

FRIENDS OF THE HELDERBERG NATURE RESERVE

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2022 BY ZOOM

PRESENT: Committee: Mrs Penny Clifton-Smith (Chairperson), Mr Peter Blaine, Mrs Margie Humphris, Mr Alistair Munday, Mrs Fay Rolando, Mr Adriaan Roux, Mr James Silberbauer, Ms Anrike Theron, Mrs Muriel Rowcroft.

Mrs Maggie Munday, Mr David and Mrs Melody Moore, Mr Steve Chadwick, Mr Heiri Wolfsenberger, Mrs Ann Haskins, Mr Andreas Groenewald, Mr James Humphris, Mrs Grace Poole, Mrs Marion Herholdt, Mrs Freda Bonthuys, Mrs Mary Koekemoer, Ms Liz Lollos, Mrs Rieta Marinus, Mr Robert Baldi (Host)

APOLOGIES: Mr David and Mrs Jennifer Macdonald, Mr Alistair Hill, Mrs Hayley-May Wittridge, Mrs Mia Janeke, Mrs Freya Brett

Mrs Penny Clifton-Smith welcomed those attending this virtual meeting and thanked Robert Baldi for hosting the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2021

The Minutes had been circulated and were taken as read and accepted as proposed by Alistair Munday and seconded by Margie Humphris.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's Report had been sent to all members together with Notice of the meeting. There were no questions. Alistair Munday proposed the report be accepted and this was seconded by Muriel Rowcroft.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Report had been sent to all members.

Margie Humphries proposed the Financial Report be accepted.

4. RESERVE MANAGEMENT

A Presentation prepared by Hayley-May Wittridge had been sent to all members.

Any questions may be sent to the Committee to pass on to Hayley-May Wittridge.

5. REVISED CONSTITUTION

As agreed at the Annual General Meeting held on 12 May 2021 the Constitution has been revised to include Clause 5.7 concerning budget allocation of funds. The Management Committee is given power to allocate funds to assist the Reserve Management with projects associated with conservation, education and facility improvements. However the Management Committee may not exceed the amount as approved by members at the Annual General Meeting. Should funding be requested for a higher amount then approval must be sought from the members either at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting or by email consultation.

The revised Constitution was approved.

It was then proposed and accepted that the Management Committee may, by a majority decision, authorize expenditure up to R250 000 per project in a year (under Clause 5.7.1). If a project is estimated to exceed this amount then approval must be sought from the members (Clause 5.7.2).

It was agreed that the above amount may be adjusted at the next Annual General Meeting.

It was further agreed that it may be necessary to amend the Constitution next year to limit the number of projects to be funded by the Friends.

6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Mr Dave Moore was asked to conduct the election of the new committee.

All the current members of the Committee were available for re-election. There was one further nomination, Mr Steve Chadwick. The proposal was accepted that all the current members be re-elected with the addition of Mr Chadwick. The members are: Mrs Penny Clifton-Smith, Mrs Freya Brett, Mr Peter Blaine, Mr Alistair Hill, Mrs Margie Humphris, Ms Miona Janeke, Mr Alistair Munday, Mrs Fay Rolando, Mr Adriaan Roux, Mr James Silberbauer, Ms Anrike Theron, Mrs Hayley-May Wittridge, Mrs Muriel Rowcroft and Mr Steve Chadwick.

In answer to a question it was noted that all Friends groups fall under The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) and it is their wish that a representative of the Somerset West Bird Club be nominated to serve on the committee. Apart from the Chief

Conservator/Reserve Manager who is an ex-officio member of the committee, any other member of the Friends may be nominated and elected to serve on the committee.

Mr Moore was thanked for conducting the election.

7. GENERAL

7.1 The question of creating a path from the lower part up to Disa Gorge to avoid using the jeep tracks had been raised in the past. This matter should be taken up again with Hayley-May Wittridge as it falls under Reserve management.

7.2 It was noted that currently the new Education Centre is not available at weekends for visitors but it is hoped that in the future the Centre will be open.

7.3 It was noted that some visitors have difficulty in finding their way up the trails. New signage is being put up and the Information Centre does sell trail maps which may help.

7.4 The City of Cape Town is responsible for fixing the potholes in the parking area and it is understood that this work has been budgeted for.

7.5 It was noted that there has been a drop in donations. One reason is that in the past Erinvale had been a regular donor but for the last two years no donations have been received.

Subscription income is now the main revenue earner for the Friends.

7.6 In answer to the question regarding the coffee shop it was noted that before any process to put the lease out for tender could begin, extensive maintenance work needs to be done and the City of Cape Town has no budget for this at present.

In closing Penny Clifton-Smith thanked all the attendees. She also expressed thanks to the Management and staff of the Reserve and the security personnel.

Signed as a correct record

P Clifton-Smith, Chairperson

15.05.22