



Greater Lynfrae Civic Association

Greater Good for OUR Neighbourhood

5 Dunluce Avenue, Claremont 7708

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GREATER LYNFRAE CIVIC ASSOCIATION HELD ON 5 MARCH 2024 18h30 AT CLAREMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Jasmine Lin, the chairperson of the GLCA opened the meeting and welcomed all present, including our guest speaker, City of Cape Town Mayor, Geordin Hill-Lewis, Councillors Katherine Christie and Mikhail Manuel, organisations from surrounding areas, GLCA members and other attendees.

Apologies: Derek Bluck of Harlyn, Paul Barker

2. GUEST SPEAKER – CAPE TOWN MAYOR MR GEORDIN HILL-LEWIS

Chairperson thanked the Mayor, Mr Geordin Hill-Lewis for accepting the GLCA's invitation to be the guest speaker at our AGM. Mr Hill-Lewis expressed his gratitude to be working with such committed and dedicated individuals and residents whose aim is to contribute to the development of communities and the City. The Mayor's speech focussed on matters of law and order and what the City of Cape Town (COCT) is investing in. He referred to Cape Town as the City of Hope – the city that aspires to be the example for the rest of South Africa.

Investments made by the City

The latest statistics show that COCT's employment is at its highest level to date, and the unemployment rate is lower than the country average. Cape Town's population is growing at 3% per year and as a result of inadequate infrastructure investment by the County, the City needs to respond to the growing population through infrastructure investments. COCT's 3-year infrastructure budget stands at R43bn, and more than R120bn in the pipeline for 2022 to 2031. Water and sanitation will account for a significant part of the investment spend. The mayor showed statistics on building plans and how property valuations for COCT are holding up well above other key metros in SA, with investments to end load-shedding, investment into safety, public transport, and the City's investments into Safe Spaces to deal with the homelessness situation.

Public transport – the MyCiti Phase 2A is the largest transport project in COCT. The purpose is to provide direct and safe routes along the city's busiest transport corridors from Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain to Wynberg and Claremont. This is a multi-year project, and the Claremont segment will start in 2024.

2023 Committee: Jasmine Lin (Chairperson); Carol Scrooby (Vice chairperson); Lloyd Yetton (Treasurer), Lindiwe Marepula (Secretary); members – Jenny Calder, Graeme Leighton, Alexia McCoy, Barry O'Donoghue (resigned September 2023), Michelle Tayler-Smith, Leanne van Rensburg.



Energy – R13.8bn has been allocated for investment into ending load shedding at the City level through various projects such as procurement from IPPs, Battery Energy Storage Systems, maintenance of Steenbras Hydro Power Plant and Cash-For-Power Programme, amongst others. Steenbras dam is a key asset for the City regarding power generation, allowing the City to experience 1 to 2 stages of loadshedding below the rest of the country. COCT buys excess power from property owners for cash or to offset their rates bills.

Water and sanitation – the number of recorded sewer blockages have been reducing over the last 2 years because of the investment into water and sanitation by COCT, e.g. upgrading of pipe networks etc.

Safety and security – this is a key concern for everyone. SAPS falls under National Government and is not run by COCT. COCT has its own limited Law Enforcement function and resources based in Cape Town in the form of 3 500 metro police, law enforcement and traffic officers. These offices have a limited legal mandate, but COCT stretch the mandates to fill in the gap left by the rapidly retreating SAPS capacity. The mayor took the time to salute the excellent, competent hardworking current and former police officers. Adding more officers is not the solution as it becomes too costly. COCT has been successful in using technological innovations to make the existing officers be more impactful in their work. Crime is too high in SA. While crime in COCT is ticking downwards very slowly, levels remain too high. COCT will keep pouring resources into the safety issue as they understand that it is essential for a future thriving Cape Town.

