

MINUTES OF THE 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EDGEMEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
HELD IN EDGEMEAD HIGH SCHOOL HALL AT 19H00 ON TUESDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2019

**PRESENT** As per attendance register.

1. **WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Stephen Fourie welcomed those present, confirming that the meeting was duly constituted, having been advertised by notice on the board at the shopping centre 30 days in advance, and also by notice in the Association's magazine, Edgemead News.

2. **APOLOGIES**

No apologies were recorded.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2017**

Proposed by Ivan Stewart and seconded by Peter Bates.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2017**

There were no matters arising.

The Chairman then asked Emile Coetzee for his report back.

5. **REPORT BACK ON LPR SYSTEM BY EMILE COETZEE**

Mr Coetzee reported that the system is running well. Neighbourhood Watches have been synchronizing their communications and improving the use of the system. Once a month, Monte Vista, Plattekloof/Welgelegen/Panorama, Edgemead and Bothasig Watches meet to discuss the use of the LPR system, how it works and how the use can be bettered. Many of the neighbouring suburbs' projects have become more mature and they are introducing new projects. The cooperation between these areas has been very helpful as this enables suspect vehicles to be tracked between suburbs. A high-level group of members from each neighbourhood watch has been established, which liaises between each group and centrally disseminates alerts. A 'practise run' is planned where a lifelike investigation will be conducted to test response rates and processes. False positives and clones trigger often, but the LPR committee is working on filtering the 'noise' more effectively. The committee is considering releasing high-level statistics which can show that the system is working and what is happening. The perimeter of Edgemead is covered and now, with the help of the Ward Allocation, the committee is erecting more cameras at the major triple intersection of Bosmansdam/Edgemead Drive that will help pinpoint vehicles within the boundaries of the suburb. This will happen within the next two to four weeks. The big emphasis is on communication within and between suburbs to synchronise communications and aid in tracking vehicles.

There were the following questions from the floor:

Q: What is your success rate, have you had any arrests? A: The LPR is an investigative tool that aids in investigations by gathering data to use as evidence in police action, and to see if a vehicle is wanted or is of interest in any other way. It is not a tool to provide 'hot pursuit' style action although this has happened in the past. These kinds of high level alerts are passed on directly to SAPS and Flying Squad and not neighbourhood watch, who rather serve as 'eyes and ears'

Q: Who funds the LPR project - Is it the ERA? A: The project is community funded, with a Rand-for-Rand match by Garden Cities. Fundraising is a challenge - approximately 700 donations were received out of approximately 10 000 households, but there were some good contributions from businesses (approximately R30 000), as well as some money from the Ward Allocation Budget (approximately R100 000). It is not a commercial gain system, it is in place to serve the community and provide information to SAPS. There is between R60 000 - 70 000 currently in the account, and it costs R5000 per month for data, and R3500 per three months for maintenance. There is a 'war chest' that keeps the project going at least six months ahead, but the time for more fundraising is coming soon.

Q: Where is the control room? A: There is no dedicated control room. At the moment, depending on the severity of the 'flag', the information will be disseminated to the correct party - lower levels to neighbourhood watches and higher levels to SAPS or Flying Squad.

Q: Where does all the information go? A: To a local server, then to another local server which synchronises the information to the correct suburb. All agents are vetted and cleared by the police to maintain privacy. At present there is no active monitoring of a screen by an agent as this is expensive, but it is an option that is being explored for the future. Some communities have private armed response companies that help with monitoring but not currently in this area. Control rooms are technically difficult to construct and must be built to a certain standard to ensure security, therefore they are expensive. There is the option of pushing for a City

Improvement District but this needs a 51% agreement by residents. In that case, a 1% increase on rates would be allocated to a vetted and authorised organisation that can use the funds for cleaning, security, improvements and so forth. At the moment the system is being explored for Monte Vista, and perhaps in the future for Edgemead.

Q: Can you pick out cars with no plates? A: No. Some cameras can get a partial plate or only a front or back plate. There is legislation in place to declare cars with no plates as 'not roadworthy', so criminals tend to go for cloned plates rather than no plates, as this tends to blend in better rather than sticking out.

LPR is not a 'silver bullet', but it is a very useful tool to aid in crime prevention. It can be used to show cars that were in the area where crimes were committed, and can also discriminate between cars that are residential and those that are not.

The Chairman thanked Mr Coetzee, and then delivered his Chairman's Report.

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Runway: Mr Fourie said that ERA had been managing the issue of the runway realignment for the past three years. The plan has been approved, and will go ahead over the next few years, but ERA has been invited onto the committee which will discuss the operational aspects of the runway, such as noise pollution and flight paths. Already planes are following a slightly different path which is the first step in determining the new flight paths and minimising noise by climbing as soon as possible. The goal was to avoid as much additional noise as possible.

