



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

27 November 2024 6pm

at Observatory Primary School hall and virtual on Zoom (hybrid)

1. Welcome and outline of procedures for the AGM

The meeting opened at 18.05. Everyone was welcomed including the 2024 HECI award winner, Kevin Winter and our Election Officer, Crystal West.

2. Apologies, confirmation of member numbers and quorum

Apologies were noted from Frank Schuitemaker, Nasima Coovadia, Melanie Alperstein, Charmaine Smith and Jonny Gevisser.

The chair noted that we had 51 paid up members of whom 4 joined after the deadline for eligibility to vote at the AGM, so there were 47 members able to vote.

- In person attendance: Edwin Angless, James Clacherty, Biddy Greene, John Greene, Anthony Hodgson, Dorothy Holder, Mutoni Kaitakirwa, Ghyl Kincaid Smith, Indiana Lawrie, Leslie London, Andrew Massyn, Lalou Melzer, Penny Morrell, Robert Mulders, Mark Neville, Carolyn Neville, Devos Rabie, Joy Robinson, Trish Sanderson-Smith, Peter Stuckey, Marc Turok
- Online (Zoom) attendance: Pam Britt, Vik Norval, Phyllis Orner
- Members too late to vote in attendance: Margot Lynn-Drake
- Non-members in attendance: Pieter Niemand, Crystal West (Election Officer), Kevin Winter (recipient of HECI award 2024).

In total, there were 24 members in attendance, which was more than a third of our members so the AGM was declared quorate.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 6th December 2023 were circulated prior to the AGM.

There was no discussion and the minutes were adopted as a fair reflection of the AGM.

4. The AGM then held a minute's silence for Howard Richman, a staunch OCA support and long-time member, also a very active community member who died suddenly in his sleep earlier this month. He will be greatly missed by the community. Our deepest condolences were expressed to his family whom we wished all strength in this difficult time.

5. Environmental or Heritage Consultant of Integrity (HECI) award was given to Kevin Winter, an environmental scientist and research, and long-time committee member at Friends of the Liesbeek. We honoured him for steadfast efforts to ensure civil society participation in water management and environmental matters, noting how he supported the OCA voluntarily in our battle against the River Club. (Appendix 1). Professor Winter gave a response in which he noted the importance of the efforts of the OCA regarding the Liesbeek and the development at the River Club, which he believed was not wasted and will have changed the way developers

consider developments in future, hopefully not to take for granted that communities are helpless to act.

6. The Outgoing Chairperson, Leslie London, then gave his report which included a brief update on The Obs Journey. The report is attached as Appendix 2. He indicated that he would not be standing again as Chair for the OCA having served in this position since 2019. In discussion, the following was raised
 - a. The City appears to have different approaches to how they manage public land. Officials exercise a great deal of discretion in how they make decisions, so there is no consistency.
 - b. The Obs Neighbourhood Watch is defunct. It's functions have been taken over by OBSID and local sub-sector Community Policing Forum, with some evidence of a reduction in crime locally.
 - c. The Chair was thanked for his contributions over the past few years, knowing that the Civic had been going through a very difficult time.
7. The Treasurer's Report including the Annual Financial Report for the period April 2023 to March 2024 was presented. Issuing SARS18A certificates has proved to be a lot of work and costly to the OCA since we have to audit our books for SARS. Income and expenditure has declined substantially since the exit from the court case. We are in the black with a modest surplus. Car park income and expenses stabilised. It was pointed out that the possibility of the OBSID taking over the parking lot will be a substantial threat to the sustainability of the OCA and any suggestions from the floor would be welcome.
8. No motions were received so we moved directly to the elections.
9. Crystal West took over as election officer and outlined the procedures for the election. There were 7 nominations for 7 positions on the Management Committee, one nomination per portfolio. As a result, there were no competitive nominations but members were still invite to vote in favour, against, or to abstain. Nominees who did not achieve 50% of the vote would not be elected to the position. The elections then took place and each candidate briefly explained to the meeting why they were standing and then exited the room while the voting took place and votes were counted. The results were as follows:

Position	Nomination	Votes for	Votes Against	Votes abstain
Chair	James Clacherty	18	0	2
Treasure	Joy Robinson	21	0	0
Secretary	Leslie London	21	0	0
Communications	Edwin Angless	22	0	0
Heritage and Architecture	Andrew Massyn	20	0	1
Pepper Square car park	Devos Rabie	21	0	0
Social Issues	Anthony Hodgson	19	0	2

10. Discussion

James Clacherty as the incoming chair fielded the discussion in which the following was raised:

- The OCA Committee should support those committee members who take on a portfolio and we work as a team.
- The OCA have a WhatsApp group what is for communication only. It was suggested that one day a week it be opened for suggestions and it be tried out for a while.
- We should have an archiving of OCA materials so that there is no loss of organisational memory.

The incoming chair noted all these useful suggestions and indicated the new committee would look into how to follow through on those.

11. Vote of Thanks and Closure

The chair thanked all those for attending both in person and online and closed the meeting at 7.20pm.