

GRA AGM – April 2nd 2019 @6.30 for 7pm

Welcome

Guests

- Julian Ortlepp Tree works and JUFA
- Bridget Steer ward councillor ward 87
- CPF rep Wayne Lurie - Vice Chair
- CAP reps Lloyd Broude and Sean Jammy
- SAPS Parkview : Constable Makhudu Parkview Sector Manager
- Naidine Sibanda Rosebank Killarney Gazette Residents

Apologies : Pieter van der Westhuizen, Colin Berger, Robert Crosby (committee)

Hayley Taylor.

Thanks to sponsors : Doppio Zero, State 5, The Marketplace Deli, Greenside Pharmacy, Vida e Caffè at the Sunnyside, Postnet Greenside , Mochachos Emmarentia

Hospice Wits – Night with the Stars (April 7 Sandton City) 2 tickets worth R900

Greenside High School staff

Chair's report: Interim AGM activities since December 2018

We are lucky to live in a beautiful leafy suburb, with a vibrant diverse community. There are always challenges to living in an older suburb and a complex growing city. In order to keep our suburb healthy and green and sustainable and a happy place to call our home, residents need to be active citizens and work together to build a sense of community, improve what needs improving and deal with the problems that we face as a suburb.

Some of these issues include our aging and often inadequate power and water infrastructure, illegal building, litter and environmental protection, traffic, noise, and security concerns and finding a balance between the need for ongoing development and the rights of residents.

The GRA is a not for profit association that is not affiliated with any political party. We represent the residents of Greenside in matters concerning our suburb. The GRA committee is made up of Greenside residents, all volunteers, who chose to participate actively in improving things for the community as a whole.

For the past few years the GRA suffered as the committee was very small and membership of the Association declined. Following a special General meeting in November 2018 a large and enthusiastic interim committee was constituted of volunteers from the community.

An interim committee of volunteers was formed in November 2018 at a Special General Meeting. A handover meeting on December 5th 2018 the following Exco and portfolios confirmed

1. Ahmed Gani – Finance/ Treasurer
2. Andrew Brouard – Secretary/ Minutes
3. Anthony Jossel – Outgoing Finance/ Treasurer
4. Bianca Albertini – Security and business liaison
5. Catherine Nixon – communications and newsletter
6. Colin Berger – Heritage
7. Dan Naidoo – Greening, ad hoc projects
8. Dimitri Vratsanos – Deputy Chair and Security
9. Frances Paton – Heritage, ad hoc projects

10. Gillian Jones – Greening and communications
11. Irshaad Ismail – Deputy Chair and membership/ community building
12. Jane Eagle – land use and compliance advisor, Greening
13. Johan Verster – Greening and ad hoc projects
14. Judith Ancer – Chair
15. Mariam Mia – community building and community liaison
16. Nic Benson – ad hoc projects
17. Pieter van der Westhuizen – ad hoc projects
18. Pranil Dullabh – Membership and Community Building, Business liaison
19. Robert Crosby – Security, Greening
20. Tracy Heinrich – Roads (including traffic and sidewalks)
21. Yvette Esprey – Greening, compliance, ad hoc projects

The full committee has subsequently met once every month (Jan/Feb and March 2019). The primary focus of the interim GRA committee was to build our capacity by increasing membership and to restore effective communication between the Association and residents by setting up communication and social media platforms that had become non-functional. Our final aim was to set up the AGM successfully and to build a sense of momentum and motivation

We agreed to

- Get a basic website set up before beginning March.
- Send out newsletter with contact details for committee
- Build membership and rebuild the email database
- Establish financial systems that would be transparent and easy to work with
- Initiate and strengthen relationships with other RAs, stakeholders such as the ward councillor, COJ, the neighbourhood businesses
- Membership fees were set for the year @ R420 pa, Pensioners R210, Business membership fee R950

We set up sub-committees and want to encourage as many people as interested to get involved with various projects. We aim to include as many people/ ideas/ diverse voices as possible

ROLE OF THE RA

The benefit of belonging to a Residents' Association is immeasurable. By working collectively to represent the interests of the suburb, we can do a great deal to present a united voice on issues of concern, liaise with local business, relevant city and law enforcement agencies, protect the suburb from potentially predatory development and illegal land uses, enhance environmental wellbeing and build a greater sense of community.

