



VAN RIEBEECKSHOF VALLEY-NPC

CHAIRPERSON`S REPORT – 2023/4

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide members of the Van Riebeeckshof Valley -NPC (NPC) with insight into the business activities during the period July 2023 – June 2024.

The following persons were nominated by member organisations to serve on the NPC Board during this reporting period, and were allocated the responsibilities of the portfolios indicated:

Chairperson – Emil Scheepers
Environment – Wim de Klerk
Security – Shelly Williams
Security – Thornton le Roux
Majik Forest – Nelia Orlandi
Tygerberg Wetlands – Anel Botha
Communication – Robyn Viljoen
Finance – Nicolene van Niekerk

Managing Agent – Jeremy Peterson and Anel van Wyk – Nolands.

As chairperson, I wish to thank everyone who has been part of this team during this financial year for their dedication and support. The work that they have done is predominantly behind the scenes. However, their efforts have contributed to the safety, conservation and beautification of the Van Riebeeckshof Valley.

A very special word of thanks to our managing agent (Anel van Wyk) that ensures that the NPC functions efficiently and meets all the requirements set by legislation.

Thanks, to Councillor Ronel Viljoen (City of Cape Town) for her support and practical guidance in achieving the aims that the NPC strives to achieve.

2. Report on what has been achieved and what is planned

When reviewing the 2023/24 financial year, the following is reported:

2.1 Environment Portfolio

In the 1st half of 2024 the Environment Committee has been very busy! The focus of developments has been to enhance the accessibility of Riesling Park. A significant part of the Riesling Park is overgrown by White Poplars. As White Poplars is a very invasive species, it needs to be removed over time, as such trees inhibit the waterflow from the Tygerberg. Earlier this year, a contractor was appointed to remove a section of young trees. The tree stumps have been used to form natural walkways in the Riesling Park. The COCT mows the grass in Riesling Park, and Eden Garden Services do a follow-up where necessary.

During September and October 2023, the COCT donated many trees, that were planted along van Riebeeckshof Road. These trees will over time form a natural green corridor through the area. A contractor has been appointed to maintain the trees on an ongoing basis, and waters the trees during the warm summer months.

To ensure that our area is clean and litter-free, a contractor ensures that litter is removed from van Riebeeckshof Road on a weekly basis.

The intention is to maintain the projects that have been initiated. In addition, it is planned to beautify the corner of van Riebeeckshof (at the traffic light). This project has been delayed as the COCT has only recently completed the walkway up to the traffic light.

2.2 Majik Forest Portfolio

Although several interest groups are active in the Majik forest with cleaning-up, upgrading, restoring the environment and eradication of evasive species, the City of Cape Town, Parks Department is the key partner, with all the others as important partners to understand the needs of the residents, users of the park and maintenance of the park.

A few matters identified and registered for further attention at the City of Cape Town and Council are:

- Erosion is currently a risk to the Van Riebeeckshof fence. Further erosion needs to be prevented.
- To secure the security in the park the sections of the municipal fence on the farms side of the Majik Forest requires continuous inspection and repairs
- The formalisation of the foot pathways by marking them, will make a huge difference in terms of the recreational value of the park/forest
- The instalment of a walkway over the stream on the upper part of the Majik Forest is being investigated
- To improve communication a list of stakeholders is being created

Over the December holiday period two security incidences have been brought to the attention of the NPC. These cases have been forwarded to the relevant officials and further discussions with the relevant stakeholders were held for action.

The Eradication of Invasive Alien Plants: Majik Forest Conservation Area

Majik Forest Conservation Area falls within the Greater Majik Forest Park site; the conservation area conserves the Critically Endangered Swartland Shale Renosterveld (CR). The Protected Area is protected in perpetuity as a Critical Biodiversity Area through signing a Biodiversity Agreement with the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, trading as CapeNature.

In 2022 the City eradicated the following species in the Majik Forest Conservation Area:

- ***Acacia saligna* (Port Jackson)**, Category 1b species in NEMBA
- ***Populus alba* (White Poplar)**, Category 2 species in NEMBA (**Category 1b in riparian and wetland areas**)
- ***Pinus pinaster* (Cluster Pine)**, Category 1b species in NEMBA

The COCT is busy drafting a new plan for upcoming work, as soon as it is ready, they will share the information with the NPC.