Astron: The refinery (formerly Chevron) has applied for a change in their emissions allotment. This has been for the installation of additional air quality monitoring equipment and an additional structure to reduce sulphur emissions, which the report gives as up to 70% reductions. The refinery has been sold and is under new ownership.

MPBL objection: ERA presented objections at the Subcouncil on some of the proposed amendments. The meetings were very poorly attended despite the fact that the changes will have a marked effect on residents, especially the erection of cell masts as a primary use right. ERA objections are attached as Annexure A.

Property valuation: The last day for objections is 30<sup>th</sup> April, and objections can be done via email ([valuation.objections@capetown.gov.za](mailto:valuation.objections@capetown.gov.za)) or via an online form. The best way is to register for eservices via the City website and object there, or contact the Ward Councillor.

General: Information about public participation processes is often received from the City very late - an issue we have raised before with representatives. Facebook is the main method of communication but this is not ideal. Comments are welcome.

## **7. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The accounts are attached to the Minutes of the last AGM. The finances are in a good state and the Annual Financial Statements have been signed off by the auditor. The ERA would like to make a charitable donation to a worthy organisation and welcomes suggestions for deserving causes.

## **8. COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The Councillor had apologised for non-attendance and had sent the following report:

At the outset let me say thank you to all the members of the Edgemead Residents Association. Your commitment and dedication to volunteer your time for the good of the community is much to be appreciated. We live in an ever-changing time where what worked years gone by, no longer serves us today. The social impact of the state of the economy has an effect on every one of us and not least is a contributor to crime and unsavoury behaviour.

We have the cold fact that our Police Service is understaffed and that is no reflection on our men and women in blue - it is the reality. We do not have effective law enforcement to adequately address the situations that we find ourselves in today, and that is where supplementary services come into play and play an important role. The City's Law Enforcement along with my Rent-A-Cop have been very active in the ward addressing the vagrants and the homeless. This is a never-ending cycle because not long after Law Enforcement have broken down their make-shift shacks and moved them along, they return. The fact of the matter is that they get all that they need from the area and are quite happy to be where they are. I must again encourage that residents Give Responsibly and rather give to the shelters or places of care and not directly to the homeless. Ultimately, this is not helping them - it is enabling them - in that it keeps them in their situation and does not help them out of that situation. It is a sad state of affairs and it is the direct result of our failing economy and the impact on social society all over.

Solid Waste have also been very active in the Ward addressing the continual littering and dumping that takes place. Be aware that this is not only from the vagrants and horse and carts but from the residents as well. It is a culture that is growing and if we do not nip this in the bud it is going to spiral out of control. We are on a mission to catch just one person doing this and that person will be prosecuted with the full force of the law which will send a message to every other resident.

Road markings are currently being addressed and the team is in the Ward redoing the road markings.

Our parks are looking very sad due to the drought which in turn has encouraged the thorns and the weeds. I am looking at ways to at least get some watering on some of the main parks so that they at least look a bit more appealing.

The Non-Motorized Transport contractor is on site and will be busy in Edgemoed, Bothasig and Monte Vista for two years. The main work will be the dropping of the curbs to make the pavements wheelchair, pram and bicycle friendly as this is legislated and must take place. Pathways will also be laid around many of the main parks. Some road work has been worked into the contract but this is not the contractor for the roads and potholes, so please do not think when you see all the workers that they are there to address the roads.

And finally, the LPR cameras have been working well. There are over 9 million reads in a month and over 22 thousand reads in one day. In the month of January, the LPR assisted with 50 crimes ranging from crowbar to ATM crimes.

And then as a footnote I would like to notify residents that the Voting Station of Edgemoed Community Hall has been moved to the Link Way Church for the Election on 8 May. The IEC have moved the location.

A question from the floor asked where the rentacop operated. The Chairman replied that the rentacop patrols in Edgemoed and Monte Vista and operates out of Bothasig. However, he is for bylaw violations and not for the same purpose as SAPS.

Mr Andre du Plessis commented that the Councillor is unaware of some issues in the suburb and must be held accountable by the residents and their representatives. ERA must send representatives to the Subcouncil and Ward Committee meetings to keep up to date, and the Councillor must be more in touch with what is happening in the suburbs in her ward.

## 9. ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

Mr Emile Coetzee commented that there is a serious membership crisis in the ERA Exco. Even after many calls to action for residents' input and assistance on the committee, there have been no volunteers or positive responses. Edgemoed is a beautiful suburb and it got this way, and can only stay this way, through the continued support of residents.

