



# OBSERVATORY

Civic Association

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

7 December 2022

### 1. Welcome and outline of procedures for the AGM

The meeting opened at 18:05

### 2. Apologies, confirmation of member numbers and quorum

Of the 116 paid members, 59 attended either in person or via Zoom. 7 apologies were received.

#### In-person attendees:

Ahmed Abdallah; Zuleiga Adams; Liesl Anderson; Edwin Angless; Rebecca Campbell; Patrick Cooney; Anthony Hodgson; Daniel Isherwood; Arnold Jacobs; Tauriq Jenkins; Jill Joubert; Hildegarde Le Roux; Gareth Leyman; Leslie London; Louise Naude; Mark Neville; Carolyn Neville; Roseline Nyman; Phyllis Ormer; DeVos Rabie; Nicole Rasmussen; Howard Richmond; Joy Robinson; Naomi Roux; Trish Saunderson-Smith; Charmaine Smith; Werner Steyn; Peter Stuckey; Shayne Taliona; Colin Young (30)

#### Zoom attendees:

Adi Kumar; Carine Zaayman; Carol Cragg; Claire Everatt; Derek Davis; Farzaneh Behroozi; Frank Schuitemaker; Ghyll Kincaid-Smith; Indianna Lawrie; Janet Cronje; Jessica Byren; Julie Van der Vlugt; Mark Turok; Margot Lynn; Muffie Welch; Nadine Nannan; Noelle Nodi Murphy; Pam Britt; Peter Williams-Ashman; Roelien Theron; Sarah Driver-Jowitt; Steven Burnett; Tabitha Paine; Thabang Bhili; Tony Drake; Vik Norval; Jonathan Gevisser; Fairuz Mullaggee; Arona Dison (29)

The chairperson welcomed online and in-person attendees to the meeting and confirmed the meeting was quorate.

### 3. Adoption of the Minutes from the Previous AGM in 2021.

The previous minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were adopted unanimously and without objections.

### 4. Tribute: Kimon 'Kiki' Bisogno

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

### 5. Keynote Speaker: Reverend Alan Boesak

Leslie London introduced the keynote speaker, Reverend Alan Boesak, who delivered the keynote speech. He spoke about the significance of the Social Justice work being done by the OCA, linking it

to the tradition of active civil society in the struggle against apartheid. He noted the significance of the campaign against the River Club development and the importance of standing with indigenous people in this struggle.

## **6. OCA Award: Heritage or Environmental Consultant of Integrity (HECI).**

Leslie London provided an introduction to the OCA award and the importance of independent consultants of integrity. This year the award was made to Malcolm Campbell, an architect who has assisted communities in the heritage recognition of Princess Vlei. It signals his willingness to put professional evidence ahead of financial and other vested interests and on that basis, the OCA recognise him as a consultant of Integrity. The OCA was honored to recognize his contributions to affordable housing and community development.

## **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 noted some of the difficulties faced owing to the court case and the running of the car park during Covid. He noted that the OCA has managed to maintain its CBO and NPO status. He acknowledged the importance of the work done by the architecture and heritage portfolio led by Marine LeBlond, of the communication department led by Edwin and the work of the Social Issues portfolio, led by the late Kiki Bisogno, in assisting people on the streets and supporting social development initiatives. He noted that there hadn't been any nominations for the social issues portfolio. He thanked Nicole Rasmussen and Carolyn Neville for their work on liquor licenses. concluded by thanking members for attending this AGM and thank the outgoing Man Comm for its hard work in 2021.

Leslie London outlined the progress of the River Club court case, including the major decisions, appeals and noted the resolution adopted at the SGM in October 2022 to continue fighting the development in court. In response to a question, it was clarified that all the OCA's funds were raised through crowdfunding or grants. The recent court decision which awarded costs against the OCA will be appealed and there are good legal grounds to expect that decision will be overturned on appeal.

### **6.2 Treasurer's Report - Annual Financial Report and discussion**

The Annual Finance Statements were shared prior to the meeting (see attached). 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 2022 and the AGM.

Joy Robinson noted that the OCA now has PBO status and Section 18A status from SARS which enables people who donate to claim their donation as deductible in their tax returns. She noted that income and expenditure had increased since 2021, and the while the figures presented were for the financial year until March 2022, the situation had changed since then. Annual income was made up of the car park, membership fees, interest, donations and grants. She listed the major donors, and noted the ongoing fundraising efforts. She listed the major expenditure items, noting increases in marketing, salaries and legal fees owing to the campaign. Finances are better off than they were last year.

Joy presented the income and expenditure figures as of October 2022. The figures showed a positive balance and confirmed that the organisation's funds have been carefully managed. Campaign



expenditure had decreased. Car park income had increased post-Covid and there are initiatives underway to increase revenue from the car park.

## 7. Motions

No motions were received prior to the AGM for consideration.

## 8. Elections

Prior to the elections, a group of Observatory residents from the Singabalapha occupation asked that they be allowed to register and vote in the AGM. A lengthy discussion ensued. It was explained that the applications were received after the cut-off date for applications and so they could not be allowed to participate in the AGM though they would be allowed to participate subsequent to their membership being accepted. A number of people spoke in a heated discussion, which reached an impasse. Eventually, the matter was put to a vote of those present. The vast majority of those in the venue and on line agreed that (a) the group could not register and participate in this AGM; (b) the OCA would ratify new members including from Singabalapha after the AGM; (c) the OCA would meet with Singabalapha leadership after the AGM to identify how to work together; and (d) if requested, Singabalapha would be able to have representation on the OCA Management Committee going forward. Once the vote was taken, the group from Singabalapha left the venue.

Leslie London opened the election process and handed over to the Independent Electoral Officer, Ryan Fester. Naren Sewpaul was also introduced to the meeting as a volunteer who would assist with the counting of votes. Nominations were received for 8 of the 9 Management Committee positions, no nominations were received for Social Issues.

### *a. Introduction*

The election officer outlined the procedures for election.

### *b. Elections for positions:*

57 of 116 members took part in the election either in person or via Zoom.

i. Chair	Leslie London was elected by 47 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions.
ii. Deputy-Chair	Farzaneh Behroozi was elected by 50 votes to 2 with 3 abstentions.
iii. Treasurer	Joy Robinson was elected by 50 votes to 1 with 3 abstentions.
iv. Secretary	Colin Young was elected by 51 votes to 0 with 4 abstentions.
v. Communications	Edwin Angless was elected by 49 votes to 4 with 3 abstentions.
vi. Architecture and Heritage	Marine LeBlond was elected by 49 votes to 1 with 7 abstentions.
vii. Pepper Square car park	De Vos Rabie was elected by 51 votes to 4 with 2 abstentions.
viii. Arts Culture & Sport	Tauriq Jenkins was elected by 27 votes to 22 with 8 abstentions.
ix. Social Issues	No nominations were received for this position.

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 and Naren Sewpaul were thanked for assisting with the elections.

The meeting was closed by Leslie London at 20:32.

28/2/2023