Ward-specific statistics

Ward 58's 100-day report shows 1 301 Service Requests were logged for the ward, made up of 865 via call centre and C3 logs, and 436 originated through pro-active action from law enforcement, traffic, and metro police. Law enforcement, traffic services and social development make up the top 3 categories. Street people is the biggest reason for reports, followed by general ops, self-starts and patrols. Violent crimes should be routed to SAPS, but residents are increasingly logging via the City due the lack of response from SAPS. Ward 58 has allocated budget for CCTV camera and 2 law enforcement officers.

Ward 59's 100-day report shows 2 482 service requests were logged for the ward, made up of 1 381 from residents, 1015 from proactive monitoring and 86 from CCTV cameras. Traffic services, law enforcement and social development make up the top 3 categories. By-law contraventions (mainly traffic offences) and street people are the top 2 reason for requests.

**Numbers to call:**

Emergency call centre – 021 480 7700

Anonymous tip-off number: 0800 11 0077

Enough is Enough Extortion at construction projects: 0800 00 6992?

Homelessness

Establishing a model that can succeed in the courts is critical to overcome in SA to deal with the issue on homelessness. With reference to an article written by the mayor in Daily Maverick, he articulates how the City can win eviction applications that it was previously losing in court by putting through very carefully considered cases. In the last 4 – 6 months COCT has not yet lost a single case. City is filling up the court pipeline with various eviction cases around the city. Eviction orders are the last resort given the length of time and costs involved. It would be better if the people living in the encampments accepted the voluntary care interventions offered to them in the form of Safe Spaces. The City has invested R250m over the last 2 years to expand the Safe Spaces across the City. The Safe Spaces provide hot meals, ablution facilities, sleeping quarters, private storage for personal belongings and most importantly access to a social worker, nurse, and doctor, job training and family reunification programmes. They assist the individuals with social grants and applying for ID books. There is a huge need for addiction and psychiatric care and treatment in at least 60% of homeless cases in COCT there is an underlying addiction issue. Tertiary healthcare falls under national government and is not care the City is able to provide. The larger encampments in the Claremont area are already in the court process. However, even if the City wins those cases the problem does not get automatically resolved as there are a large number of transient homeless people in the city who move constantly and are sometimes harder to deal with. Public spaces must be restored for broader public use.

The Mayor is grateful that there are people willing and prepared to help the City by playing an active role in the mission of building a City of Hope.

Other issues discussed

The City works very closely with U-Turn and the Mayor is a great admirer of U-Turn which has a good success rate in their programme to get people sustainably off the streets. The City supports them financially. U-Turn's project in Claremont is completed and in use.

MyCiti hub in Claremont – all the information is publicly available. Residents should be prepared for disruptions during the construction phase. The Stanhope bridge roads will be realigned, and the flow of traffic at the node will be substantially improved. The project will start in the second half of 2024 and will be completed in 2027.



The City operates an electricity grid that is well run and maintained but it is only a distribution grid. There is nothing stopping the City from adding capacity to the grid. The idea is for the City to purchase 500MW of power from IPPs. The City has also made it easier and more attractive for people to invest in their own solar power at home. City will be launching a fully automated approval process. The cost of the metre required by people who wish to sell electricity back to the City will come down significantly over the coming months.

Rail – The train system in SA has collapsed and there are no properly functioning lines. There is no doubt that the City will eventually have the responsibility of running the rail system in Cape Town, however the question is how hard COCT should push to get it done sooner rather than later. The City is being proactive and preparing for that eventuality. COCT does not intend to run a rail system themselves. The model that is most viable to the City includes the running of the lines by private operators. It will have to be affordable for the public so it will have to be a system whereby the state subsidizes as they currently do.

The GLCA and HVA's Chairperson James Fernie (founder of UThandoSA) presented the Mayor with The Heart Of Cape Town.

3. CONFIRMATION OF 2023 AGM MINUTES

Proposed: Carol Scrooby

Seconded: Alexia McCoy

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT INCLUDING SUBCOMMITTEE FEEDBACK

4.1 Overall feedback

2023 GLCA executive committee consists of 9 residents of the area who volunteer their time freely to the civic to represent our members, the ratepayers and residents. Committee members are assigned various portfolios and meet once a month to provide feedback and discuss matters such as security, planning, environment amongst others. We work closely with our two ward councillors, neighbouring civics, and other organisations such as the Harlyn Neighbourhood Watch on preserving, protecting, and improving our area.

