

**FISH HOEK VALLEY
RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION
(FHVRRA)**

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Newsletter for August 2013

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

Venue: FISH HOEK CIVIC CENTRE.

Date: THURSDAY 22 AUGUST 2013. Time: 19h30

MEETING AGENDA

1. WELCOME, Introductions and Apologies.
2. GUEST SPEAKER: **JIM HALLINAN**

 TOPIC: FALSE BAY!
 A WORLD CLASS WONDER IN OUR OWN BACKYARD
3. PRESENTATION by City Officials on Rates rebates
4. MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 February 2013 & matters arising
5. COUNCILLOR's Report
6. TREASURER's Report
7. CHAIRPERSON's Report
8. GENERAL

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING.

FHVRRA SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscriptions (R60 per household) became due on 1 January 2013

Your address label / e-mail letter indicates the current status of your subs.

We appeal to members in arrears to pay their outstanding subscriptions.

Members unable to afford the subscription fees are advised to contact the Association's Chairperson
(Tel: 021-785-1328), in full confidence and no obligation, to discuss a reduced fee.

Details of our bank account for Bank deposits or EFT payments:

A/C Name: FHVRRA. A/C No: 374203091. Bank: Standard – Fish Hoek.

Bank Code for deposits: 036009. Bank Code for EFT payments: 051001.

Indicate: "subs-your initials-your surname" in the payment reference.

Subs can also be posted to P.O. Box 22125 Fish Hoek 7974, or paid at the following establishments:

A.P. Jones (Bedding Dept. 1st floor), Regal Cycles and PennyLane (Valyland).

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OUR GUEST SPEAKER:

Jim Hallinan has lived and worked in the Cape Peninsula for more than 30 years, first as Nature Conservation Manager at the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, later as Cultural Heritage Resources Manager for the Table Mountain National Park and presently with the City of Cape Town. He is a specialist in Environmental Interpretation and is well known as a public speaker on subjects of natural and cultural historical interest related to the Cape Peninsula.

His talk will be illustrated by a series of “wow” slides on what False Bay looked like in the Ice Age, the majestic Southern Right whales that come here to breed, Orcas hunting dolphins and breaching Great White sharks. He will also discuss the natural and cultural heritage resources that have the potential to make Fish Hoek and the Far South Peninsula a world-class tourism destination if we work together and wisely develop and conserve these assets into the future.

GENERAL MEETINGS

The FHVRRA did not hold a Quarterly General Meeting in May as we were involved in the organisation of 2 special public meetings and a meeting with the Mayor, viz:

*** Public Meeting on 17 April 2013 – Vallyland Cell Mast**

At this well attended meeting the overall majority of attendees opposed the siting of a cell mast at the Vallyland Centre. Attendees were invited to sign the petition that had been initiated by Mr Pierre Joubert and the Nerina Old Age Home.

Prior to the meeting, the FHVRRA had, in a letter to the responsible City Directorate, objected to this mast - stressing the proximity of the Nerina Old Age Home and schools, also that the location selected for this mast did not conform to the City's prescription for "sensitive siting, design and location". ***For more see the insert on Vallyland Cell Mast below.***

*** Public Meeting on 8 May 2013 – Traffic and Transport (in association with the Far South Peninsula Community Forum (FSPCF))**

This meeting was well attended and many suggestions about improving the traffic and transport crisis in the Far South Peninsula were received from the public both prior to and at the meeting. This matter is receiving specific attention by the FSPCF via workshops with the City.

*** FSPCF Meeting with the Mayor of Cape Town on 27 May 2013**

This meeting was attended by all the Civic Associations in the Far South Peninsula. At the meeting the Mayor committed the City to working with the Far South community on improving the Traffic and Transport situation and to drawing up a specific Disaster Management Plan for our area. Workshops involving City officials and local experts are taking place to move these serious concerns forward. The Mayor also promised that the City would undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Far South, something that should, in terms of National Law, have been done to underpin all planning legislation. The concern about overdevelopment of the Far South Peninsula remains a critical factor. The FSPCF has put in place ways of monitoring the City's promises so as to ensure the economic and environmental sustainability of our area.

VALYLAND CELL MAST

The mast has been erected in the original location despite the petitions and various public representations to the City. A compromise suggested and agreed to by immediate neighbours and the owner of Vallyland to move the mast further into the centre of the Vallyland complex, has not been accepted.

We understand that the problem to moving it is that the Vallyland centre is not one consolidated erf, although all erven are owned by one person/company and are zoned commercial. To move it to another erf would necessitate starting the process all over again from scratch and we understand that Towerlink was not agreeable to that. **All in all, a very unsatisfactory result which leaves the residents bitter and unhappy.**

RATES

By now you will have received your rates account with the new rates figure on it. Hopefully it will be correct, but should you have objected and see no sign of action, please notify the Council that there is an objection pending. You have two options of payment. Either pay the amount indicated on your rates account or work out what you think is the correct amount and pay that. With the latter option please bear in mind that if your objection is not upheld, you will have to pay the difference with interest. Should your objection be successful and you have paid too much you will be credited with the difference and it will be deducted from future rates accounts. You will not get cash back!

