



MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE VVRA HELD ON ZOOM 18h30 ON 23 JUNE 2022

PRESENT FROM VVRA	Marianne Nel, Carol Thornton, Paul Veltman, Varushka Singh, Mark Straw
APOLOGIES	Kerry Laws, Annette Deppe

NOTICE OF MEETING AND QUORUM AND WELCOME

Correct notice of the meeting had been given and there being a quorum present. The meeting was opened by Cliff Hocking (mediator), who welcomed everyone present.

The chairperson informs residents that the VVRA is there to cooperate with similar nonpolitical associations of residents in other suburbs in Midrand and other cities in Gauteng. To determine, by free discussion and consideration the views of the major of the residents where possible. To cooperate, consult and collaborate with the areas representative on the relevant councils / municipal services or body responsible for the area, and to ensure that the issues that impact on the safety, value and up keep of the area is given due consideration in the management of the area or suburbs. There is nothing there about stoking person egos or promoting one self. It is all about the community. So let us go forth in that spirit this evening and let us conduct this professionally and meaningfully. The Agenda as publish will be strictly adhered to and I am not going to tolerate any he said she said go away said. We are here to conduct the business of the Vorna Valley Residents Association to the benefit of the community that we represent. All present accept this.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The 2021 minutes were accepted by show of hands with the correction to the incorrect date

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

COVID-19 continued to disrupt our lives, leading to disruptions in service deliveries. We saw the return of load shedding, many sewerage blockages and burst water pipes, potholes and power failures due to lack of proper infrastructure. The rehabilitation in our Vlei has apparently been completed but no keys were handed back to the VVRA. Wild grass seeds were sowed.

The City Power power boxes are still a major problem and there is no progress in getting a solution for this.

Our LPR cameras have had a few cases, from the alerts received, that were taken to SAPS. Ie. Stolen cars, involved in crime. Unfortunately, due to the fact that criminals change the number plates of their vehicles continuously, it's not always easy to catch them. We have also assists a few residents with info from the LPR cameras regarding crime committed.

Illegal schools and businesses have been a major issue again much to neighbours frustration of having to live next door or near these. Unfortunately council favours this and residents' complaints are left unheard. These schools and businesses open up even before putting in an application to council. Only when the VVRA get complaints and take it to council, do they then start applying.

The VVRA has a good relationship with JWater and City Power and escalations are acted on quickly if teams are available.

We have had a few mini substations vandalised or which blew up due to old infrastructure. City Power was always quick to try and restore power.

Thank you to all the council entities that respond to our escalations. JWater, City Power, City Parks and JRA.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Finance Report was compiled by Finance Enable (Pty) Ltd which is owned and managed by a fully accredited CA who is resident in Vorna Valley.

Full financials were distributed to the VVRA Committee and the Finance report was accepted by the Chairperson (Marianne Nel) and the Treasurer (Carol Thornton).

VVRA started the year with a balance of R 54 002 of which R20 000 (accruing some interest) is in an investment account for future use where required in VV. At year end the total assets were R39 545, which includes the investment.

Revenue for the year was R123 997 and expenditure was R135 212 leaving a deficit of R14 426.

The revenue comes from our sponsors, a few residents and complexes and advertising in the monthly newsletter.

A large part of the expenditure (R 119 929) was for the camera system. This includes the cost of the Verifier, 5 LTE and 2 fibre cameras.

Other expenses included cleaner's wages, accounting fees and bank charges.

Thank you to all our sponsors who support the Association and also to the community.

Q: Pages 16 and 17 were not included in the financial pack sent out.

A: These 2 pages will be circulated.

Q: Chairperson: According to the financials we are running a losing battle with the cameras as an expense so unless we get more contributions and sponsors it will end up into negative income. So I urge residents to start contributing.

A: Chairperson: The residents need to be made aware of the need for contributions and the incoming committee need to make a concerted effort to promote awareness and the value of those items. Contributions are asked for, in the VVRA newsletters, but there is no response.

