

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



NOTICE OF VIRTUAL QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING ON ZOOM

THURSDAY 24 JUNE 2021 AT 19H00

AGENDA

1. WELCOME: INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

2. GUEST SPEAKER TOPIC:

Connecting Communities; Moving forward with a Community Vision

About the Speaker:

Brendan Jenman is in change management and culture change in large corporate entities; i.e. working with groups of stakeholders to derive a common set of objectives and priorities. This is done by framing, connecting and communicating the value proposition of each set of objectives in the appropriate manner. He has served on the Noordhoek Ratepayers Association and believes their Vision work is transferable to all communities, saving them time, effort and money.

Précis of Presentation:

A community vision is an image of the community's future. It articulates and describes a desired outcome and defines what is important to community members. It allows members of the community to work together, on different points of focus and interest, and then aligns efforts to a central set of principles and ideas. Brendan will discuss the use of a pre-made blueprint to save on time and money using a well thought out community vision template, which fast-tracks the process and establishes buy-in from the community. Then the detailed implementation can begin well into the future. We will discuss the approach for a potential way forward.

3. GENERAL QUESTIONS

PREPARED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FHVRRA

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Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA)

We had to invoke the PAIA, the City's Open Data Policy and appeal the rejection of our request for Coastal Pollution Monitoring reports. The last one that we received was dated 21 April 2020. Since then, the City decided that instead of data on the two coastal samples and four culverts (Galley, Lighthouse and both culverts into the Silvermine Estuary) they would just provide one generalised rating for the bay. This single rating was "poor" every time it was reported. We usually know when there is a polluted culvert event, but we would also like to know when the pollution stops. We provided our own culvert data back to the City, which helped them to decide that the sewer pipes in the Lighthouse stormwater catchment needed to be relined. Without the city's culvert reports, we cannot see if the relining has had the desired effect.

Ward 64 Committee

As there had been a resignation of a committee member, we submitted our candidate, Helen O'Regan. We are proud to say that she was appointed after a suitable City process was conducted.

City's Draft Budget 2021-22

We focused on the Fish Hoek Beach tariff increase to R22 per day and R171 per annum. The R22 is an increase of about 4.8% over the previous year's, but it was previously increased by 16.67% from R18 to R21. After receipt of complaints about the toll collecting kiosk not having the correct change, not having any change and failing to provide a timeous receipt, we recommended the tariff be a more manageable and tourist friendly R20. Similarly, we asked that the annual parking tariff for 2021/22 should be R170 instead of R171. It should be clearly marked "valid from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022" and available from both the "Campsite" office and online.

Informal Trading By-Law

This by-law provides the framework for area informal trading plans, on which we previously commented. In our comments we asked that the objective be the conversion of informal traders to formal traders; provide "business support and development services" as stated; provide public toilet / ablution facilities, electricity, lighting and storage facilities; that the City considers a centralised model for locating informal traders; that "consult" is defined as, "seeking information or advice in order to understand and modify the policy to be acceptable to all relevant parties"; and that the City monitor the informal traders properly and enforce the regulations with visible policing.

We thank the City for removing the containers from Bayside Bazaar.

City's Electricity Self-Generation

Eskom's latest load-shedding schedule resulted in insufficient time to generate extra capacity from the city's Steenbras Hydro Pump Station at night, while at the same time replenishing necessary reserves. Like Durban, our City wants to generate its own electricity, but is seeking clarity from the national government. It is not clear whether the new regulations will allow the City to own its generators. If the City can self-generate, then it will take time to follow the Supply Chain Management procedures and building processes. Alternatively, the city may be allowed to purchase power from other generators. Either way, the City expects bulk prices to drop as the cost of renewable energy technology keeps going down.

Power Outages Due to Branches

A clearance of at least 3,8 metres is required between vegetation and power lines.

Contact the City for advice on how to safely remove tree branches that pose a risk to City power supply. An electricity shutdown may be required.