We ask that if you see something that needs to be addressed that you start off by logging the issue with the appropriate authority, keep the correspondence and get ref numbers. If there is no action please escalate via email to the ward councillor if it is a city of Joburg issue and copy us in on the email. And finally we ask that you help us out – contribute your annual subs, encourage your neighbours to join, support legitimate local businesses consider volunteering for the GRA or even just ad hoc projects to keep the suburb thriving.

Limits of our role

We are not city officials, and nor do we have any special sway with municipal departments. We do aim to build up capacity and relationships with various authorities so we can be more effective in addressing communal issues of concern and initiating improvements in the suburb. We are limited by the fact that we are all volunteers and we all have lives and work and families and commitments outside of the GRA and so our time and energies are constrained. We would love to be able to afford

to pay for admin or support in order to maximise our efficiencies, but this is still a far-off dream. We are also not able to perform magic or please all of the people all of the time.

What we have achieved

REPORTBACKS :

1. COMMUNICATION: Social media

Thanks to Bokkie Fourie – new domain name and email addresses

Schalk Mouton – built a new website and designed a new logo at no cost to us for his time or expertise

Upgraded our Dropbox account

Set up a new Mailchimp account and worked at cleaning up and building database - 661 email addresses – thanks to Catherine Nixon for her assistance in this regard, and her tireless assistance with reinvigorating the GRA Facebook page and linking that effectively with the I love Greenside FB group. We had some difficulty with the GRA Twitter account as it was linked to dormant email accounts, so we have managed to engage it now, but it is not a primary source of communication at the moment

Whatsapp groups have been running effectively for some years now

- 2 Greenside General – GRA are involved as admin, but these are not official GRA groups
- 2 Greenside Security – linked to GRA Security portfolio
- 2 Greenside Council – run by ward councillor
- Various street groups – encourage people to join these

Correspondence regarding compliance issues, pavements, dangerous cables, derelict properties, noise disturbances, water meter placement, traffic, security of our database and whether or not we are politically affiliated, and what we do with membership fees

2. Greening/ Sustainability : Johan, Gillian, Robert

- JV attended public consultation meeting re Keith Fleming Park 25.02.2019

Feedback from committee:

Urban garden :

We have had some preliminary discussions/sharing of ideas about the creation of a food garden/urban farm in Greenside - in the Lionel Phillips park above Pirates . We felt that any such initiative should have strong community involvement and it should ideally serve as a knowledge incubator. Schools in the area should also be involved. This is merely an Idea, at this stage, but we feel it is something worth investigating further.

Cleaning up:

We met with an NGO that has been very active in neighbouring Linden. They started an initiative called Let's Work to keep parks/ public spaces clean as well as patrolling areas so as to avoid people erecting shacks. This provides work opportunities and a feeding scheme to people living in poverty. We felt instead of reinventing the wheel it makes more sense to expand their existing infrastructure into Greenside. Let's Work is very excited about this possibility, with the idea to incorporate some of Greenside's homeless people into the programme. We would like to clean up pavements along the Parkview golf course and any other pavements or small parks in need, and the Lionel Phillips park.

Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer report : Julian Ortlepp JUFA

3. Finance : Ahmed and Anthony

Ahmed Gani is taking over from Anthony Jossel – thanks to Anthony for many years of community service

Working towards updating signatories on the Std bank savings bank account and the Stanlib investment account that the GRA uses

Tightening up processes – ie need for approvals from at least 2 exco members

Using Sage as accounting software

Purchase of a card payment machine

Money comes from subs, heritage approvals, fundraising and donations

This is used to run GRA – eg pay for domain/ webhosting/ dropbox/ sage software, printing etc

Finances within the GRA have been stable and costs have been under control. The big drive for the coming year is to increase membership of residents and businesses to the GRA thereby increasing revenue that can be allocated to selective projects that will enhance the Greenside Community

4. Security : Dimitri, Bianca and Robert

GRA supports CAP as service provider

We're part of the CPF – meet weekly

We attend monthly liaison meetings with both these bodies

We oversee collaboration between SAPS and CAP

We represent the community on both these bodies

If there are any matters then these should be communicated to committee (via WhatsApp and email)

Initiatives: EGCPatrollers and cameras

CAP to speak about camera initiative

Constable Makhudu Parkview Sector Manager

5. Business liaison – Bianca and Pranil

Needs work and we welcome those business reps that are here. As far as we are aware the

Greenside Business Association is not functional

We have initiated relationships with local businesses – ie via the sponsorships and invites to the AGM

We are also featuring a local business (a Greenside Gem) in our monthly newsletters

6. Roads: Tracy Heinrich

We have received a number of emails regarding reckless driving and dangerous intersections in Greenside which will be discussed with our Ward Councillor and the appropriate processes will be followed.

