



OBSERVATORY

C i v i c A s s o c i a t i o n

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

7 December 2021

Welcome and outline of procedures for the AGM

The meeting opened at 18:05

2. Apologies, confirmation of member numbers and quorum

Of the 67 paid members, 25 of the 26 people at the start of the zoom meeting were paid members. During the course of the meeting, this increased to 30 participants.

3. Adoption of the Minutes from the Previous AGM in 2019.

The previous minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that 3 resolutions were passed in the last AGM and the third resolution (which was to be an Amicus Curae with regard to the DTPW review of the directive of the Ministerial Appeal Tribunal) was passed in the previous AGM but, in error, was not included with the minutes. It was proposed that this be added to the minutes prior to the adoption of the minutes. This amendment to the minutes was nominated by Leslie and seconded by Kari and the minutes adopted unanimously with no objections.

4. Tribute: Vanessa Watson

Leslie London paid tribute to Vanessa and a minutes' silence was observed in tribute of her contribution to the OCA and society.

5. OCA Award: Environmental or Heritage Consultant of Integrity (EHCI).

Leslie London provided an introduction to the OCA award and the importance of independent consultants of integrity. This year we are very pleased to give awards to two consultants of impeccable integrity. The Observatory Civic Association wishes to acknowledge both Ms Deirdre Prins-Solani and Ms Bridget O'Donoghue's willingness to put professional evidence ahead of financial and other vested interests and to recognise them as consultants of Integrity.

Short tributes were read and the awards included watercolour pictures of the Black River convergence, a site currently under threat.

Ms Deirdre Prins-Solani

Ms Deirdre Prins-Solani is an independent consultant and practitioner specialising in the fields of intangible heritage research, education, and community-based inventorying. She is an accredited expert to the UNESCO 2003 Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage. In 2021, she provided her expertise to the Observatory Civic Association and the Goringhaicona Khoi Khoi Indigenous Traditional Council in our court challenge over the approvals given to the River Club. She has been

unwavering both in her support for our case and for the protection and strengthening of cultural heritage.

Ms Bridget O'Donoghue

Ms Bridget O'Donoghue is an independent heritage consultant and heritage assessment practitioner with more than 20 years of experience. She conducted the initial Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed development on the River Club site. Because she did not agree with the proposed concept design and was asked to work on the HIA with a new consultant, she resigned from the project. In 2021, she provided her expertise to the Observatory Civic Association and the Goringhaicona Khoi Khoi Indigenous Traditional Council in our court challenge over the approvals given to the River Club. She has not hesitated to support our case and speak the truth in this matter.

6. Presentation of Reports

6.1. Chair's report was presented and an opportunity for discussion followed.

The Chair's report was circulated prior to the meeting. It is attached here as Annexure 1.

Leslie London concluded by thanking members for attending this AGM and thank the outgoing Man Comm for its hard work in 2021.

6.2 Treasurer's Report - Annual Financial Report and discussion

The finances were shared prior to the meeting. In addition to the presentation of the comparative finances of the previous two financial years, other financial points of interest were highlighted that occurred during the period from the end of the Financial Year in March 2021 and the AGM.

While donations have increased, these are related to the Liesbeek Action Campaign and are offset by the increase in costs including staff to support the campaign. TERS was negotiated during hard lockdown to ensure that the carpark staff were able to continue to receive income. Legal fees and campaign expense have increased this year although other expenses remain constant.

The car park income demonstrates a steady decline in income since 2018 and we are hoping to find some way to change this. While the cause is primarily COVID, other issues include the lack of card payments, withdrawal of subsidy by Spar citing intimidation of car guards and high rentals. Thanks were given to de Vos for his efforts. It is worth noting that we are paying R24.51 per m² per year compared to the charges to the golf course which is paying at 2.2 cents per m² per year.

7. Motion: Membership Fees Adjustment 2022

The following motion to propose adjustment in Membership Fees for 2022 was presented:

Current fee structure:

Members: R 50

Businesses: R 250

Pensioners/students: R 20

Those unable to afford fees can ask for reductions/waiver

Proposed fee structure:

Members: R 100

Businesses: R 350

Pensioners/students: R 30

Those unable to afford fees can ask for reductions/waiver (by choosing an option on the website).

Those who pay membership can also make a donation.

The rationale for this is that

- a) Membership fees have not been adjusted upwards for a number of years
- b) The core costs of the OCA require us to have some income
- c) The proposed scale represents a balance of being sensitive to inclusiveness whilst also asking those able to afford fees to pay a modest amount

Noted following comments from the floor:

It is noted that more efforts will be made to offer opportunities to sign up in alternative fashion to online and that the ManComm will investigate new and more ways to support businesses.

Vote:

This proposal was nominated and motivated by Joy Robinson and seconded by Edwin Angless. 85% of the members voted for the resolution and 15% abstained from voting. The resolution was therefore approved by a majority.

8. Motion: Amendment of the OCA Constitution

There are 5 amendments to the current constitution which were circulated prior to the AGM and are attached.

It was highlighted that this was as a result of a few typos that were clarified and to make sure that this clarifies our activities in line with the SARS requirements to qualify to offer Section 18A certificates for donors.

No comments were received from the floor.

Vote:

Leslie London Motivated this and this was seconded by Sarah Driver-Jowitt. 96% were in favour of the amendment and 4% abstained.

9. Elections

Leslie London opened the process and introduced the Independent Electoral Officer, Ryan Fester.

It was clarified that the position of Arts Council and Sport will not be voted for during the AGM as Tauriq Jenkin's nomination could not be accepted as he has not renewed his membership in time and therefore ineligible to stand for nomination.

a. Introduction

Election officer outlined the procedures for election, the process of Ward Committee Representation and Clarification of ex-officio positions: TRUPA, OBSID, ONW.

b. Elections for positions:

29 out of 30 members took part in the election with the host of the zoom meeting being unable to vote.

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| i. Chair | Leslie London was elected with a vote of 100% |
| ii. Deputy Chair | No nominations were received for this position |
| iii. Treasurer | Joy Robinson was elected with a vote of 96% |
| iv. Secretary | Sarah Driver-Jowitt was elected with a vote of 89% |
| v. Communications | Edwin Angless was elected with a vote of 93% |

vi. Architecture and Heritage	No nominations were received for this position
vii. Pepper Square car park	De Vos Rabie was elected with a vote of 96%
viii. Arts Culture & Sport	This will not be voted on during the election as noted above
ix. Social Issues	Kimon Bisogno was elected with a vote of 93%
x. Business Forum	Akhona Simelani was elected with a vote of 96%
xi. Additional Position	Chloe Cormack was elected with a vote of 78%

It was noted in the meeting that there might be a few members who were not able to vote on the poll on the evening and that they could email their vote to the election officer. However, given the voting outcomes recorded on the polls, any additional votes would not change the outcome of the election for new Mancomm members. The new ManComm Members were therefore welcomed to their new position.

9. Any other business

No other business

10. Vote of Thanks and Closure

Members were thanked for their participation and Ryan Fester was thanked for his service.

The meeting was closed by Leslie London at 19:45

Minutes confirmed at OCA Man Comm 1st Feb 2022