



Greater Lynfrae Civic Association

Greater Good for OUR Neighbourhood

88 Cook Road, Claremont 7708

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 15 February 2023 19:00 at Claremont Primary School

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed all present including councillor Katherine Christie (Ward 58); Derek Bluck and James Cook (Harlyn Neighbourhood Watch) as well as Col. Fourie, W/O Wilkins and W/O Botha of Claremont SAPS.

Apologies: Liz Williamson (CPF), James Fernie (HVA) and Councillor Mikhail Manuel (Ward 59).

2. CONFIRMATION OF 2022 AGM MINIUTES

Proposed: Keith Gottschalk

Seconded: Daphne Castell

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

The Chairperson Madeline Sweeney provided feedback on interactions and achievements of the committee for the past year. The GLCA has a representation at the Ward Council Committee for Ward 58 which gives us a voice at the ward council level. The GLCA provides a flow of communication between the city and the stakeholders in the area.

The GLCA committee members each have a portfolio and the committee meet once a month to discuss matters. We encourage audience members to come join our committee or on a sub-committee capacity.

3.1 Financial report (Jasmine Lin)

The GLCA had a successful financial year and increased our reserves from R45 065 at the end of 2021 to R78 670 at the end of 2022.

Our increased reserves have allowed us to support more projects within the area. We hosted two highly successful community markets in April and November in 2022 and raised a combined total of R51 000 after expenses.



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Our paid-up membership base stood at 122 at the end of 2022, increasing from 99 members in the previous year. While the improvement is welcomed, we represent a community of over 2 000 households and continue to chip away at encouraging households to sign up.

During the year we made monetary contributions to Harlyn Neighbourhood Watch, various donations to the Claremont Primary School library, treekeepers, Mater Domini, SAPS, Carthorse Protection Association.

We increased the number of MiChange vouchers we carry as a reseller to R1 500 to promote the use of vouchers instead of giving food or money to the needy.

We'd like to thank all those who continue to support us and entrust us with this money. To the committee, thank you for all the hard work you put in throughout the year.

3.2 Planning (Maura Sanderoff)

GLCA Planning subcommittee members 2022 were Kobus Coetzee, Victoria de la Cour, Chris Otten and Maura Sanderoff.

Greater Lynfrae had an active year for the built environment renovations and development. We are encouraged by the densification while being mindful of our community and heritage.

In 2022 our small, dedicated planning committee, processed 67 City and Heritage Western Cape submissions. Each application takes diligent scrutiny by our committee for Heritage checks, By-Laws, Title Deeds, Surveyor General Diagrams, Departures, and our big bug bear, checking that all affected neighbours have been notified and signed off the proposed plans.

We are also frequently approached regarding illegal building works which we then refer to the building Inspector Bathobile Ingabane to conduct an inspection.

Neighbours seem to find it difficult to talk through these matters with each other. We encourage neighbours to get to know each other, and inform each other before embarking on a building project, so that these types of disputes can be pre-empted.

We're also finding applicants are "slipping in the back door" by just using Heritage Western Cape approval for the project, without going through the correct channels as required by the City of Cape Town. We invite anyone who is qualified to join our team and help us.



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3.3 Security report (Alexia McCoy)

Crime in the past year in the greater Lynfrae area has been relatively quiet. There has been a slight increase lately in street robberies - cellphones are a hot-ticket item, theft of unsecured bicycles from residential properties and theft general which includes car break ins.

Harlyn continues to encourage residents to be proactive in the neighbourhood by reporting all suspicious activity. Form or join a street WhatsApp group for the sharing of information. Get to know your neighbours.

Harlyn encourages residents to give responsibly - please give U-Turn MiChange vouchers and not cash or food items to those asking at your gate. Limit 'bin pickers' by recycling as much as possible and taking any big items to the municipal dump. It is important to not dispose of any sharp object in the refuse bins as these are often retrieved by 'bin pickers' and used in the commission of crimes.

