

PROTECTED AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAAC) Meeting

Wednesday 10 May 2017, 09h00 – 12h00
False Bay Nature Reserve HQ Multipurpose Hall

Attendance:

NAME	ORGANISATION	PRESENT	APOLOGY
Richard Cammell (RC) (Chairperson: FBNR PAAC)	FoZR Zeekoevlei Civil Association	X	
Abdulla Parker (AP)	CCT: Stormwater	X	
Anthony Roberts (AR)	CTEET	X	
Dale Wright (DW)	Birdlife SA	X	
Gavin Lawson (GL)	Zandvlei Trust	X	
Cllr Gerry Gordon (GG)	Councillor	X	
Jimmy Baigrie	Zeekoevlei Yacht Club, Zeekoevlei Sailing Centre & Zeekoevlei Peninsula Security		X
Joanne Jackson (JJ)	CCT: ERMD	X	
Jo-Anne Petersen (JP)	CCT: SWM Disposal	X	
Jocelyn van Eeden (JvE) (Secretary - minutes)	CTEET (intern)	X	
John Bailey (JB)	P.P.O.A	X	
Liezal Slinger (LS)	FBNR Student	X	
Michael Farquhar	Two Oceans Aquarium		X
Mogamat Samsodien (MS)	CCT: FBNR	X	
Nicki Stock (NS)	Zeekoevlei Yacht Club	X	
Nizaam Henry (NH)	CCT: CFWWTW	X	
Petro Botha (PB)	CTEET: Gantouw Project	X	
Stephen Granger (SG)	CCT: ERMD		X
Victoria Day (VD)	CCT: FBNR	X	

Catchment.

4. Feedback from PAAC Chair Meeting

- RC reported back on the PAAC Chair Meetings (10.08.2016, and 15.02.2017).
 - The meeting on 10 August 2016 was opened by Julia Wood
 - Rolling out PAAC programme takes time
 - All City Reserves proclaimed except Wolfgat Nature Reserve, managed by CoCT.
 - Legislative framework for PAAC
 - Kay Montgomery led discussions around collaborative works
 - The challenges of each reserve was discussed
 - The meeting on 15 February 2017 was opened by Chairman Bongani Mnisi:
 - Discussion around whether minutes should be published on the internet
 - Presentations were done by the PAAC Chair for each reserve
- GL reported that the Zandvlei Trust publish their minutes on the internet
- NS commented that by publishing the minutes online, all the information is available and one cannot plead ignorance. Therefore, disarming the public by keeping it all open.
- GG commented that the minutes should be made available on the internet as it explains the thinking processes behind decisions
 - Internalise and open for discussions
 - Transparency, the info is out there
- JJ agreed that there is no harm in publishing but one needs to be careful about certain items minuted.
- GL commented that the public are able to ask for access to documents, therefore if people are interested it gives them the chance to find out.
- GL suggested one could minute how long the minutes are to be kept out of public domain.
- AR suggested that the minutes are first adopted and then released.
- RC added that the minutes are currently out as unadopted minutes but in the future will only go out as adopted minutes.
- RC and JJ suggested that one also explains what the PAAC is all about and who is invited, and why.

5. Presentation on the Gantouw Project (Petro Botha)

6. False Bay Nature Reserve Report Back

- MS reported that the False Bay Nature Reserve Quarterly Report is not yet complete due to restructuring and staff changes within the City. MS reported that the report will be sent out shortly.

a) Staffing Matters:

- MS reported that FBNR had two seasonal workers from February to April. One assisted at FBNR HQ and the other at Rondevlei.
- FBNR had 6 EPWP workers for the Eastern shore of Zeekoevlei until April. They worked on a shift basis each week.
- There are now 6 new EPWP workers for the Eastern shore of Zeekoevlei until June 2017. They will work 5 days a week.
- There is no longer a staff member dedicated to looking after the visitor facilities at Rondevlei.
- MS reported that within the next 3 weeks FBNR would receive 100 different people each week, for 3 weeks.
 - The EPWP programme would be run through the IAS office with Marco Meyer.
 - GG commented that the project hadn't come through sub council yet.
 - VD responded that the project is not run by FBNR, but a separate entity, and was not sure where the staff would be coming from.
 - NS asked about the training of the EPWP workers.
 - MS responded that they would be unskilled labour and they would have a day of training / induction.
- MS reported that FBNR had 2 students. One student from Centurion Academy, with Shihabuddeen Khan as a supervisor; and one from CPUT with MS as a supervisor.
- MS reported on the sludge clean up on Lukannon Drive.
 - MS's student, Dylan Mentor, oversaw the process.
 - 15 people were on site.
 - The sludge was sifted out of the sand, packaged, and the sand was replaced.
- MS reported on water hyacinth:
 - Hyacinth was found and removed from the Northern shore of Zeekoevlei, outside the Big Lotus River area, close to Bottom Road.
 - Two weeks were spent clearing the hyacinth with regular follow-ups.
 - JP commented that there was a lot of water hyacinth on the outlet near the Landfill, impacting their access to the water.
 - VD responded that the hyacinth gets cleared at the weir.
 - MS commented that FBNR staff do the initial hyacinth

<p>clear, but then there are often no staff to do the follow-up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AP commented that extra pollution/pollutants increase the rate of vegetation growth, and there are no resources to clean. ○ MS reported on the maintenance of Eastern shore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Damage and vandalism to the ablution facilities have occurred. ○ Staff is currently fixing the plumbing, walls, and installing new basins. ○ Two days after they were installed they were vandalised. ○ They are unsure how to further secure the toilets. ○ AR suggested increasing community ownership, creating a presence / reporting structure. ○ JB agreed that buy-in and community ownership needs to occur. ○ MS commented that there are cameras, and rangers but vandalism still occurs, and people do report the issues. ○ JB suggested one "names and shames" the culprit. That is however now complicated to do, but one could tell-on or confidentially report the individual. ○ JB commented that empowering the community is vital, informing, and enhancing safety and security. ○ To be kept on the agenda. ○ MS reported that burn prep was underway at Rondevlei. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cutting reeds ○ Burn being done for ecological reasons ○ MS reported on the Hippo capture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The hippo is going into the boma and eating. ○ The transport permit is pending. ○ JJ asked if the reserve staff was operating under portfolios? ○ MS responded that staff is still responsible for sites, but each member has designated projects/responsibilities. ○ The new Strandfontein Supervisor has not yet started due to an HR issue – the appointment letter needs to be re-signed. <p>7. Catchment Issues</p> <p>a) Dredging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ JJ reported that DEADP has granted authorisation to extend the Record of Decision for dredging Zeekoevlei for 5 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Candice Haskins met with Asieff Khan to discuss sediment sampling and area changes in terms of sludge currently in the vlei. 	<p>VD / AK to follow up with Robert Siebritz about the equipment to do the grab sampling.</p>
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- JJ added that it is a high priority that the grab sampling gets done.
- AP commented that dredging is on the list with a lot of other projects and issues.
 - A transitional process is happening within the City
 - Grab Sampling will give a better idea of cost and where we are with the dredging matter.

b) Litter Traps

- AP asked JJ if any funding for litter traps had become available.
- JJ responded that none yet.
- AP reported that updated research is still needed, and they are still trying for funding.
- AP reported that the Springfield bypass is operating effectively.
- **To be kept on agenda: funding for research for an improved litter trap designed.**

8. Partner Organisations & City Departments

a) CFWWTW

- NH reported on the inlet screws:
 - The contract to replace all screws is in place and underway – 3 are in place and they are busy with inlet screw number 1 and 4. This will be done by mid July. 2 screws are operating (40% efficient).
- RC asked whether only 2 were needed to operate.
- NH responded yes.
- RC commented that the empty sump has been identified as the worst contributor to the smell.
- NH responded that they are currently busy with covering most channels, and are 60-70% complete.
- RC asked about the removal of the gas.
- NH responded that the Hydrogen Sulphide gas is stripped off and neutralised.
 - The inlet sump is currently not covered and they cannot cover the area until all 4 screws are in place.
 - The gas scrubbing process should be running by the end of the month.
 - The primary settling tank is already covered.
 - All 4 screws should be finished by the end of November.
 - Covering the sump early next year.
 - All 8 primary settling tanks refurbished.
 - The secondary settling tank from 1982, scrapers have been refurbished and are operating - In total 22 secondary settling tanks.
 - The plant can process 200 mega litres.

