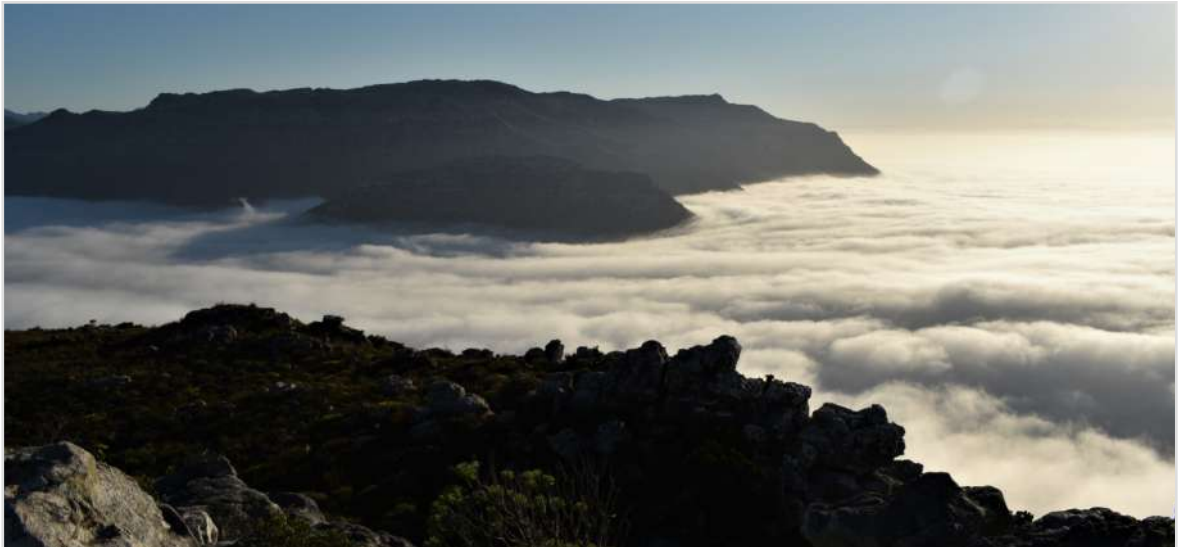


FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



With kind permission by: Eva van Belle (a foggy FH from Elsie's Peak)

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING ON ZOOM

THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER 2021 AT 19H00

AGENDA

1. WELCOME: INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

2. GUEST SPEAKER TOPIC:

“Where there is no vision, the people perish” Proverbs 29:18

About the Speaker:

Margy Nicol consults in leadership, human and business-performance optimisation. As the former Academic Head of a multimillion-rand national private FET College, she designed the delivery of multiple national qualifications in financial, legal, business, real estate and entrepreneurship for cross-sectoral implementation as learnerships.



Précis of Presentation:

The value of a cohesive future vision to unite people towards a common cause, cannot be underestimated. It energises effort and is the context within which key decisions can be made. Sacrificing short term gains for longer term benefit becomes easier when there is a new and fresh sense of hope to compel people to collaborate. Her plan proposes leveraging off the existing and proven achievement formulae of the greenest city in Africa, Cape Town, where fellow citizens 'got it right' to regenerate the biggest opportunity in False Bay in order to create something amazing.

3. GENERAL QUESTIONS

PREPARED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FHVRRRA

CHAIR: BRIAN YOUNGBLOOD

TEL: 0843999933 EMAIL: FISHHOEKRRRA@GMAIL.COM

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://FHVRRRA.ORG.ZA](https://FHVRRRA.ORG.ZA)

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Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA)

Our appeal to the rejection of our request for Coastal Pollution Monitoring reports also failed. Our now single, annualised reported data point for our bay is still rated as “poor”. Without the raw data, we cannot confirm whether the relining of the sewer pipes in the Lighthouse catchment area had a positive effect as the data is annually averaged in the bay and not at the culvert as we used to see. We note that the Echo recorded

the 2017 City Report on 23 illegal connections. However, these were storm-water to sewer connections and not the sewer connections to the storm-water system that impact our beaches. We noted that Milnerton Ratepayers has taken the City to court requesting release of the raw data. We made a special appeal to the City's new Speaker before launching a review of our appeal decision as she will have to sign the review report, but that failed. Then we completed the form to have the South African Human Rights Commission review the findings against us by the City as we feel that our human rights, as guaranteed in our Constitution, have been violated by the City not abiding by Section 32 [Right to] Access to Information.

Fish Hoek Vision

The Residents and Ratepayers EXCO and the Business Improvement District (BID) are working together to determine a strategy for creating a unified Fish Hoek vision. It will include public participation using social media platforms and presentations. The speaker at the last FHVRRA (Brendan Jenman) outlined how this could be done, having helped in the process to create the Noordhoek Vision 2030 (<https://www.thenoordhoekhub.com/noordhoek-vision/>).