We have introduced 2 sharps bins for the safe disposal of old knives, tools, scissors etc. There is one at Seeff Belvedere Square and one at Coffee Jess on Imam Haron Road.

As always Harlyn are always looking for Patrollers. We have 55 patrollers currently and only 8 from the GLCA area. Please consider becoming a patroller.

We are always grateful for the donations received from the GLCA.

3.4 Heritage and Environment Report (Jenny Calder)

The GLCA is now represented on the Ward Council Committee by Jenny Calder who also manages this portfolio. In 2022 Provincial Heritage Status (Grade II) was granted for the Claremont Wash Houses and Caretaker's Cottage in Chess Road thanks to Jenny's efforts. There are proposals under discussion on how best to restore and maintain this heritage site as it has become quite dilapidated and run down. Jenny is completing a proposal to use the buildings for community purposes with a number of additional options, e.g. a museum. Whatever the outcome, attending to this site will improve the area and benefit the community and neighbouring residents, who will be grateful if this area is cleaned up and fenced, preventing undesirable activities from continuing.

In September, Jenny introduced a Heritage Walking Tour of Palmyra Estate for Heritage Day. We encourage residents to join the next one and find out more about the history and heritage of the Greater Lynfrae Area. The event is free but donations are welcome.



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The GLCA also helped plant trees for Arbor Day with the Ward Councillor Kate Christie. Apart from donating money to the Treekeepers, we also assisted them with efforts to paint trees susceptible to bark stripping in the area.

The GLCA applied for Council approval to lease the area for the Queen Vic Community Gardens on the corner Miller and Queen Victoria Roads. This project has proven to be successful as not only is there no more dumping there, but members of the community have also become involved in the donating and planting plants as well as helping with maintenance. Once we receive council approval, the GLCA will place a bench in the garden to encourage residents to sit and enjoy the view.

There are a few similar gardening projects in the area which helps green the environment. This portfolio also covers the monitoring of Franklin and Heather Parks.

We encourage our members to report illegal dumping and mess from overflowing green bins to the council.

3.5 Events (Michelle Tayler-Smith)

Everyone is surely familiar with the Family Markets held Keurboom Park. The GLCA proudly hosted two Family Community Markets at Keurboom Park in April and November 2022, which brings the total of these markets to five.

We had over a hundred vendors and twenty-five kids' stalls run by our local junior entrepreneurs. These kids are encouraged to give a percentage of their takings to a charity of their choice.

The GLCA also has a tea garden at the market with tables and chairs under the shady trees, offering a place to sit and enjoy tea and cake or a meal from one of food vendors.

As mentioned in the Treasurer's report these two markets generated R51 000 and constitutes our major fund-raising initiative. We also use this opportunity to sign up new members.

3.6 Communication (Leanne van Rensburg)

All the emailed communications received by the City of Cape Town pertaining to our area are shared on the GLCA Facebook Page, GLCA Website and Lynfrae Community Facebook Group. Examples of such are notices on interrupted electricity and water supply due to maintenance; information about dam levels and relevant information regarding events happening in the area for the well-being of our residents.



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We also field a large number of enquiries regarding traffic, noise, building and security issues which we then distribute to the correct person who can deal with these issues. We encourage residents to report complaints directly to the council themselves so they can follow up. We also use our communication platform to let residents know of important environmental information such as recycling initiatives, protection of trees, poisons that harm nature and the like. We share information from neighbouring civic associations (BECA and HVA) on their events and meetings and posts from Harlyn Neighbourhood Watch. We encourage our residents to use local businesses and services.

3.7 Community (Carol Scrooby)

GLCA promotes the concept of giving responsibly to homeless people using the U-Turn MiChange vouchers (R50 for pack of 4).

Two committee members (Carol and Alexia) attended the launch of the mobile wash facility, Nina Manzi, at the U-Turn Service Centre in August. Access to a shower and flush toilet has been transformative for many of the homeless people who attend U-Turn's Service Centre. It was an informative and inspiring event hearing from those who have completed the U-Turn programme and were living proof of why it is better to give a hand-up and not a handout.

