will be confined to the booth from which they can operate the booms and take tickets from deliveries. As the car park is attached to Kwikspar, the store should be approached to endorse the need for OCA to provide safe parking for Kwikspar shoppers. This may be feasible from May 5.

EA – not necessary to ask for endorsement. OCA needs to find out who to approach to have OCA registered as an ESP and get the staff to do their normal jobs. If OCA is registered as an ESP will be entitled to get them reemployed.

LL – first prize would be to have OCA registered as an ESP; the		
second option is to fall back on some kind of employment through		
ObsID; and third option is not pleasant.		
TJ – supports Obsid suggestion – the option needs to be discussed		
with staff.		
<b>DR</b> – if managing a car park not an essential service, OCA will not get		
permit for that.	EA	
<b>EA</b> – will find out from Amanda what is required for any organisation		
to be registered as an ESP.		
LL – perhaps through the food distribution activity OCA could be		
considered an ESP.		
considered an Est.		
7. Liquor and Sound Task Group report back		
LL – nothing to report		
LL - nothing to report		
8. TRUPA		
LL –LSDF is pended – meeting of HWC regarding HIA also pended. It		
is rumoured that some city officials are rebelling about LSDF.		
OCA's current plan is to assemble a narrative to link the River		
·		
Club with the stadium and very rich and devious people and try to		
get this published.		
Nice feedback regarding the success of river club campaign – <b>EA</b>		
included this in last week's Newsletter.		
9. Subgroup reports		
3. Subgroup reports		
9.1 Social Issues		
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KB – in line with CANs mission, local suppliers should be supported, so fruit and veg is currently being bought from the green tent opposite Kwikspar. Other supplies are being bought from the wholesaler Giant where prices are good and there are no strings attached.  LL – supports KB decision - OCA should not be held hostage – it's Alcino's loss.  TJ – endorses that the deal seems super dodgy.  9.2 Architecture and Heritage  LL - No report - no convenor - will hear from Andy - tried to get hold of Marine for meeting without success – will try to make contact and will report back on any conversation with her as soon as it happens  9.3 ACS  TJ – the sports aspect of the Arts Culture and Sports portfolio is on upsurge so OCA can expect more activity in this regard.  9.4 Communications  EA – sent out figures yesterday on newsletter – no stats for yesterday's newsletter but through interaction with seven different CANs, it is evident that there is a large increase in the number of new subscribers to Newsletter. It is interesting to note that twice as many people are opening LAC Newsletter as opened the OCA Newsletter.	LL	
10. AOB		
No other business		
<ul> <li>SB – finished RT – will send it to EA and LL</li> <li>EA – first zoom meeting with paid subscription – well worth making the payment.</li> <li>LL thanked ManComm members for attendance and BS for taking minutes.</li> </ul>	SB	
Meeting ended at 19h58	1	
Next meeting: Tuesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> May, 2020		
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