Paul Veltman: I would like to introduce the rest of the committee that haven't been introduced yet. Mark Straw deals with JMPD especially with illegal signs, and does most of the photography.

Varushka Singh: Is generalist on council issues

And I, Paul Veltman, my passion is the camera thing and the committee has deliberated at length and at one of the meeting we decided to investigate making a small fee to belonging to the VVRA whatsapp groups. We feel that the committee does give a good services there and we were looking at a fee of R10 a month per household, but obviously we take into account that there are some households that can't afford even that, but just to make the camera system more viable it needs to be expanded on. The current 7 cameras are not enough

Q: Newsletter and notices not getting to businesses who don't have the time to go and look for it.

A: This will be addressed

Q: Who paid for the installation of the cameras? Where did the money come from?

A: Paul Veltman: We look at developments that take place in our area and there was a development for a petrol station opposite Greig Street, which the developer sponsored the monies towards the camera in lieu of the objections to this development being withdraw. We felt that this was a win win for the residents as we are well aware when going to tribunals at city council, we can object till we are blue in the face with perfectly legal objections, council will just approve the development. It's just a box ticking process, so we looked at it as a win win and from that one be made a conscious decision that when we do object to something, to open the dialog with developers to see if we can't find some common ground and find some benefit for the Residents Association. Up until that stage we had spent a lot of time, money and effort, normally personal time, money and effort, to objecting to things that shouldn't happen in our area and we get nothing, nothing back for the Residents Association, we wouldn't get anything back for our efforts. It became so disenchanting that we had to find a different way in handling those situations. So that is were the initial funding for the initial cameras came from, that's the infrastructure. Currently the running of the cameras is mostly through funds that we had and through current sponsorship through businesses. I think, the last time we had a meeting on this, there was about R1 000 short per month to run the cameras that we have. That was before we had more sponsorship.

Q: Other than the newsletter asking for sponsorship, what are other options and opportunities for contributing?

A: Chairperson: Well there is a multitude of issues that can be addressed at committee level to:

a) Create awareness b) to source funding, and I am sure following this discussion, the incoming committee will take note and will take it as a mandate from this AGM to do something constructive to around

sourcing funding sourcing funding insuring that this worthwhile initiative goes ahead and becomes a sustainable exercise. That at the end of the day should be the overall objective.

Paul Veltman: There are a lot of different residents groups in the area and a lot of them have their own what they think is their own crime problems and looking at putting in their own defense mechanism, road closures and boom gates, which generally works reasonably well for that little area, but you just move the crime to the next area, and when they now do somethings to stop the crime it invariably will come back to another area or to your area. Vorna Valley and probably Midrand should look at the crime aspect, and the camera aspect and protecting of it as a whole. If you look at the boundaries' that was originally this side of the highway, is Allandale Road, the R55, Summit Road/Olifantsfontein Road. If you take those roads into account there aren't that many entrances and exits that they can use. But now if you take Vorna Valley on it's own, it probably has half the exits that the whole area has got. So it needs to be a bigger thing. What we have also noticed with LPR cameras, is that they need to be part of a bigger system. If it is just in a confined area like Vorna Valley, when that camera gets triggered by a car and you respond, unless you are there or right under the camera, you will generally miss it. So you actually need to link the dots and put more cameras in the surrounding areas. So why not try and link it into the bigger picture with Vorna Valley as starting. And that way we could probably help our neighbours out and do something about the crime.

VOTE ON NUMBER OF PROXIES A RESIDENT CAN VOTE WITH.

Chairperson: I personally don't believe in proxies, I believe if someone feels strongly enough about an item or an issue, they should attend the meeting and cast their vote themselves. But it is in the constitution and there is provision for proxies votes. The number of proxies that were appointed were rather confusing and the feeling was that we leave it to this meeting to decide how many proxies vote any person may be entitled to exercise on behalf of the appointee. It is put to the vote as to how many proxies one resident may have and all vote in favour of only 2 proxies per residents present. No votes against. This is adopted for this meeting.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson: We have received a number of nominations for the committee and feel that it is only fair that those nominated are given the opportunity to introduce themselves in one minute.