Accomplishments for the year include:

- Increasing our paid-up members to 180, showing further increase from 122 in 2022 and 99 in 2021. We represent a community of over 2 000 households, so more work needs to be done to increase the awareness of the GLCA.
- We extended the GLCA boundaries this year to include the area bound by Imam Haron, Chichester, and Belvedere Road.



- With thanks to Liz Williamson, we successfully registered the GLCA as a Non-Profit Company with the CIPC and SARS.

4.2 Security (Alexia McCoy)

The GLCA works closely with the Harlyn Neighbourhood Watch on security-related issues. Alexia McCoy sits on both Harlyn and GLCA committees. Harlyn currently has 14 patrollers that live in the greater Lynfrae area but only 5 are regular patrollers. This is a huge drop from the days when Lynfrae was our biggest supporter of patrollers. It would really be great if more residents would volunteer!

There is a lot of daytime and late-night foot traffic in the area at the moment. We ask that residents DO NOT give handouts at their property but rather support local shelters such as U-Turn. Harlyn and GLCA sell U-Turn's MiChange vouchers. We all need to work together on this!

Liz Williamson, the GLCA representative on the Claremont CPF (Community Policing Forum) reported that every member of the Executive Committee tendered their resignations on 13 February this year. Frustrations related to ineffectual responses on serious complaints regarding the poor management of the Claremont SAPS detective branch and the lack of accountability. Whilst the CPF committee remains committed to working at Sector level and providing SAPS all the support they can to prevent crime and investigate cases, they have stepped away from the oversight role which they believe they were prevented from fulfilling.

Harlyn would like to thank the GLCA for their continued support and generous financial contributions – we are a volunteer organization and rely on donations to operate. We want to encourage the residents of Lynfrae to join Harlyn.

4.3 Planning (Graeme Leighton)

GLCA Planning subcommittee for 2023 comprises 5 members – Kobus Coetzee, Victoria de la Cour, Chris Otten, Duncan Rendall and is headed up by Graeme with Jenny Calder as our heritage expert. Greater Lynfrae had an active year for the built environment renovations and development - balancing the growing trend of densification with the character of our community and heritage. In 2023 our small, dedicated planning committee processed 77 City and Heritage Western Cape submissions. Each application takes diligent scrutiny by our committee for Heritage checks, Bylaw's, Title Deeds, Surveyor General Diagrams, Departures, and checking that all affected neighbours have been notified and signed off on the proposed plans.

We have seen an increase in plans being submitted for approval **after the building work** has already been executed. We encourage residents who have previously not submitted plans for



building work to do so - and urge residents to follow the procedures set out by the City and obtain planning permission ahead of building work starting.

Building work can be very disruptive to the surrounding community and we continue to encourage neighbours to talk to each other about their plans and building projects. Open conversations about what is planned helps to build understanding and can reduce the risk of formal complaints and disputes. We invite anyone qualified to join our team and help us.

4.4 Heritage (Jenny Calder)

Jenny Calder will be training as a Heritage Officer with Heritage Western Cape in the coming months. Her experience and knowledge are of great assistance to the GLCA Planning portfolio. This enables us to protect important heritage values while aiding development of properties in a sensitive manner.

4.5 Environment (Jenny Calder)

- **PSHB beetle – Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer beetle**

The rampant spread of this beetle during the summer months has been a great source of concern. Of the approximately 4 million trees owned by the City of Cape Town in public and residential/commercial properties, it's estimated that 1 m are affected by PSHB. What we as residents can do about it is to educate ourselves. The City runs regular training sessions on PSHB, iNaturalist allows us to track and monitor the spread. The Invasive Species Unit (ISU) will come out and inspect every query logged, whether on private or public property. Please make use of the tools available to everyone. **The box elder tree** is the primary reproductive host for the PSHB beetle. If you own one of these trees in your home, please consider removing it before it becomes infested. There are no safe or legal chemicals available to control the spread or protect your tree. The only means of control once the tree has been infested is to remove the affected limbs but considering that the trunk is usually targeted, the whole tree is usually removed. We wish to thank Paul Barker for his guidance and willingness to always assist or advise with PSHB matters.

