



VAN RIEBEECKSHOF VALLEY NON-PROFIT COMPANY (VRHV NPC)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

AUGUST 2021

1. REPORTING PERIOD

This chairman's report covers the period of 17 September 2020 to 19 August 2021.

2. OFFICE BEARERS

Chairman: Werner Greeff

Directors: Gideon Brand (Operations),
Anita Vos (Security)
Emil Scheepers (Environment)
Hentie Gericke (Financial)

3. INTRODUCTION

The Directors manage and control the business affairs of the Van Riebeeckshof Valley NPC in accordance with the Business plan and MOI. Quarterly Director meetings and frequent email and telephone communication between Directors encourage an environment where challenges are addressed, and projects are initiated and executed. The committee also regularly communicates with other interested parties and service providers to facilitate close co-operation in the interest of all members.

At the 2'nd AGM on 17 September 2020 a new board was elected which consisted of the same member delegates as the previous year and Werner Greeff elected as chairman for the second year running.

The current member areas of the VRH VALLEY NPC are:

- Van Riebeeckshof MHOA,
- Oude Westhof MHOA,
- Kanonberg HOA,
- Welgedacht HOA and
- De Uitkijk HOA

And whose member contributions fund the activities of the Company.

The Chairman of Klein-Welgemoed 1 scheme has also indicated an interest to join and become member of the VRH Valley NPC and the managing agents have sent them a finance agreement as well as business plan and MOI and they will indicate after their AGM if they are joining.

4. COMMUNICATION

The Directors keep the members informed through frequent email communication between each other. I am convinced however that newsletters will increase the awareness of the state of affairs and happenings in VRH Valley which reduces the need of members to make enquiries. We had therefore

issued two newsletters in the past year of administration on September 2020 and March 2021 respectively which was compiled by Gideon Brand and was well received by the members and their subsequent residents.

Our website www.valleynpc.co.za is also a source of good and relevant information and the platform can also be used for upload and downloading relevant documents like the business plan, MOI and AGM minutes and other relevant documents. The website also has a functionality through which members can communicate with the Managing Agents and if an enquiry is received it is immediately channeled to the relevant Director to handle.

5. SECURITY

Security of the VRH Valley area is a core priority of the VRH VALLEY NPC and a substantial part of our funds are used for that purpose as is evident in our financial statements and budget.

The Majik Forest is monitored by CCTV cameras in conjunction with Welgemoed Safe and which monitoring costs are paid for by the VRH VALLEY NPC.

The Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera system that was installed in Van Riebeeckshof Road in both directions is fully operational. It is tested frequently, and the cameras are on a service agreement for maintenance thereof. The cameras are connected for monitoring to Welgemoed Safe control room and the monitoring costs are also paid for by the VRH VALLEY NPC.

The Wi-Fi communication systems are through a High Site that the VRH VALLEY NPC paid for installation and are maintained by us and will be realigned by service agents every three months.

In order to effectively manage the security of the Valley NPC Area a subcommittee was formed and Anita Vos appointed as chairperson under her security portfolio and I include below more details of their activities as received from her by means of annual report.

5.1 Members&Meetings

Meetings were limited due to the Lockdown regulations. Sub-committee members for the past year represented areas in and around the Van Riebeeckshof Valley:

Anita Vos (Chair)	VRHV NPC Director (Welgedacht)
Gideon Brand	VRHV NPC Director (De Uitkijk)
Morne Viljoen and Tracy Kriek	Oude Westhof
Andre van Blommenstein	Van Riebeeckshof
Robert de Vries	Protea Valley
Betsie Kruger	Barinor
Johan Von Waltsleben	D'Aria and surrounding farms
Jacques Lotz	Welgedacht

5.2 Public Safety and co-ordination responsibilities

Liaison and co-ordination of security efforts continue and is effective when an incident takes place, as everyone is informed. The LPR and overview cameras in the Valley now includes the cameras in Van Riebeeckshof Rd, installed by the VRHV NPC, and the LPR camera systems in all the suburbs – Protea Valley, Oude Westhof and Van Riebeeckshof. This coverage allows for quick response when a marked vehicle enters the area, as well as a fast turnaround time to get information to SAPS if an incident takes place. Most of the Camera Monitoring is done by Welgemoed CID, excluding the Protea Valley cameras.

5.3 Majik Forest (MF)

It is unfortunate that the City of Cape Town did not renew the contract for the Rangers in Majik Forest in time, therefore leaving MF without guards since 1 July 2021. This is despite several assurances to the contrary when VRHV NPC directors followed up with COCT before the June 2021 expiration date. It is unaffordable for the VRHV NPC to pay for Rangers, and the COCT plans to renew the Rangers' contract soon.

