

**FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION QGM MEETING  
17h30 ON THURSDAY 26 November 2020  
VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**1. Present**

26 members

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the FHVRRS QGM of 27 August 2020 were approved (Judy Bean, James Ricketts)

**3. Subscriptions**

In terms of section 5.2 of the FHVRRS constitution subscriptions for 2021 were maintained at R 80 p a (Helen O'Regan, Anne Massey)

**4. Presentation on City of Cape Town Climate Change Policy**

Brian Youngblood (BY) introduced Amy Davison (AD), informing the meeting that Cape Town had an "A" list rating worldwide for its climate change policy.

AD gave an excellent presentation on the CoCT's Climate Change Policy a copy of which is attached.

**5. Questions and Answers**

**5.1 *Effect of Covid-19 on Carbon Emissions***

Norman Greenfield (NG) asked whether carbon emissions in the City had decreased during lockdown. AD replied that they had initially, but have since increased again. She proposed a strategy of "building back better" to secure a permanent benefit. NG suggested that the working from home (WFH) trend may provide a permanent benefit.

**5.2 *Training & Education***

Kim Kruyshaar stated that both City staff and politicians exhibited poor understanding of energy efficiency and resilience. She suggested that the City's climate change strategy should include clever marketing to cause the necessary paradigm shift in behaviour that would be required of officials, politicians and the public to achieve the carbon emission goals. AD replied that as part of the communication plan a "situation analysis" had been recently instigated to establish the state of understanding of the climate policy among City staff, politicians and the public. Her department would certainly reach out to the relevant NGO's for assistance. A campaign of "smart lighting" was being rolled out throughout the City.

A few marketing projects were underway. The Helderberg Environmental Education Centre was producing gratifying results and the Greenpoint Park Learning Garden will be in operation early in 2021.

Penny Price (PP) emphasised the importance of a crosscutting organisational structure in order to ensure that climate change and environmental policy formed an essential part of each line department's activities. Any major new project contemplated by the City should be subject to EIA. AD described a new crosscutting working group recently created by the City to ensure climate and environmental policy would enjoy the necessary attention, although a consideration of the climate change impact of any potential development was not yet a prerequisite.

Matthew Gray (MG) reflected on the success of the Zeekoevlei Environmental Centre that he had played a part in creating some years ago.

**5.3 *Transport***

Paul Kilfoil (PK) observed that 27% of carbon emissions in the City were caused by road transport. With the train system in disarray he wondered how it would be possible to achieve the required reductions in emissions. AD stated that the only options available to the City under current circumstances were the extension of the MyCiti bus service and a reliance on the current WFH trend becoming established.

Brian Youngblood (BY) stated that a live-work-play (LWP) objective depended on cooperation of City departments. At present many bylaws were in conflict with a reduced LWP access timing objective. AD replied the City's SDF plan incorporated LWP concepts. Paris was committed to a Live, Work, Play (LWP) access timing of 15 minutes. At best AD believes Cape Town can achieve 30 minutes.

#### **5.4 Development Policy**

Richard Lowndes gave examples of the proposed River Club and the Phillipi Gardens developments envisaged by the City, which would have severe negative impacts on a sustainable ecology.

AD replied that the influence of climate change policy on development was a "tricky" (sic) issue. EIA's were a provincial function, the City could only comment, not rule. However, the City intended climate change considerations to form an essential part of all planned development.

MG argued that urban sprawl was encouraged by the "minimum parking regulations" required for any development. The regulations also incentivised inefficient street layouts. AD replied that such issues had been "flagged" for policy review. Attitudes were shifting. RL also observed that a lack of electricity was a major constraint for a "greener" climate policy.

AD responded that recent legislation to allow the City to contract with IPP's was encouraging, although implementation was at an early stage. The City envisaged private / public partnerships building electricity charging stations. Electric buses were a priority. Solar panels were being installed on City buildings

#### **5.5 Budget**

PP believed that the Climate Policy budget was far too small to allow effective change. She proposed that each department allocate a portion of their budget to climate change projects as has been done for Disaster Management. AD responded that specific climate change activities were embedded in the relevant departmental budgets. PP reiterated MG's concern about conflicting policies among departments. AD replied that the City had introduced a "policy alignment" function to address such conflicts. MG also argued that densification was also often applied in a crude fashion to satisfy developers rather than to achieve the efficiency goals.

BY discussed the proposed new inner City parking policy aimed at reducing parking spaces as a move to a "greener" environment without addressing the other issues such as improved public transport et al needed. MG gave the example that the City was limiting the number of Uber drivers

#### **5.6 Water Pipe Bursts/ Sewage Spills**

KK pleaded for means of communication with "Superintendent" (sic) level officials concerning water pipe bursts and sewage spills that arose from systemic failures. The call centre system was inadequate for dealing with such matters.

AD replied that the call centre system was designed to ensure accountability. Each issue reported had to be resolved. SMS reporting was far better than telephoning. Sewage spills were of great concern to the environmental department. AD invited KK to email her the details, so that she could escalate the matter to the relevant officials.

### **6. Next meeting**

The next GM will be the AGM held on 25 February 2021, possibly virtually.