Bronwyn Mayhew – Secretary: “ I have been living and working in Vorna Valley for about 8 years, at Kyalami Kids, I am part of the management team there, I am also a couch for Glide Swim Centre. I am the mom of two gorgeous girls and I love camping and being part of more than one thing. I am currently in the Guide Dog Association program doing puppy raising and spreading myself out and doing as much as I can.

I like to be actively involved. Often Marianne will give us a call and say listen we need your help, and off I go with Chad to help fixing things, climbing poles..” .. end of the minute.

Carol Thornton: “I am currently the Treasure and have been in Vorna Valley for over 25 years in the same house. I have been on the Residents Association for 10 or 11 years. Started as a member and ended up as the Secretary and then became the Treasurer. I asked myself why Treasurer, but I have a good corporate back ground as an executive Human resources Manager. I used to handle the budgets for all of our staff in the Pretoria branches and also in Midrand and though I may not be hot with trial balances, I am damn good with excel.”

Colleen Bowen: “I have been on the VVRA committee in the past many years ago, as chairlady. I need to really get back onto the committee because seeing the degradation of the neighbourhood, illegal signs, litter (recording fails) and I can add value to that. I'm quite a personable person, I get on with most people, I'm a great motivator.” (recording fails)

Hein de Kock: “I have been on the committee since 2014 and about 18 months ago I took a break but willing to join again. My principal background is IT and I also have legal knowledge so in terms of what I can contribute, I can understand what the fine print means in documents so that is one of the areas I can assist with.”

Jennifer Howard: “ I am a resident in Vorna Valley since 2004. When I arrived in Vorna Valley it was a most beautiful safe haven of just equestrian estates and lush and green. But it has changed subsequently which is great for some of us, which is all fine and well and we have lots more people in the area. What I would like to do for you as the residents, I would like to try and get a whole network of people, we've got small businesses, we've got medium businesses, and I want to try and grown your businesses within Vorna Valley. I want to help you grow. So, vote for me, on the committee, so that I can help you do that. I'm also going to try and help with all the illegal signs. I'm a property practitioner as well, and I hate these for sale signs, I hate the property wanted signs. Let's get these signs off our curbs so that we can actually see what traffic is coming to us.”

Marianne Nel: "I have been on the committee for about 8 years, started as member for one month then because chairperson. I think I'm just a sucker for punishment. I'm always there to help residents as much as I can, a lot of you know that. My passion was the cameras. Hein and myself brought the cameras in as we brought fiber to Vorna Valley first as no one else would touch it, and we got Link Africa to put in the fiber with the aim to put up the cameras."

Mark Straw: "I'm the youngster of the group. I have probably been staying here for 10 years or so, and also with the signs has bothering me and been taking them down myself, taking down 40 – 100 a weekend. Then started emailing JMPD bylaw enforcement units, and wasn't really get anywhere but eventually got Central Development to stop putting up their signs and now fighting the next one. My real passion is photography. We have a very passionate group of photo walkers. We walk all over Joburg. I also do graphic design."

Paul Veltman: "I am an investor in Vorna Valley. I own quite a few properties. My passion with Vorna Valley is the value of my property and it's not there anymore. The neighbourhood is really run down. So my passion is to get Vorna Valley back to a suburb that people want to stay in, a suburb they feel safe in and that's declining rapidly in the last couple of years. That's my passion."

Verushka Singh: "I have been living in Vorna Valley since 2009. I got involved with Marianne and the committee, I think it was 2 years ago when they installed the stop street at Mozart and Anton Hartman. That was my first interaction with the Vorna Valley and then Marianne asked me to join at that time and I felt I could add a bit of value. I also help with taking down illegal signs and anything that is of essence to the community like Paul said, the deteriorating over the years so that's my contribution to help the community where and when I can."