Cameras are planned for the top and bottom gates of MF in the next year, and discussions with COCT are ongoing to determine if the COCT can sponsor some of the costs. There were a couple of incidents of theft out of motor vehicles parked at the bottom gate (next to Jip de Jager Rd). Residents do not seem keen to use the 'Park and Ride' option of parking at the Protea Hotel. Talks are ongoing with COCT to lease an area across from the bottom gate on the other side of Jip de Jager and develop this into a parking area. Barinor is handling this matter.

5.4 Working with the new Majik Forest (MF) Shopping Centre Management

The VRHV NPC is in discussions with the MF Shopping Centre to ensure liaison going forward and to place a camera relay point on the roof of the Centre to assist with the relay of camera footage to Welgemoed CID.

6. ENVIRONMENT

6.1 STRATEGIC FOCUS

The Environment Committee's strategic vision is to develop the Van Riebeeckshof Valley into the prime living environment in the northern area of the City of Cape Town. To achieve this, the following approach is followed:

- The Van Riebeeckshof Valley NPC provides a top-up service to the environmental service provided by the City of Cape Town (CoCT) in instances where unsatisfactory service delivery is experienced that compromises the strategic vision.

- A focus is placed on addressing irritants that relate to the neatness of the environment to counter a community perception of environmental decline; and
- The enhancement of the existing natural assets within the VRHV environment that could have a significant impact within limited financial budget constraints.

The following initiatives were launched in support of this approach:

- A contractor has been appointed on a 3-month trial basis to pick up littering along the perimeter of Van Riebeeckshof on a bi-weekly basis. The focus is on “hotspots” – e.g. taxi stops.
- Damaged panels of the Majik Forest perimeter fence have been replaced.

6.2 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The composition of the Environment Committee has changed over the period due to resignations and new appointments received from member organisations. Currently, the committee is comprised of the following persons and are linked to various areas of responsibility:

Team	Area of responsibility	Team members
1.	Majik Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Estee Louw & ▪ Emil Scheepers
2.	Riesling Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nelia Baily & ▪ Heinrich Priem
3.	Van Riebeeckshof Road perimeter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anel Botha (Replacing Kevin Stasch) & ▪ Emil Scheepers
4.	Tree-planting initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crystal Zietsman & ▪ Talana Crous (replacing Marietjie van Rensburg)
5.	Vleiland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gideon Brand & ▪ Emil Scheepers

6.3 APPROACH THAT HAS BEEN FOLLOWED

The approach that has been followed during the past financial year has been to provide a top-up service to the services normally provided by the City of Cape Town (COCT). This approach is based on following a partnership approach with the COCT. Currently, relationships with the responsible COCT’s operational management is followed by channelling complaints and requests for assistance through the NPC Board member responsible for the Environment portfolio.

6.4 FEEDBACK ON ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS AREAS

The activities that have been addressed by the NPC during the 2020/21 is set out in the table below as contained in the Environmental Director. Mr Emil Scheepers's annual report.

	<u>FOCUS AREA</u>	<u>INITIATIVE</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
1.	<u>Majik Forest</u>	<p>The +- 400 trees in Vink's arboretum forming part of the Majik Forest was seriously in need of maintenance. Following the 2019 drought, numerous trees died, and those that had survived, needed pruning. The NPC had budgeted to have the trees pruned, but the COCT arranged to have the trees pruned early in 2021.</p> <p>The NPC approved that the watering holes around the trees should be re-established and the spreading of organic mulch around the trees to facilitate the retention of moisture during the dry season.</p> <p>The Rangers provided security services in the Majik Forest. Their contract terminated on 30 June '21. It appears that The Rangers' contract with the COCT will be renewed from 1 August '21.</p>	<p>It has been established that an organisation is involved in providing support to Vink's Arboretum, and liaison has been established.</p> <p>To limit the security risk, ANMAR Security temporarily provided services from 1 – 19 July '21. This was an unbudgeted expense.</p> <p>Andre van Blommenstein has agreed to open and close the gates until The Randers return.</p>
2.	<u>Riesling Park</u>	<p>Eden Landscaping has provided a dedicated worker that focusses on maintaining Riesling Park.</p> <p>The COCT has initiated a project to remove some of the reeds that have infested the dams. This necessitated the use of heavy earthmoving machinery that has resulted in significant disruption in the park. The COCT has indicated that rehabilitation in the park will receive attention, but this is being delayed by Covid and other operational reasons.</p> <p>Some of the wooden walkways needed maintenance that has been attended to by the NPC Environment Committee.</p>	<p>The delay in rehabilitating the park is a cause for concern and will be addressed with the COCT.</p>
3.	<u>Van Riebeeckshof Road reserve</u>	<p>An ongoing project has been in place to pick up litter along the VRH road reserve . This is an ongoing initiative (although imperfect), this seems to enhance the overall appearance of the environment.</p> <p>To limit the growth of weeds along the road reserve and on the traffic islands on Van</p>	