Stormy weather can sometimes contribute to an increase in prolonged power outages, especially where tree branches grow over and into overhead power lines or where fragile trees fall over and damage infrastructure. Contact the City's Fault Reporting Centre on 0860 103 089 or FaultReporting.Centre@capetown.gov.za.

City Lowers Load-Shedding Stage

When the City's Steenbras Hydro Pump Station has power reserves, it can lower Eskom's load-shedding by one stage (or no load-shedding from Eskom's stage one). However, this is dependent upon being able to pump to replenish power reserves to assist customers the next day when there is no load-shedding at night and when the water conditions of the dam are suitable. It is impossible to pump to replenish power reserves and to load-shed at the same time, which sometimes limits the contingency measures. City's service channels (please only use one channel and don't log the same request multiple times):

SMS: 31220 (standard charges apply)

Email: power@capetown.gov.za

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Feed Excess Power into Grid to Reduce Bill

The City has implemented a feed-in tariff for all small-scale embedded generation systems (SSEG), for existing and new solar photovoltaic systems (PV). This now also includes a sweetener of 25c per kWh valid from 1 July 2021 until 30 June 2022 that customers with these power generators are able to receive when they feed their excess power into the electricity grid. The City's feed-in tariff is one of the highest in the country to encourage the feed in of excess electricity into the City's grid. The City believes the incentive is vital to boost the uptake of SSEGs and to help Cape Town move increasingly towards renewable energy. The feed-in tariff works when customers are net consumers of electricity over a rolling 12-month period. The feed-in tariff offsets their electricity bill although they will never receive payment from the City.

All solar PV systems, whether they be grid-tied or off-grid, must be registered as a safety, quality and legal requirement. This reduces the risk of staff and contractors being electrocuted when working on the network.

Solar Water Heaters (SWHs) that use the sun's thermal energy to heat water directly are not considered electricity generators and do not need to be registered. However, solar PV panels that are directly connected to a hot water geyser element will need to be registered.

Should a residential SSEG customer not wish to feed excess energy into the grid, they may stay on the Home User or Domestic Tariff provided that a reverse-flow blocking device is installed.

The requirement to be a net consumer, consuming more than you export, is in place to meet the 'own use' legal requirement, failing which a generation licence is required.

City Warns of Fake Electricity Officials

The City urges residents to be aware of scammers posing as electricity officials to gain access to their homes. The City does not have members of staff going door-to-door to check on electricity infrastructure without an appointment.

Municipal workers and contractors must carry a work order number specific to that dwelling and a City-issued identification card. The identification card must display the City logo, the name and surname of the staff member or mandated contractor, and must contain an embedded photo of the staff member or mandated contractor. Residents should not allow anyone onto their premises until they have verified these details. Any suspicious behaviour must be reported to the City's law enforcement agencies or the City's Fraud Hotline on 0800 323 130 or to the South African Police Service (SAPS).

You can verify whether visitors to your home are in fact employed by the City by:

- phoning the Call Centre on 0860 103 089 to confirm whether work is being carried out in your area and
- informing the official that you will allow them entry only once the Call Centre has verified their identity.

Sewage Spills Strategy

When a sewage pump station fails, it discharges directly or indirectly via a nearby street and then into the stormwater system. When the pump station at Vallyland fails it discharges into the Silvermine estuary. Vallyland pump station receives waste from two pump stations with generators, but has inadequate space for its own generator. We have asked for a permanent back-up generator. We have been told that a tender is being issued and funds will be earmarked.

The last spill at Vallyland occurred because the back-up pump had been removed for maintenance and not returned before the primary pump failed. A back-up generator and pump were brought in, but the exhaust noise was too loud for continuous operation.

Riverine Rovers and FHVRRA met with the city's Coastal Manager to discuss the poor design of the stormwater system. Soak areas should be included to replenish the groundwater and aquifer.