Ward councillor asked us to assist with asking Parkview golf-course to attend to their verges

- Traffic concerns Clovelly Road, Greenhill, Greenfield rd, Muirfield, Greenway, drag racers on Greenway, Barry Herzog

Reality: limits to our powers, traffic engineering is complex and expensive and there are multiple issues, including of course the terrible way people drive – making this not just a traffic engineering problem but also a law enforcement issue.

Residents need to log complaints with JRA and JMPD and send us copies of correspondence

But in order for any meaningful action to have a chance of happening we need much more assistance with our roads/ traffic subcommittee – so if you are concerned about the roads and traffic please volunteer to participate in this issue.

7. Heritage – Colin and Frances

Thank you to those residents and their architects who have reached out regarding various home renovations and building projects.

We have successfully approved a handful of applications in recent months, many of which have broken ground in the past month. Please send all queries relating to heritage and renovation

projects to heritage@gra.org.za. If you are in doubt, we would be happy to meet at your home to inspect your property and answer any questions.

8. Compliance

We are monitoring the Gazette for applications of rezoning, liquor licences etc

NB that residents and businesses understand the laws and bylaws that govern and shape the nature of Greenside

Precinct plan needs to be updated – but nodal review may change this

Some issues we are aware of

- Gleneagles/ Derry road application – together with Parkview RA we submitted over 600 separate objections, and one from the GRA to the rezoning application. We wait to hear from the city (or developer)
- Businesses non-compliant with liquor laws/ bylaws will be tackled over time
- Application for densification on BH
- Restaurant Liquor licence Captain Jacks
- Erf 553 9 Gleneagles Rd : rezoning application Jan 2018, hearing 10 April – no objections. From Res 1 to special – allow for medical rooms
- Wastepreneurs: Escalated to COJ and an eviction order issued.
- 60 Gleneagles Rd ; application for consent use and rezoning : Property owner started with building work without approval from Council so contravention notice were issued against the property owner. Eventually building plans were submitted and approved in which through our investigation revealed that the property owner mislead the Council. The current application asks for relaxation on building line restrictions (the building is closer than the plan to the boundary wall (with the overhanging 2nd floor structure even further towards the line) and consent use for a subsidiary dwelling. Be advised that rates penalties are not suspended to date. The GRA will be opposing this application. Objections need to be in by April 24th. The GRA have agreed that this is an opportunity for the suburb to assert to the City that we ask them to follow their own rules and be firm on following due process.

This is an opportunity to remind us all that when we want to renovate or develop or build there are processes that must be followed.

1. Plans need to be submitted to council and approved legally
2. Anyone considering any structural alterations to their property that is older than 60 years need to obtain approval from the Greenside Heritage Sub-Committee (GHSC) available on the GRA website
3. residents who do not follow the approval process, and now wish to sell their houses, face the banks' requirement of approved plans for buyers' finance approval.
4. Build in consideration of the precinct plan, the rights and amenities of neighbours - especially any possible impact on your neighbours' properties, either with respect to their privacy or the value of their properties, act with generosity and caution
5. Building hours The National Building Regulations limits the days and hours during which construction work that would disturb the amenity of the neighbourhood, can be carried out. Please instruct your builders to abide by these.
6. The pavements belong to the Council and all the residents. You need a permit to use the pavement for building material and rubble. Generally these are of a limited duration.
7. Trees on the sidewalk are not to be removed without the permission of the Council.
8. If you are asked to sign plans by your neighbour and are unsure or feel pressurised, you are invited to contact a committee member of the GRA

Any resident who sees anything of concern – please let us know

We need further expertise (esp legal/ planning) to assist with dealing with compliance and land use issues

GRA reps have attended meetings with
Parkview Residents Association, Parktown North Residents Association and the Parkhurst Residents
Association
CAP, Community Police Forum
Lets work
Ward councillor
Chantal Swanepoel from Greenside Deliveries

Call for nominations/ volunteers