- They are currently receiving 145 mega litres – not getting all flow due to silt build-up. At full capacity 180 mega litres a day.
- NH reported that within the next 2-3 weeks they would be receiving another belt press.
- The centrifuge refurbished is in the workshop. They are awaiting the tender for the electrical controls to be worked on (where the centrifuge goes in). The Tender has been sent out.
- The dried material from the plant goes to Vissershoek.
- RC asked if the plant would be using the centrifuge / spin-drying route.
- NH responded that they plan to reprocess the sludge in the back ponds using this method.
- JP asked which site at Vissershoek the dried material gets sent to.
- NH responded that it is low hazardous, but still not applicable to landfill. Steam injection method is more applicable to landfill.
 - Steam and digesters operational end of this month.
- JB expressed concern over the blocked drains and terrible smell.
- NH responded that they are not responsible for what people throw down the drain causing the blockages.
 - Community needs to learn and understand what they can't throw down the drain and why.
- RC and JJ agreed it extends back to the education campaign.
- GG commented that with the current water restrictions it might be a good time to help educate people.
- JB suggested revisiting informal settlements and reinforcing the message.
- GL suggested a flyer in People's Post regularly.
- GG suggested approaching all 4 area-based Mayco Members about the sewer issues. Get them all into a meeting, as it affects them all.
- JJ suggested RC, as the Chair, sends the request to the Mayco Members, and then it is supported by CoCT.
- AP commented that there are currently no resources to update the Catchment Plan Matrix every year.
 - List challenges
 - ODTP: needs a coordinator to display challenges and progress (to update an already existing Catchment Plan Matrix).

b) Coastal Park Landfill

- AR reported back on the Coastal Park Landfill meeting
 - AR represented the PAAC committee

GG to send names of the 4 Mayco Members to **RC**.

RC to send invite out to Mayco Members for meeting. **AP** and **NH** to attend the meeting.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The external audited document on the landfill's operations is produced every quarter, and has consistently been 95-97% compliant. ○ Pylons are busy being constructed to extract gas from landfill. ○ Big Issue: wind-blown litter into the reserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regular cleaning of the litter – the amount of litter is a huge concern, which was raised. ○ Litter in and around dump needs to be cleared. ○ RC asked how long till the landfill will reach maximum capacity. ○ AR responded that it still has a long life span. ○ JP commented that there is still quite a lot of airspace available to them, which is calculated from the base of the site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Piggyback cells – lined section ○ Max height has been reached in the Northern section of the landfill ○ The rest must still plateau (45m). ○ JJ asked about the gas being utilised for energy. ○ JP responded that the gas will be harvested for energy: first 1 megawatt once the infrastructure is in place. <p>c) Cape Town Environmental Education Trust (CTEET)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AR reported that CTEET has received funding from Cathsseta for learnerhsips, interns, WIL students, Skills programme and tourism site-based field guides to be based at reserves across the City. <p>9. Closure and Dates of Following three Meetings</p> <p>Preliminary date for the next PAAC Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 26 July 2017 	<p>JP to forward audited document to PAAC members.</p>
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Acronyms commonly used:

- CFWWTW: Cape Flats Wastewater Treatment Works
- CoCT: City of Cape Town
- CTEET: Cape Town Environmental Education Trust
- ERMD: Environmental Resource Management Department (CCT)
- ERMD (BM): ERM Department (Biodiversity Management Branch)
- FBNR: False Bay Nature Reserve

FBNRQR: False Bay Nature Reserve Quarterly Report
FoZR: Friends of Zeekoevlei and Rondevlei
PAAC: Protected Areas Advisory Committee
SBA: Strandfontein Birding Area
TCT (S&S): Transport for Cape Town (Stormwater and Sustainability branch)
VH: Village Heights