		<p>Riebeeckshof Road, chemical growth inhibitors have been applied.</p> <p>The COCT has funded a further extension to the tarred walkway in Van Riebeeckshof Road.</p>	<p>The walkway has been partially completed. From information, the COCT has budgeted for the completion thereof.</p>
4.	<u>Tree-planting</u>	<p>The 20 trees received from the COCT were planted (but 1 has died) by the NPC. The trees are being watered during the dry season and are maintained by a contractor on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>A replacement will be planted in September 2021.</p> <p>The planting of an additional 10 trees have been budgeted for the next financial year. More trees will be planted should the budget allow.</p>
5.	<u>Removal of alien vegetation</u>	<p>It has been identified that alien vegetation (Paul Jackson) on public open spaces (between Protea Valley and Welgedacht) potentially provide shelter to displaced persons. To address the risk of squatting in such open spaces, a project was undertaken to remove such vegetation. The COCT is in the process of removing the refuse.</p>	
6.	<u>Vleiland</u>	<p>The future management of the Vleiland has been discussed with the Vleiland Nature Conservation Organisation (VNCO). The COCT has not extended the clearing of reeds in the waterways inside the Vleiland area. This needs to be taken up with the COCT.</p> <p>Discussions with the VNCO confirmed that they will continue to manage this area and will rely on MHOA's in the area to fund the upgrading of this area.</p> <p>The ongoing farming activity in the Vleiland will continue subject to the condition that only chemical fertiliser may be used to limit the spread of flies. The area of the farming activities has been limited to be more manageable in line with the original plans.</p>	<p>The VNCO</p>

6.5 POTENTIAL PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED BY THE NPC

It is planned to maintain the existing projects that have been initiated (see paragraph 4 above). In addition, the following projects may be considered for funding during the next financial period:

a. Further Tree planting

Based on the success of the trees (donated by the COCT), this initiative should be further extended. The planting of additional trees (10) is planned, but this figure may be extended based on budget considerations.

b. The Vleiland's perimeter fence

The perimeter fence from the traffic light to the Oude Westhof Retirement Village is in a sad state of repair.

c. The development of a dog recreation park

The dog recreation park in Kenridge is extensively used by dog owners to exercise their dogs. It is suggested that the development of a similar dog recreation park be developed. As such a facility could cause disturbance, an appropriate location needs to be identified. (The green belt in Van Riebeeckshof between the Protea Valley Community Church and Chianti Villas may be considered.) According to the Manager of the COCT Parks Department (Willem Myburgh) the process to be followed to authorise such a development may be time consuming. Parking facilities may be a potential obstacle to the success of this initiative.

6.6 Budget implications

The work that the COCT has done in the Majik Forest has resulted in an under spend in the 2020/21 budget. The funds that have not been spent, may be considered for spending on the projects listed in paragraph 5 above.

7. MANAGING AGENT

Nolands Incorporated as our newly appointed Managing Agent handles all administrative matters of the VRH VALLEY NPC. We are satisfied with the service level and the collaboration between the VRH VALLEY NPC and Nolands and have contracted with them for another year period from 1 August 2021 to end July 2022.

We thank WHOA Managing Agents for assisting our administration and the services delivered.

8. FINANCES

The audited Annual Financial Statements and budget will be discussed in detail at the AGM. The financial management is in accordance acceptable auditing and accounting practices and handled by the managing agents who are themselves Auditors and who monthly report to the Directors regarding the income and expenses and balances in accounts.

We have strict financial controls in place regarding payments that can be made from our accounts and the managing agents also deliver a monthly financial report and balance sheet to the directors.

The current R20.00 per resident contribution of members will be increased to R21.00 per resident for the following two financial years and new funding agreements will be signed for that period.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

VRH Valley NPC aims to be an example to other areas as to how ordinary citizens can contribute towards their own area's upliftment and ensure that the standard of services delivered by City of Cape Town departments remain accountable to the tax payer base represented by the VRH Valley NPC area. We are non-political and un-affiliated to any political party and deliver a top-up service and our mission is still to interact with Council and ensure effective management of public open spaces and service delivery in the geographical area.

This can only be achieved through a well-functioning board of directors and good relations between management, directors, members and Council.

Therefore, my acknowledgement and sincere appreciation goes to the Directors for their selfless service and commitment to the VRH VALLEY NPC. A lot of precious private time is sacrificed and offered by the individuals to ensure the management of the affairs of VRH VALLEY NPC and to assist in making our geographical area a sought after, pleasing and safe one to live in.

Our managing agents diligently and efficiently perform the tasks of day to day management which also contributes greatly towards the stability of our association and I thank you for your services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Werner Greeff', with a large, stylized initial 'W' and a long, sweeping underline.

Werner Greeff
CHAIRMAN 2021