

GRAHAMSTOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Management Committee held in the School of Art, Somerset Street, on Tuesday, 6th. February 2007 at 5pm.

1. Present: Miss J.Dalton, Mr.R. Embling, Prof. D. Hendry, Mr.D. Hodgson, Prof. D. Rivett, Prof. D. Thorburn (Chair), Prof. R.van der Merwe, Mr. J. van der Walt.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th. December, 2006: These were approved.

3.Matters Arising from the Minutes:

3.1 Memorandum on Service Delivery breakdowns: A copy of the Memo was tabled and the Chairperson explained its origins in the public outcry in late December. The Memo was presented to the Municipal Manager on 2 February, 2007, and is to be part of a campaign where endorsement will be sought from major stakeholders in the Community. The Business Forum, per Mr. Rob Beer, had already endorsed it. Grocotts' aid will be asked to keep the issues in the public eye and apply pressure to the Municipality. The Memo was positively received by the Mun. Mgr. who has promised to respond after passing it to the Mayor and Councillors. Copies of the Memo will be distributed by the following:

By Don Hendry: To Kingswood, via Debbie Smuts.To Brian Wilmot at the Foundation. To Danny Biermann of the Hospitality Guild.

By Chairperson: To Graeme College and VG.

By David Hodgson: To St. Andrews and DSG.

By Roger Embling: To Nombulelo High School. (NB we need to identify other Black organisations)

By Secretary: Dr. Badat at Rhodes; Director SAIAB.

Chair to make copies and also add a covering letter, requesting comment and endorsement. (done) Replies to be passed on to Grocotts for coverage. (They have agreed to assist). Secretary to deliver with Minutes.

3.2 Goat Project; Mr. van der Walt: The LHID Committee has approved a grant of land above Extension 6 for the project, leased for 10 years. It envisages a goats' milk processing plant, open to the public and supported by shops and a Cultural Village, and retailing of goats' products, also to tourists. The milk will be provided from small farms within 100km. of Grahamstown, to be collected daily by a milk truck. However, in November 2006 the EDT Committee voiced serious concerns over the project. For example, has there been a demand and feasibility study? Who controls the money; and has Mrs. Terry Myburgh (the driving consultant) provided sufficient detail? She has been asked to report at the next EDT meeting, on 13 February.

Funding: To date, Makana has committed R563 000. A further R600 000 is to be provided by the "Tree Ladies", another Terry Myburgh project. R4.1million is being sought from the European Union for establishment costs, and a further R6m. is required for the Milk Cooperative and Village costs. No source identified yet. Management costs are estimated at R900 000 p.a. and running costs at R1.2m. A first year deficit of R906 000 is budgeted for, and R993 000 in year 2 when there will be 200 goats. (As yet unsourced and uncosted). 800 goats are projected for year 5, when there will be an estimated profit of R1.6m. Income will be from visitors, and from sale of goat and other products.

Milk output of 4 litres per goat per day for 300 days p.a. is projected. This would require well-bred and well-fed milk goats, and good management. Lucerne is the main feed, bought in or grown under irrigation.

Mr van der Walt has been in contact with a senior researcher into milk goats. They need high care and she is not optimistic about the above plans. She is compiling some information for us, and Mr. van der Walt will copy further details to her from the lengthy presentation to Council. Remains on agenda.

3.3 Report Card on the Municipality for 2006: Agreed that the Secretary's report goes forward as a column in Grocotts, but that the positives be listed first. (done)

4. Correspondence: Chairperson tabled a letter on a proposed re-zoning of 27 African Street from Single Residential to Business 1. It has housed the consulting rooms of an orthodontist for a number of years.

5. Finance: Mr. Hodgson: Total subs collected this year are R1175; expenditure to date R910. Add interest of R135 to make a surplus of R400 for the past year. After discussion, it was decided not to increase subs from the nominal R10 at present.

6. Reportbacks:

6.1 Full Council, 8 December, Chairperson: It was an orderly, even routine meeting, but loaded with long reports, eg. Vision 2016, Master Plan, 5-year Plan, and detailed policy documents on Fraud Control, Credit Control, and Grants-in-Aid. As usual, most was just “noted”. Makana was the winner of the Vuna Award for the “Best Category B Municipality in the E. Cape” and received an award of R950 000. Key Performance areas were Transformation, Organisation Development, Basic Service Delivery, Good Governance and Public Participation, Local Economic Development, and Financial Management. Makana also received an award from the “Centre for Public Service Innovation” for being the first Municipality in South Africa to receive the SABS – ISO 9000 award for Total Quality Management. A concern is that these were all under the reign of the previous Council, which was largely removed from office after March.

The Mayor rightly stressed the need to obtain competent technical personnel, and for maintenance of infrastructure, but ominously, also suggested that members of the Executive Committee should be full time. This would be costly and further erode the position of Council Officials. There is also a proposal to merge the EDMH and the Social Services Committee.

A maximum-recommended 5.7% increase in Councillors’ allowances was agreed, and a cleaned-up IDP was presented and adopted.

7. Other Business:

7.1 Liquor By-laws: Mr. Danie Nel of ISGAD, who with Prof. van As of NMMU drew up the framework by-laws for Cacadu, tells GRA that Makana is now alone in Cacadu in not yet having liquor by-laws in place. Our previous proposals, accepted at a public meeting, were defeated in a High Court action by a group of pub owners, resulting in a free-for-all for over a year now, with no restriction on opening hours and a proliferation of off-sales outlets and shebeens. A Kwikka Likka outlet next to Spar is a recent case in point. The next move must be Makana’s, says Mr. Nel. Secretary to follow up with Mr. Esterhuuse.

7.2 GRA Website: An offer from Mr. Billy Morgan’s private hosting company, to provide a slot for GRA on www.smarthost.co.za/gra was gratefully accepted. As a start, some details on GRA, and the monthly Management Committee minutes will be listed, in the form of a PDF document which can either be viewed or downloaded. Secretary to accept and thank Mr. Morgan, who has offered this on a no-cost basis to GRA, as a community service.

7.3 AGM: This was agreed to be at the Library Hall on Tuesday 27 March at 5.30 pm. Final arrangements to be made at our March Management meeting. Annual and Financial Reports to be progressed in the interim. Chair, Secretary and Miss Dalton to sound out new members for the Committee. Agreed that in place of a guest speaker there be a “public participation session” on the current serious state of the Municipality, possibly with a Panel lead-in.

8. Next Meeting: Tuesday 6th March, at 5pm. in the Art School.

Roux van der Merwe, Hon. Secretary, tel. 046 622 5687.

8 February, 2007.