Street Bins along Student's Route

The unused street bins along Kommetjie Road have been redeployed to the routes travelled by the students attending the False Bay College. Also, the College was requested to inform their students to use these bins. We will monitor.

Visible Beach Policing

To assist in getting the City's law enforcement officers out of their beach building, we requested that our Sub-Council look into removing their seating as we have received several complaints about speeding bicycles and skateboarders on Jager's Walk.

Skateboarding

We proposed that instead of skateboarders using the Clovelly Sub-Station parking lot, that a portion of the parking area behind Peak Academy be developed. Our Exco junior member is looking at this, including potential other locations and the Muizenberg model that's well under investigation.

Clovelly Road Traffic Calming

Several members complained about the unsafe road conditions in Clovelly for pedestrians and after a couple of crashes we requested that our Sub-Council add traffic calming “speed” humps and erect 40 kph and weight restriction signs after suitable re-classification of Clovelly Road. Traffic to the golf club has been increasing due to non-golf activities being held there. There are no sidewalks in the upper section and no verges in sections. Heavy truck traffic has also increased for deliveries to the golf club and “landscaping” activities. After a traffic department assessment, five “speed” humps were recommended at an approximate cost of R100 000. The City's traffic calming budget is applicable to schools only. This price seems exorbitant, however, our Ward councillor and crowdsourcing may contribute. Chevron signs indicating the sharp bend and other warning signs will be erected, but not the 40 kph speed limit signs as AARTO (Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences) permits up to 51 kph before a fine is applicable.

Jager's Walk Tombstones

Shoddy wooden and concrete benches are slowly being replaced with new rock benches. The families of deceased beach patrons are paying for these rock benches. Many of the old wooden and concrete benches have small commemorative plaques (maximum 10 x 5 cm), but the new rock benches are fitted with engraved granite memorial plaques mostly about 30 x 30cm in size. A problem with the new benches is that some of their footrests invade the walkway. The City's Recreation & Parks Department responded by saying that new benches will be of one design, act as replacements for existing benches only and will ensure that new engraved “plaques” will be limited to 150mm x 100 mm. They will review the existing footrests jutting into the walkway.

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Garden of Remembrance

After receiving several emails of an increasing number of street people occupying the garden at all hours, we requested that our Sub-Council install Clear-Vu fencing, thin the canopy and install flood lights. We asked the City's Law Enforcement to move the street people along with their sleeping material and to work with local security companies to watch for when the street people returned. We were told that as the garden had protected Milkwood trees, only limited thinning was possible. Two lights had already been installed, but some bulbs had burned out. These will be replaced. Sleeping material was removed. Apparently a nearby resident used to turn on the sprinkler system daily, but during our drought, the practice was abandoned and the irrigation pipes were vandalised.

Barracudas Gambling Application

We had a massive response from the community when we posted this on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FHVRRA/posts/925409794701741> We realise that economic conditions are not now ideal, but we are concerned about the gradual degradation of restaurants and establishments in Fish Hoek. Gambling within a family-type venue, and particularly near the entrance to the beach - a busy intersection on weekends - does not fit in with the vision of a Fish Hoek that attracts desirable residents and tourists.

Bayside Bazaar

The City has finally removed the containers behind 55 on Main. It left quite a mess, but this has since been cleaned. The FHVRRA has done an Urban Design visioning exercise as to how this central part of Fish Hoek could be enhanced. This "walk through" presentation can be downloaded from the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/35s6mi7lgri28st/210621%20Urban%20Design%20visioning%20exercise%20for%20central%20Fish%20Hoek%20%20MGA.mp4?dl=0>

City's Budget 2021-22

The City thinks it is doing a wonderful job by limiting its rates increase to 4.5% and 5% for service tariffs. Employee remuneration saw a 4.7% increase, but all of these increases are greater than inflation at 3.2% over this period. Also, there have been job losses due to Covid-19, making this budget more intolerable. We are concerned about the long-term sustainability of Cape Town when it relies upon 9% of residents to pay 91% of its revenues. Our city's expenditure is between two and five times greater than other major world cities.

Streets, Public Places and Noise Nuisances

The City proposed amendments to this by-law which we thought were to correct old problems. The by-law was written for the enforcement of the prohibition on sleeping in public places. As we receive many complaints concerning the street people, we thought this would be of interest to our members. The amendments just wanted to replace "peace officer" with "authorised official"; expand the "enforcement powers" and add "compliance order". The City wished to point out that "a person convicted of a contravention ... may only be sentenced to imprisonment if it is proved that the person refused an offer of alternative shelter by the City."