Council officials will be giving a presentation at the QGM on possible rates rebates. This is available to people whose income is less than R10 000 per month and whose property is worth less than a certain amount. The officials will give all the details for qualifying for this rebate.

BEACH

The revetment below the childrens' play park has at last been properly repaired and we hope will withstand the sea's strong pounding. Unfortunately to date we have not been able to get the lights on Jager walk replaced. After they were vandalized for the second time Council was reluctant to do the same repair again. Creative solutions will have to be found as Jager Walk is dangerous at night without these lights. Any suggestions will be welcome.

SPRING SPLASH

We have seen the shark nets being deployed fairly often and the Spring Splash is the official launch of the shark nets. The Spring Splash takes place on the first Sunday in September - 1st September 2013. There are many activities lined up and these include family activities for the children – at 10am a treasure hunt and sand castle building competition and a swim and run event organized by the life-savers. This will be followed by line dancing for the young and not so young and a prize for the best outfit for the day. The actual Big Splash where you all rush into the sea takes place at 3pm. All in all, a fun day at the beach not to be missed!

PLANNING

The City's Planning Department is fast becoming a cause for concern. There is the Mayor's campaign to build 5000 houses in Phillippi on good agricultural land. To do this she will have to override clauses in the Spatial Development Framework, a policy document which took City officials more than 5 years to complete. It seems she wants developers to go ahead building outside the Urban Edge line and furthermore building on land that is zoned agricultural. This area is an important agricultural resource that is also the main sump for recharging the Cape Flats aquifer which provides abundant ground water for agriculture here and elsewhere. The market garden farms give much needed work opportunities but also supply food reasonably to Cape Town's citizens. Additionally there are surveys that state that there is adequate space within the city limits inside the Urban Edge for large scale sub-economic/low cost housing. Her response is that Province must decide.

On another planning matter, the civic associations are notified about applications for planning departures and asked for comment. However, for large plans we have to go to our nearest sub-council planning office, in this case Plumstead, and, if we want a copy, we have to pay for it. There have been many complaints about the City planning department but there does not seem to be any will to improve matters.

BABOONS

During the last months the number of confrontations between baboons and humans has steadily decreased due to the re-organisation of the hierarchy responsible for baboons and the professional management of the troops on the Peninsula. Occasional troublesome males have had to be removed but without impeding the overall rise in baboon numbers. As this increase continues it is important that the responsible authorities ensure that the increasing number of baboons foraging on the natural vegetation do not threaten any species of the Cape's special flora.

RAILWAYS

Many of you may have seen the recent letter by former councillor Nicki Holderness in the Cape Times on the subject of the railways. Quite rightly she complains about lack of signage both on the trains themselves and elsewhere on the stations, no announcements to direct you to the correct train when it does arrive, no improvements to the station at Fish Hoek, never mind that the service is unreliable, the coaches dirty and there is a lack of safety for the passengers. It seems that she is supported by all of us in the South Peninsula. A public transport system is important and we should pressure Metrorail to provide it.

MAIN ROAD

The tenders for the next phase of the upgrade of the Main Road have closed and the process to choose the new contractor is under way. Once chosen, the contractor has to get organized and various problems need to be ironed out, etc. In short we should not expect the road works to recommence before October or even later.

The building of the retaining wall above Clovelly station will take approximately a year and whilst we shall have two-way traffic in the Clovelly/Kalk Bay area, there will be a stop/go from the Labia House towards Muizenberg as they rebuild that section of the road.

SKATE BOARD PARKS AND WATER PARKS

Yet again people are asking for skate board parks for our young people. A good idea and suggestions as to suitable locations will be welcome.

Water parks are another good idea which we raised with Amenities about two years ago. Water parks come in various shapes and sizes but the ones seen by the FHVRRA chairman in Vancouver are about the size of a very large tennis court with jets of water coming out above and below and from various sides - all at different times. The surface is non-slip and the water quickly drains away and is collected and re-used. The children adore them, they are great fun and safe. They are not as expensive as swimming pools to build or maintain. We have been told that five are being built in townships in Cape Town including one in Ocean View. We really hope the City gets round to it this summer. It will make all the difference to children unable to get to the sea and will keep them happy and off the streets.

BLUE PLAQUES

The Simon van der Stel Foundation has initiated a **Blue Plaque program** in the Cape Peninsula to commemorate a link between a specific location and a famous person or event, thus serving as a historical marker (ref: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_plaque). There are currently nineteen Blue Plaques, which are cast in ceramic to avoid theft and vandalism.

The Fish Hoek Valley Historical Association invites suggestions as to the choice of Fish Hoek's first Blue Plaque. Please forward comments and ideas to the Blue Plaque Program Manager Steve Perrett on e-mail nova@intekom.co.za.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Membership: Allen Rose-Innes - Tel/Fax: 021 782 4279 E-mail: roseinn@mweb.co.za
Postal Address - PO Box 22125, Fish Hoek, 7974

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