Working with SAPS Claremont:

W/O Wilkins from SAPS Claremont started a community initiative on how community members could assist with SAPS admin tasks. Carol attended five training sessions in September and October, learning about police administrative procedures and how to take statements from witnesses and victims correctly. The intention for 2023 is to help with some of these tasks which will assist the police and free up their time to focus on following up leads after a crime. If anyone is interested, please contact Carol Scrooby

The GLCA was asked to engage with One10Sport by Mr Reddy, principal of Claremont Primary School after complaints regarding noise and late opening hours. The GLCA did meet but have asked Councillor Kate Christie to give feedback on this in her report.

3.8 Traffic

Currently we do not have a committee member managing the traffic portfolio and encourage anyone who is interested in taking this on to please get in touch. However, we do continue to engage with the City on traffic calming measures.



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Sadly, we do not control human behaviour, if we did everyone would obey the law. Parking on pavements is illegal and results in those pushing babies in prams having to walk in the road. Please consider that the next time you think of parking on a pavement.

A raised intersection at the intersection of Queen Victoria and Miller Roads was installed last year. It is a four-way stop and has made it easier and safer for motorists coming into Queen Victoria from Miller Road.

We have asked for more traffic officers to be present to enforce the traffic laws. Lastly, the Ward budget for 2023/24 does include funds for two speed bumps to be installed in Cook Road.

Madeline introduced and thanked the committee members for all their hard work and successes.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT (JASMINE LIN)

Jasmine began by noting that the GLCA is a reseller of MiChange Vouchers.

The GLCA had a successful financial year. We raised R63 406 in incomes and total expenses amounted to R29 801. This increased our reserves from R45 065 at the end of 2021 to R78 670 at the end of 2022.

Our increased reserves have allowed us to support more projects within the area. Using some of the proceeds from our previous markets we invested in improving the GLCA website, integrated the market application and membership sign up processes to make it more user friendly. These costs have paid dividends as we hosted two highly successful community markets in April and November in 2022 and raised a combined total of R51 000 after expenses, making it our biggest source of income.

- We increased our contribution to Harlyn Neighbourhood Watch from R3 000 to R5 000.
- Claremont Primary School – donated R1 863 towards their library
- Treekeepers – donated R1000 to assist the fight against bark stripping in the area
- Mater Domini – as part of our Women's Day drive, we made a R1 000 donation, along with the community who donated care packages.
- SAPS – New years' eve meal R630

2022 Committee: Madeline Sweeney (Chairperson); Jasmine Lin (Vice-Chairperson, treasurer as at October); Stephen Bredenkamp (Treasurer, resigned October); Carol Scrooby (Secretary); Members – Jenny Calder, Alexia McCoy, Michelle Tayler-Smith, Maura Sanderoff



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- We increased the number of MiChange vouchers we carry as a reseller by R400 to R1 500 to promote the use of vouchers instead of giving food or money to the needy.
- Carthorse Protection Association – donation of R614; rounding up the generous donations from the community to R2 500 in total for Mandela Day.
- Other expenses included web-hosting fees and bank charges. Bank charges remain a big expense and unfortunately a civic association does not qualify for a no-fee bank account.

5. GUEST SPEAKER: COL. MARNUS FOURIE (COMMANDER OF VISIBLE POLICING, CLAREMONT SAPS):

Col Fourie began by thanking the GLCA for recognising the Police Force and providing a meal for those on duty on New Year's Eve. COVID19 lockdown regulations meant that crime was at an all-time low during 2020 however it is back to normal and we need to take stock of where we are now.