We had previously requested a coffer dam be built in the Silvermine wetlands to contain the next spill. It worked well and the city dosed it with enzymes. However, the nutrients remain and put too great a load on the wetlands when the dam discharges its contents during the next rains.

Wildevoelvlei Sludge

Wildevoelvlei does not produce primary sludge, which is the sludge that generates most of the odours. Waste activated sludge (WAS) cake has been stockpiled at Wildevoelvlei, and that is the cause of malodour.

However, the plant has and will continue to mitigate odour until the stockpile is removed. With the contracts signed, sludge removal services at wastewater plants were due to commence at the end of January.

Stormwater Traps

We asked for a netting sock to stop plastic waste reaching the beach. According to the city, stormwater outlet litter traps will be installed by the end of 2021 in line with a progressive metro-wide roll-out.

The City is further procuring services, equipment and machinery to enhance sewer spill incident response times. An over-arching pollution incident protocol has been completed and was to be provided to the Western Cape Government in February, followed by reports of ongoing efforts to combat sewer blockages, misuse and to ensure enforcement of by-laws.

Driver Demerit Points From 1 July 2021

The Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (Aarto) Act is to be rolled out nationally on 1 July 2021. The system has been introduced to penalise drivers and operators who are habitual offenders. The allocation of demerit points will be introduced in three phases, to ensure road users are gradually introduced to the implications of the demerit point system. Demerit points

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Drunk Driving Down

We noted that the number of drunk driving arrests was down, no doubt due to the alcohol bans and curfews.

Cameras

Our City and Fish Hoek Business Improvement District have been investing in cameras with automatic vehicle licence identification to decrease our crime statistics. At 0.71 closed circuit televisions (CCTVs) per square kilometre or 0.38 CCTVs per 1,000 people, we have one of the lowest penetrations of CCTVs globally. Johannesburg has more cameras per 1,000 people at 2.67 and 4.6 CCTVs per square kilometre. Chennai, India, has 657 CCTVs per square kilometre. Cape Town's crime index of 73.67 is nearly double that of Chennai's, which is 40.37.

Street Bins along Student's Route

We asked our Sub-Council to consider moving the unused street bins along Kommetjie Road to the routes travelled by the students attending the False Bay College. Some have commented on increased litter on Recreation Road.

More Fencing?

Neighbours to the Garden of Remembrance have been asking the City for fencing to prevent people sleeping there and leaving a mess. We offered to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding with the City's Parks and Recreation that would allow the neighbours to co-pay for a ClearVu fence and lighting. If approved, the garden would need to be opened daily.

City Cleaned-Up the Pufferfish

The fish mortalities in False Bay in the Muizenberg and Fish Hoek area in late March were exclusively the evil-eye pufferfish (aka 'blaasop'). Beachgoers and dog walkers were advised to stay clear of the washed up fish as they carry the neurotoxin, tetrodotoxin, and should not be eaten. The City's Solid Waste Department collected 70 bags of fish weighing 200 kilograms.

R5 000 Reward Offered

The City is offering a R5 000 reward to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest, confiscation of stolen or illegal goods or the handing-in of illegal or stolen goods. The reward also applies to information leading to the arrest of people vandalising, damaging or stealing electricity infrastructure or installing illegal connections. SMS 31220 or email power@capetown.gov.za. Anonymous tip-offs can be made to 021 480 7700.

The City is First in the Local Authority Recycling Initiative

The PETCO Awards is a premier industry-driven national environmental awards initiative, recognising excellence in reuse, recycling and waste minimisation among businesses, organisations, community groups and individuals within the South African PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) plastic industry. PETCO announced their winners in an online campaign this week.

The City's initiatives and services include:

- Mobile 'Swop Shop' Trial: A dedicated trailer sets up shop in an area, and residents are encouraged to bring recyclables, in exchange for tokens that are redeemable for items in the swop shop, such as pantry goods and stationery.

- Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs): The City built a substantial MRF in Kraaifontein, where our service provider partners sort clean recyclables for the recycling markets.