- **Parks and public places**

Our parks and public spaces are under constant threat, making them unsafe for their intended use. Other than Keurboom Park which is very efficiently run by Keurboom Park Association, Heather Park is the last remaining unfenced park in our area. This is unfortunately about to change as it is proving impossible to keep it in a safe and hygienic condition due to ongoing vagrancy and disregard for the laws and by-laws meant to protect public places. We strongly urge residents to contact Jenny Calder or our ward councillor to get assistance in setting up a



Friends of the GLCA Parks group. This will enable us to work with the city in a more constructive and beneficial manner.

- **Road verges**

Thank you to the gardeners of road verges who try their utmost to beautify areas that would otherwise be used as illegal dumping sites. Paul Leader, Charles Sanderoff and Jerry and Yvonne Stevens for Water Street Gardens, and Jenny and Marshall Calder for Queen Victoria Gardens. We'd like to thank the community for all their plant donations.

4.6 Events (Michelle Tayler-Smith)

The GLCA proudly hosted two successful GLCA Family Markets in 2023. The first one took place in early May in Keurboom Park; and the second in November, which was hosted at Claremont Primary's sports fields. Our market is run by a small team of unpaid volunteers, and we prioritize local home industries and junior entrepreneurs. Proceeds from kids' stalls were donated to the South African Guide Dog Association, with the GLCA matching the amount and a total of R2000 was donated. We believe the focus on our local community and our kids is what makes our events a great success, however we faced significant hurdles with our last market in November. We always follow the proper procedure to obtain events permit through the City of Cape Town, however the requirements imposed by the City has unfortunately made it impossible for us to operate a small community market. We encourage the City to relook the requirements for small, non-profit community markets so that we can continue hosting our family events and can look forward to more fun in 2024.

Leanne van Rensburg who manages the Lynfrae community page on social media successfully organised a successful Halloween Trick or Treat event. We got residents involved in decorating their houses and sponsored restaurant vouchers for the best decorated house. Thank you to The Eatery for contributing towards the prize.

Points of focus for 2024

- Updating constitution – align with new boundaries, include our non-profit company registration information, amongst other changes.
- We've increased our annual membership fee to R120 for 2024. Increase awareness of the association for residents – we're looking for someone who can assist with marketing to join our committee.
- Focus on educating community regarding environment, security, and planning.



5. Financial Report by treasurer (Lloyd Yetton)

- We're sitting with R140 000 in capital, providing a solid foundation for our work.
- Memberships brought in R15 700 this year, showing strong community support.
- Our 2 markets brought in R63 300 in net proceeds, including proceeds from raffle sales and deducting expenses and stall refunds.
- Running expenses remain impressively low at below R5 000, made up of admin, IT, and bank charges.
- Donations paid out totalled R15 000 – Harlyn, Keurboom Park, Claremont Primary, Sherwood House, and the Queen Victoria Garden. This was intentional, until any outstanding SARS liability is understood and settled.

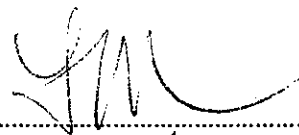
6. Election of 2024 Committee (facilitated by Cllr. Kate Christie)


In line with the GLCA constitution, all committee members will set down at each AGM. Existing committee members who will be re-standing for 2024 – Jenny Calder, Graeme Leighton, Jasmine Lin, Lindiwe Marepula, Alexia McCoy, Michelle Tayler-Smith, Lloyd Yetton. Nomination or volunteer of new members – 2 members put their hand up to join the committee. GLCA committee will reach out to each volunteer.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the AGM. The meeting was adjourned at 20H24. 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 19 MARCH 2024

Jasmine Lin (Chairperson) 

Lloyd Yetton (Treasurer) 

Lindiwe Marepula (Secretary) 