For a crime to happen three things are needed: a victim, a perpetrator, and an opportunity. The victims are mainly the homeowners and residents of this area. The vagrants/homeless/street people are the main perpetrators. Pre-COVID19 lockdown there were 30-40 known vagrants staying in the area, who had either been through some form of rehabilitation. There are now 350, many coming from neighbouring areas. The Palmyra Road informal encampment behind the mosque benefits no-one. There are no services and the residents living nearby are victims of potential perpetrators as large majority of these vagrants live off the proceeds of crime.

Common robbery is increasing – this is defined by using force to remove personal property from your control, i.e. bag snatching. Almost without exception those arrested for this crime come from the Palmyra Road settlement.

While productivity in terms of arrests for possession of weapons, illegal drugs and house-breaking implements has increased, either the police are doing a great job or there are more perpetrators to arrest. Since crime is high and productivity is high it must mean there are more perpetrators.

Crime prevention by removing the opportunity for crime is a community effort.

- Do not place sharp implements in refuse bins (used to break into cars and homes)
- Criminals de-select, so increase awareness when walking and hiking



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- Support Harlyn Neighbourhood Watch – patrols are a proven way to discourage criminal acts. If you are unable to patrol, there are other ways you can support Harlyn.
- Communicate with your neighbours and Harlyn on suspicious people and activities.
- Make your home a less likely target for criminals than your neighbour(!): lighting, cameras and trimming hedges.

In conclusion, although SAPS is doing well in terms of productivity, the reality is that crime is here: it is a thin line between a common robbery (e.g. pickpocketing) to robbery with a dangerous weapon to armed robbery.

Col Fourie answered questions from the floor:

- No correlation between refuse bin collection days and crime spikes
- Feeding schemes and kind and generous community members attract people to the area who then have a reason to wander around looking for opportunities to commit crimes.

6. GUEST SPEAKER: DEREK BLUCK CHAIRMAN OF HARLYN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

Derek focussed his talk on surveillance cameras and their effectiveness in preventing crime. Living in a city, we will always be under surveillance (walking down the street, in shopping centres, at ATMS). Derek is personally very much in favour of cameras and the more we have in our area the better the security.

The types of cameras that one finds in the city are LPR, overview, Cyclops or Eagle eye and speeding cameras.

In our area: Sector 1 (Harfield, Lynfræ, Sunnybrae and Clairepark) & 4 (Rosmead Ave and Belvedere Rd south to the M5 including Golden Grove area), as defined by SAPS Claremont, there are 30 LPRs which is a combination of City, Armed Response companies, HNW and privately owned. There is also possibly close to one thousand street facing overview cameras; our area is one of the best covered suburbs in the South.

HNW currently monitor between 40 and 60 of these overview cameras and have a team who are also on the city's group of LPR cameras. These Patrollers have been with HNW for many years and all have undergone various training and tests to be able to access to these cameras.

About 3 years ago Harlyn started to monitor a few overview cameras in our area, and we formed our own WhatsApp group for these cameras. One of our Patrollers at his own expense obtained



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the services of a server, based overseas. This enabled us to receive alerts at night and we have slowly increased the number of cameras on our system.

We expanded over the next two years and last year we managed to pay for our own server thanks to the generosity of GLCA, Harfield Villagers Association, HVCID, private residents, FADT and Compass Tactical who have been supporting us. This server costs Harlyn R60,000, is based in JHB and has allowed us to increase the number of cameras that we monitor. We still have space for more cameras that are strategically placed to cover hotspots in our area.

Many Harlyn Patrollers keep the app alive on their smart phones all the time while some only monitor when they are on patrol.

Cameras are effective but not the total answer to crime prevention. Cameras are another layer of defence for your household, other layers include burglar bars, electric fence, beams, dogs, lights, armed response, and WhatsApp Groups etc. The most important item and on top of my list of protecting yourself against crime is **awareness** - many crimes are prevented because the intended victim was aware and took the necessary steps. Remember that we will be living with loadshedding for some time. If you as a household can say that you have ticked all these boxes, then you will have done as much as possible to prevent a crime from occurring on your premises.