Mr Andre du Plessis suggested getting a representative from each of the major organisations, such as schools, churches, clubs and societies to sit on the committee. This can help raise the profile of the ERA and, by asking direct questions rather than general questions, can get a direct response rather than a general "no". The example of Felicity Purchase in Fish Hoek was given, who, along with the community, was able to stop the City spraying glyphosates. Why can we not get the same for our suburb? The Party agenda is unfortunately always going to be the first priority, and the only way this can be addressed is by voting for smaller parties to break up coalition governance and keep the Parties on their toes.

Mr Fourie thanked the outgoing committee and asked for any nominations from the floor. Nominations were received for Stephen Fourie, Emile Coetzee, Tamryn Russell, and Richard Thomass. As there were no objections, these members were duly elected.

## 10. GENERAL

The Chairman said that there was no guest speaker this year as there were no burning issues, unlike last year's drought when Alderman Nielsen was present to discuss this. He asked for any further suggestions, comments or questions from the floor.

- A bigger banner advertising the meetings in a more visible area, such as the shopping centre or along Edgemoed Drive.
- Better communication via email with monthly updates when the Edgemoed News comes out.
- Better communication with the Ward Councillor and holding this person responsible.

When asked about Facebook, the reply was given that we share on 'The Edgemoed Page' as well as the official ERA page. On the ERA page, the meeting was posted as an event which generates an alert.

It was remarked that there have been no pipe bursts recently, to which Mr Coetzee replied that a pressure management device had been fitted to Edgemoed mains to prevent bursting. The City's policy is to replace pipes as they break.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:45 and invited those present to enjoy refreshments.

.....  
CHAIRMAN

.....  
DATE

## ANNEXURE A

RE: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Planning By-Law, 2015 (MPBL)

The proposed changes include the following:

To permit minor freestanding and minor rooftop base telecommunication stations in certain zonings

1. We object to the amendments that allow Minor Rooftop Base Telecommunications Stations and Rooftop Base Telecommunication Stations via Consent Use on the following Zonings:
  - Single Residential
  - Group Housing
  - Local Business
  - Open Space Zoning

2. We object to the amendments that allow Minor Rooftop Telecommunications Stations and Rooftop Telecommunication Stations via Primary Use on the following zonings:
  - Community Zoning- Local and Regional

3. We object to the amendments that allow Minor Freestanding Base Telecommunication Stations on all zonings. These amendments would mean that any school, clinic, park, hospital, parking garage, shop, office, warehouse or restaurant amongst other venues would be open to erect these structures without any input from their community within which they are located. This also opens the door for every lamppost along a public road to become prime real-estate for a tubular cell-tower to be attached without any public participation.

We object to the proposed changes on the following grounds:

- Proposed locations include residential buildings and other general areas. The negatives of having TI infrastructure so close to dwellings and in plain sight are unacceptable. Placing antennas in close proximity to residential areas limits the ability to observe the strict safety requirements (including proximity to living and sleeping quarters, and limiting time of exposure)
- Ensure co-location or sharing wherever possible. The City has a large network of TI infrastructure that can be used for co-location and sharing. Erection of TI infrastructure on residential housing and open areas is excessive.
- To retain visual integrity, special character of Cape Town: For many residents this most impairs their view of our iconic Table Mountain, which is certainly not in line with maintaining the character of Cape Town. The erection of freestanding base stations on public open spaces such as parks is particularly worrisome as these areas are set aside for recreation and enjoyment and must be kept free of unsightly TI infrastructure. A number of mitigation steps are often used, such as disguising masts as tress, but these trees look unquestionably fake and negatively impact the character of the surrounding area.
- Protect the Health, Safety and wellbeing of inhabitants: Research of the long term negative effects of exposure to Electromagnetic Energy is ongoing, and future acceptable levels could well be adjusted. The erection of TI infrastructure on residential dwellings is excessive and may pose unnecessary risks to human health, or risks that have not yet been determined. Only when exposure to such telecommunications infrastructure and the associated electromagnetic energy is conclusively proven *safe* can such structures be contemplated. The literature review attached in Annexure A explains the risks associated with exposure to electromagnetic energy across the spectrum and at all levels of exposure.
- Property values : We believe the proposed changes will have a negative impact on the value of properties across the City and be less desirable to potential tenants where homeowners have chosen to let out their property. This belief is supported by the attached letters of support we have received from local a Estate Agent (Annexure B).
- Public participation: We strongly object to the Primary Use Right for TI infrastructure on community zonings. Removing the ability of the public to participate in the development of the areas in which they live and work, or go to church and school, is directly contrary to their interests. The City's notifications to Civic Organisations always begin with the words 'Have Your Say', but this addition of a Primary Use right to community zonings is directly contrary to this. Citizens must be consulted regarding the development of their City.

Yours faithfully  
Stephen Fourie,  
Chairman  
Edgemoed Residents Association