2.3 Tygerberg Wetlands Portfolio

The Tygerberg Wetlands form an integral part of the aquifer that channels water from the Tygerberg to the dams in the Majik Forest. The importance of this area is underscored by the large number of indigenous plants found in the wetlands. Thanks to several volunteers, the wetland area is cleaned of refuse that is found. Recently a static camera was also installed to monitor animal life found in the wetlands.

The Tygerberg Wetlands is dependent on donations for any major work that needs to be done. Thanks to donations made by the Oude Westhof and Van Riebeeckshof MHOA's and the Protea Valley Ratepayers' Association, a contractor removed some of the invasive White Poplar trees that are found in the area. Since the removal of these trees, a marked increase in the waterflow to the Majik Forest has been noted.

Depending on funding, it is planned to remove further White Poplar trees, to promote the growth of the indigenous trees that are present in the area. The growth of the indigenous trees is however stunted by the large White Poplar Forest that has formed over time. To enhance the financial viability of the Tygerberg Wetlands Association, an indigenous plant nursery is planned for future development.

The Tygerberg Wetlands is enclosed by an electrical fence. Thanks to the Van Riebeeckshof Retirement Village a large section of the fence is maintained and repaired when necessary. However, the maintenance of the fence from the traffic light (in van Riebeeckshof road) to de Uitkijk Estate needs to be formalised.

2.4 Security Portfolio

Security is a key component of the quality of life that residents in the Van Riebeeckshof Valley have become used to. Although the incidence of criminality in the Van Riebeeckshof Valley is minimal, this cannot be taken for granted. ADT-Fidelity is the contracted services provider and maintains a high visibility in the area.

The management of security is becoming ever more technology based. Security cameras (both overview and Licence Plate Recognition) are used and maintained. All cameras are monitored on an ongoing basis by Welgemoed CID. When an incident or suspect motor vehicle registration number is identified, the security personnel of ADT-Fidelity is alerted for follow-up.

It is planned to develop an integrated security team representative of all members of the van Riebeeckshof Valley NPC to consider security matters affecting the area.

2.5 Communications Portfolio

It is essential to ensure that the work done by the Van Riebeeckshof Valley NPC is well communicated to all residents. This is done by publishing a Newsletter 3 times a year. Newsletters are circulated to members with the expectation that this will be circulated to all residents living in a specific member's area of responsibility.

All newsletters and important documentation are also placed on the Van Riebeeckshof Valley NPC's website and Facebook pages.

2.6 Finance Portfolio

Based on the current inflow of income from members, the finances of the Van Riebeeckshof Valley NPC are adequate to cover running expenses and to fund the planned projects that have been identified. In line with governance standards, the Board requires that a reserve fund of 3 months monthly expenses be maintained to ensure financial viability.

Inflation remains a concern. Most of the service providers used by the Van Riebeeckshof Valley NPC are exposed to labour costs that are above the inflation rate. Against this perspective, an annual increase of member contributions of 8% has been set.

2.7 Operations Portfolio

The Operational Activities linked to the NPC are performed by Anel van Wyk of Nolands. In this capacity she manages the financial transactions and provides the Board with monthly and year-end financial statements. Anel also arranges meetings for the activities of the NPC and ensures that the administrative functions related to the Company's Act are met.

A special word of thanks to the Oude Westhof Retirement Village for making their Board Room available to use as a meeting venue.

We look forward to making use of Nolands' services in the next financial year.

3. Closing

The Van Riebeeckshof Valley area provides an above average lifestyle to all its residents. The vision of the Van Riebeeckshof Valley NPC is set out as follows:

“To advance the sustainable and coordinated urban management of the Van Riebeeckshof Valley to maintain and extend its status as a desirable living, working and recreational area of which its residents and property owners are proud, whilst conserving the natural heritage of the area and enabling local inhabitants and visitors to continue fully enjoying its many positive attributes and amenities.”

The achievement of this vision is linked to the personal efforts made by individuals who selflessly give their time and effort to achieve this goal. Without dedicated Board members and volunteers serving on Board Committees and service providers this cannot be achieved. A cornerstone of successful achievements is based on sound business relationships. The relationships that exist between the Board members, Nolands (as managing agent), the COCT and Ward Councillor and all the various service providers form the bedrock of what the Van Riebeeckshof Valley NPC has been able to achieve.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved in the work done.

Thank you very much!!

Emil Scheepers
Chairman

12 July 2024