Cost of cameras is high with some more expensive than others. Overview Cameras with motion detection are more effective but more expensive. Before one embarks on installing a camera it would be wise to make sure that the following is considered.

- Positioning of cameras – obstacles in the way e.g. trees
- POPI act must be considered;
- Who installs the camera? Cameras not properly installed can get stolen
- Very important issue to consider is who will monitor the cameras. Private or AR company?
- Who will respond?
- The costs of monitoring per camera?
- Servicing of cameras - trees bushes – regular servicing and cleaning of camera, realignment etc
- Load shedding do you have a power back up?
- Do you live on a busy road or thoroughfare? QV, Palmyra, Keurboom, Belvedere, Imam Haron?
- Form a committee and investigate all the possibilities.

Harlyn Patrollers' response times have in Derek's personal experience been faster than SAPS or armed response.

The camera is a great addition to the protection of your home but on its own it will not be enough.



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7. FEEDBACK FROM WARD COUNCILLOR KATHERINE CHRISTIE

Madeline introduced Kate Christie, councillor for Ward 58.

Kate encouraged residents to not give handouts but rather a hand-up using Mi-Change vouchers. Street people refer to the area as The Big Apple, because of the kindness and generosity of residents.

She has asked the Water and Sanitation Department to assess the sewerage pipes in the GLCA and Harfield areas and many are antique porcelain and many vulnerable pipes will be replaced during the year.

After receiving many complaints about the Stanhope Bridge informal settlement she engaged with PRASA, SAPS and law enforcement to have the homeless removed from Die Gat. PRASA has acknowledged that this land belongs to them and are doing regular clean ups.

There are 24 structures behind the mosque on Palmyra Road and since this area is part of Ward 59, Kate encourages everyone to contact Mikhail Manuel to take action on this issue.

The City is committed to removing these settlements.

Rapid Transport system begins construction in August 2024 which will have a huge impact in the presence of taxis in our area as it will offer safe, cheaper and reliable transport.

One10Sport Academy has provided a wonderful service to the community as well as benefitting Claremont Primary School. However, this is a delicate and complex situation. Where there is competing opinions and conflicting interests the rule of law must apply.

The school received many noise complaints, but the main problem is that the land is zoned for residential purposes. The resolution of this issue is up to the school governing body to decide on whether they will make an application for land use rezoning.

If they do decide to do so, the matter will be up for public participation, and all interested and affected residents will have an opportunity to comment.

Kate appealed to community to respect difference of opinion and encouraged residents not to victimise those who have a different position or opinion on social media. She offered to hold another meeting to report back on the school governing body's decision once they have met.

She thanked the committee for the work they do for the benefit of the whole community.



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8. ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE (facilitated by Kate Christie)

The existing committee stood down as required by the GLCA constitution. Madeline Sweeney and Maura Sanderoff will not be standing again for 2023 committee, however Jasmine Lin, Carol Scrooby, Jenny Calder, Alexia McCoy, Leanne van Rensburg and Michelle Tayler-Smith agreed to remain on the committee. New members volunteered to join the committee:

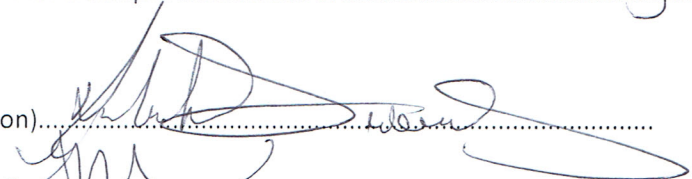
Barry O'Donoghue; Graeme Leighton, Lindiwe Marepula and Daphne Castell-Faber

All were seconded by Keith Gottshalk and Carol Scrooby.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the AGM. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. Snacks and drinks were served after the meeting and provided an opportunity to meet and greet the committee and guests.

Signed at Claremont Cape Town on 27 February 2023

Madeline Sweeney (Chairperson).....

Jasmine Lin (Treasurer).....

Carol Scrooby (Secretary).....