Chairperson: "My name is Cliff Hocking and have been living in Vorna Valley since 1987, when we didn't have tarred street and when there was heavy rainfall, I couldn't get out of my drive way on occasions, which worked for me, but this was before the days of working from home, which for me was fantastic. Before the days of internet and so forth. We used to have cows walking in the streets, believe it or not. That was Vorna Valley"

Nominations are:

2 candidates for the office of chairperson

1 candidate for Secretary

1 candidate for Treasurer

6 candidates for members

Paul Veltman requests to interject. "I was nominated to stand as chairperson but I'm not a person that stands for chair. I'm a person that does stuff and not a person that does admin so I respectfully withdraw the nomination that was put in for me."

As there is now only one nomination for chairperson, being Marianne Nel, and residents unanimously vote, by show of hands, for Marianne Nel to be the reelected Chairperson. No votes against

The office of Treasurer, there is only one candidate, and residents unanimously vote by show of hands, for Carol Thornton to be the reelected Treasurer. No votes against.

The office of Secretary, there is only one candidate, and residents unanimously vote by show of hands, for Bronwyn Mayhem to be the elected Secretary. No votes against.

Additional Members: The Constitution of the VVRA makes provision for a Chairperson, a Treasurer and a Secretary (Executive Committee) and three (3) additional members to serve for the ensuing year, which shall jointly be referred to as the committee. The committee also has the right to co-opt members from time to time as may be required.

Paul Veltman interjects: "I would like to make the suggestion that seeing that we have more than that that we alter the constitution and allow more members on the VVRA. Why would we turn down volunteers? Make them members of the committee and let them be involved."

There is a proposer and a seconder, can we have a show of hands for the adoption of that proposal. Several hands up objecting but majority vote for this. The Chairperson says that there was a proposal and a seconder and now the meeting adopted the proposal. Marianne Nel, the newly elected chairperson, asks the Chairperson if this is not breaking the current constitution. The Chairperson response saying " We would treat it would have to, and this meeting is the place that it can be done, because we had a formal proposal, we had a second, we had virtually a unanimous acceptance of the proposal, we can take it as an amendment to the constitution. Can we therefore have, by show of hands, have acceptance of the six (6) additional members to the committee of the Vorna Valley Residents Association. A resident would like to hear what the gentleman's argument is against this is. The Chairperson says no, there is no need for that because it went to a vote."

The Chairperson would like to thank this meeting for the spirit in which that was conducted.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: The constitution does state that at the AGM we appoint the Treasurer and the accounting officer

A: Marianne Nel: We don't need an auditor, as we just need a financial report and not an audit at the end of the year

Resident: Can we not just use the one that was used this year.

Paul Veltman It comes down to the need at the time and who is available and I would suggest we leave it for the committee to make that decision, the full committee.

Resident: So are we adjusting the constitution?

Paul Veltman: I think it should be adjusted. If you are electing an accounting officer now, that person may not be available at the time.

Chairperson: It's not normal and not contrary to any rules and regulations that a generally accepted in the running of NPO's and committees for an AGM to make a decision to allow the committee to make the decision on their behalf, but that is dependent on it being agreed by those present at the AGM. So if this meeting is prepared and happy to accept that that be left to the incoming committee please by show of hands can we go ahead?

Owner: I just want to make sure that the decision is made by the committee and not an individual. Show of hands. Two votes against

Q: May I recommend that the incoming committee make their first priority to look at our constitution.

There are a number of flaws in it and definitely needs to be looked at as a matter of urgency.

A: Chairperson: The decision has already been made by the committee at a meeting that was held this past week that the constitution will be revamped and revised, and if necessary, if it can't wait for the next AGM, a SGM will be called for the adoption of the amended constitution.

Q: My recommendation that the very next committee meeting, straight after that we get a communication that says this is our timeline, because I don't think it can wait any longer.

A: Chairperson: Good point and I'm sure the committee has taken note.

THANK YOU'S

The Chairperson thanks everyone for attending and for the spirit in which this meeting was conducted, and I look forward to this enlarged committee going forward and showing what they can do for us as the residents.

CLOSURE

Thereby the meeting was closed

NEXT MEETING

To be advised in 2023

CHAIRPERSON

DATE