Animal Keeping Policy

The City proposed to impose sterilisation of domestic pets at six months unless a permit for breeding is obtained. We were concerned that the City's focus on registration would take too many resources away from human health, safety and security. We noticed the City shifting the onus from their enforcing noise abeyance from barking dogs to the complainant taking it up with the dog owner. However, dogs in public places are required to be on leashes or under the control of owners, 18 years old and above and to avoid causing a nuisance or danger to other residents. Also, if the owner is not providing adequately for the animal, the owner may be prosecuted, and the animal may be removed for its own protection. Oh! Keeping bees is not allowed.

City's Draft Outdoor Advertising By-Law

We queried whether banners pulled by aeroplanes, aeroplanes doing "sky writing" and inflatable signs filled with lighter than air gas, such as helium, are already or should also be included. As we normally raise our banner announcing upcoming general meetings at our Sub-Council, we sought clarity on fees being applicable when the Sub-Council waives the administrative requirement. We previously noted that many other organisations also placed signs or banners at the entrance. We thought that the missing information required in the application for permission to have an outdoor advert was a glaring omission.

CMR

Cape Medical Response has just recently celebrated their 20-year birthday.

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City Improvement District By-Law and Policy

Civic organisations have finally been recognised as part of the local community and for public participation of the local Central Improvement District's (CID) business plan. Their objectives have been expanded beyond just crime and grime, but needs to be consistently applied to also include the other 2020 mandates of promoting the interests of residents and businesses, addressing social issues, improving the natural and built environment, promoting inter-community collaboration and facilitating investment in the area. Due to our affiliation with other civic organisations, we know that CID's boards often collapse and that they have governance issues, such as all the area's ratepayers paying for the board's lunches. We suggested that leasing business owners and resident tenants be included as eligible board candidates and proxies be allowed onto the board to represent the landowners for continuity by truly interested parties. We noticed the lack of an escalation path for when problems occurred.

Rates Freeze

We supported the Dear SA open letter to Finance Minister Tito Mboweni, National Treasury, SALGA and CoGTA as we felt we were over taxed already. "Through our rates, about 9% of Cape Town's population supports the remaining 91%. This is a massive burden on those paying rates and the impact of Covid-19 has negatively impacted about a third of that base. An increase in rates is just not viable for many, especially the 13.5% in electricity.

Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill [B9 – 2018]

Our only concern is for the comedians and whether their material would be considered to be hate speech.

Firearms Control Amendment Bill

This bill proposed that the owning of a firearm for "self-defence purposes" would not be allowed. However, this violates our Constitution's right to life, to be free from violence and the right to bodily integrity and security. The lack of "self-defence" reason will cause more gun owners to transfer their interests into the sports shooting category. Expect more noise from our local Sport Shooting Club. Using a gun club will become more expensive as reloading ammunition will also not be allowed forcing purchases of new ammunition. Sporting events may require that new ammunition be available for purchase as the number of cartridges held by a gun owner has been reduced from 200 to 100.

Green Paper on Comprehensive Social Security and Retirement Reform

Before being pulled, possibly due to a lack of presidential, departmental and Nedlac (National Economic Development and Labour Council) consultations, the paper actually contained some good points. The paper recommends an independent, non-political supervisory (not just advisory) oversight committee to improve transparency and governance. By pooling across a larger base, this government self-insuring scheme would mean that a large reserve was not needed as is the current practice. If you have any "smoothed bonus" assurance policies, you may have noticed that not only did they not pay out (by withholding to during the good times to help pay more during the bad times) pre-Covid, they didn't pay anything during lockdown stating that "who could have predicted a pandemic". We wondered about their transparency showing that the funds can already have been spent. The problem with developed countries' "pay as you go" collection is that you need a large youth force constantly entering the system, which South Africa has, but Japan does not. Our problem is that the youth must also be wage earners to contribute into the system. Without the need for a large reserve and phalanxes of sales staff, the retirement, death and disability insurance protection should come at a lower price, if government can show that it can administer efficiently. However, removing the Road Accident Fund (RAF) would necessitate the concurrent decrease of its portion of the fuel levy tax as without the RAF, motorists might want to consider adding "uninsured motorists" to their insurance policy as this might otherwise be an excluded item. The naysayers calling this system a "tax" seem to be those that would lose their cash cow, the retirement fund asset managers and brokers. Using this massive collection to also fund the Basic Income Grant is probably not affordable. The administration system needs to link with SARS and Home Affairs' civil registry to act as a means test and verify eligibility (still alive) as opposed to the unaffordable universal benefits..

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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 (Valyland)



PREPARED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FHVRRA

CHAIR: BRIAN YOUNGBLOOD

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