- 27 City waste drop-off sites: Residents are encouraged to bring their household recyclables to any of the 27 drop-off facilities, which are then sorted and sold on to the recycling markets by their SMME service provider partners.

- Partnerships, such as the City-funded Western Cape Industrial Symbiosis Programme, WISP, with the help of the GreenCape facilitators.

- Ø Partnering with the Packa-Ching mobile buy back centre programme managed by Polyco. This was done in terms of networking, as well as facilitating the use of plots of open City land, where the Packa-Ching trailer can park to provide its services to the residents.

- Ø Indirectly partnering with the SMME recycling collection, drop-off and buy back centre industry.

- Ø Continuing networking partnerships with the Producer Responsibility Organisations, the Institute of Waste Management of SA and various other key organisations in the waste minimisation arena.

Metro CCTV

The City's Metro Police Department manages 819 CCTV cameras throughout the metropole on a 24-hour basis. Officers monitoring the live camera feeds communicate the information to patrol vehicles. Footage from these cameras assists officers with the successful apprehension of suspects and evidence in criminal cases. It also helps officers identify locations that require further investigation in terms of anti-social behaviour to prevent serious criminal conduct.

The recent increase of land invasions and violent protests that have also hit the City, has also seen an increase in arrests for public violence and illegal protest marches. Surveillance teams have monitored groupings and identified people damaging City infrastructure that led to the successful arrests of 18 people last year. Evidence from footage collected was used in the successful conviction of some of the protesters during this period.

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Fires

Between May and August last year, the Fire Service received just over 6 000 calls, of which:

- 42% were special service calls like motor vehicle accidents, trauma incidents;
- 28% were rubbish or vegetation fires;
- 10% were informal residential fires; and
- 9% were formal residential fires.

During a power outage, the surge could give rise to electrical fires as a result of an electrical short circuit – hence it is advisable to use multi-plugs with a surge protection mechanism.

In the event of a fire, residents should contact the City's Public Emergency Communication Centre by dialling 107 from a landline or 021 480 7700 from a cell phone. It's important to provide the exact location of the incident and a contact number in the event that the operator needs to contact you.

Covid-19 Vaccine Injury No-Fault Compensation Scheme Draft Regulations

FHVRRA is relieved to finally see the vaccine being rolled-out. However, we don't agree with giving immunity against prosecution to vaccine producers. Also, individuals administering jabs must follow normal protocols before being exonerated. These regulations seemed to have been rushed as only four days were allocated for public participation (although we did make the deadline) and so much was lacking in detail: the size of the fund, how will vaccine injuries be reported, who will determine that such injuries were caused by the vaccine, what vaccine injuries are covered, who would be compensated, how much they would be paid, how they would go about claiming and who will ultimately run the scheme making the payout decisions and upon what criteria.

Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Amendment Bill

Disturbingly, this bill proposed removing “intention” allowing anyone to claim discrimination or that their dignity was undermined, without proof. It sought to escalate employees' culpability to include the employer even if the worker acted independently from the company's policies. We asked that “substantive equality” be defined rather than leaving it to the courts. We asked that “age” and “aged” as appropriate, be included with “race, gender and disability” as it was during the era of the current Constitution. This bill also sought to prohibit retaliation, but we wanted it kept to ward off spurious attacks.

Membership Subscriptions 2021

We are facing another challenging year so your Exco proposes that membership subscriptions for 2020 be carried over for 2021. As in 2020, we will donate to some of the organisations in our valley fighting the pandemic or its effects on our livelihoods, so any funds you may still wish to contribute to FHVRRA will go toward this effort.

Details of our bank account for EFT payments:

Account Name: FHVRRA Standard Bank

Account Number: 374203091

Bank code for EFT payments: 051001

Reference: your initials-your surname

Subs can also be paid in cash at General Meetings or at any time at AP Jones and Busy Bees (Vallyland)



PREPARED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FHVRRA

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