



Glen Austin Residents' Association

P.O.Box 4267 Halfway House 1685
38 Pitzer Road Glen Austin - Midrand
Tel No : +27 781182198 : +27 865038057

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GLEN AUSTIN RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
HELD ON SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2009, AT CRESSET HOUSE, 141 HAMPTON ROAD, GLEN AUSTIN.

PRESENT 60

APOLOGIES: Ivor and Elizabeth Cartmell, Mark Potter, Guy and Angie Gore, John Logan, David Mitchell, Caron de Fortier, Julia Lamberton, Richard and Rachel Peattie, Hugh Higgins, James Mackay, Terry Thorp, Roderick van Ballegooyen.

The Chairman, Mr Alexandre B Teixeira welcomed all present.

The Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting were approved as a correct record by Mrs B Bell and seconded by Mrs S Winter.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

MEMBERSHIPS

The Membership Secretary, Mr George Hillhouse, gave figures for the membership in 2007 of 23, 2008 to 47 and this year the membership so far is 90+.

Additional revenue is required.

He suggested a commercial membership for companies in Glen Austin, such as the vet, nurseries, RMM etc. These companies would pay a higher membership fee such as R500 and advertise on the website. GARA would negotiate with them that GARA members receive a discount when purchasing from these companies. GARA would issue members with a membership card from 2010.

Increase membership through the block committees for Road Closure Scheme, and obtain details of commercial enterprises so that the commercial membership could be launched.

He said that the website was up and running, but still needed editing and additions. There was a database of members and a list of contacts. Only fully paid up members would benefit from information in the form of a newsletter and/or notices when received. Therefore it was important to become a member. A new database listing each plot, owner, rateable value, zoning etc is being compiled, from the information available, unfortunately the name of the owner is available, but not the contact details.

ROAD CLOSURES

Adri van der Veer went over the previous road closure presentation shown at the March public meeting.

Unfortunately crime has increased in Glen Austin with 11 recent hijackings in Donovan, Pitzer and Hampton Roads. Therefore it was important to close off roads. A traffic survey has to be done. Block committees had

been formed and a chairman appointed to report back to GARA of the results of their meetings. It would be preferred that each block conforms to a standard of type of closures and fencing. GARA needs 70% of the residents to be in favour of Road Closures.

Mr Jan van Kroonenburg asked if any of these block committees had met and what was the feedback. Adri said he had no information from blocks at the present time.

Another question from the floor was that how will the residents on Allan Road benefit from the road closures. Adri answered that unfortunately they will not benefit but suggested that each panhandle be closed to make the property on that panhandle more secure.

Mrs Bell was against the restriction of pedestrians walking through Glen Austin. Adri confirmed that GARA cannot stop pedestrians coming through the area. However, with the completion of the Gautrain fencing, pedestrians would only be able to access Old Pretoria Road via Church Road and George Road.

Mrs E Hinkle did not think that the road closures would work as Glen Austin was not Randjiesfontein.

Adri stated that Gary Duke, the attorney who had been involved in many road closure schemes informed us at the last public meeting that in areas where there were road closures, crime had decreased and the value of properties increased.

Michael Agliotti agreed that crime could be decreased by as much as 70% when road closure schemes are in place.

Adri announced that the barrier on George Road, between Pitzer and Austin Roads would be removed to allow the traffic to flow from Allan Road to the Old Pretoria Road. The bridge over the Gautrain at George Road had already been widened to 4 lanes as a start of this project.

Rita Sierts suggested more street lights should be erected by residents as it would deter criminals. The lights are not expensive to run. She also suggested that GARA employed or got sponsorship for people to patrol Glen Austin on bicycles. She used to patrol in her car in the past, but it is not safe to do so now. Mr Agliotti replied that a man on a bicycle is no deterrent to a criminal with a gun. It has been tried in Vorna Valley and it did not work.

Tania Wheeler suggested with the road closures that residents have a sticker on their car windscreen to show they were residents of Glen Austin. Mr Agliotti replied that unscrupulous people get hold of a sticker and duplicate it.

SECURITY

Ian Measures, a police reservist in Glen Austin gave a talk on security. He mentioned that there had been problems with the Midrand Police Station, but there was a new head of the police station - Senior Supt Moodley, who promised that the situation would improve.

In an emergency 10111 should be called if there is no response from the Midrand Police Station. A reference number is given for each call. If no-one answered the call, or there was no response to the complaint, then this should be documented in a letter to Supt Moodley and a copy to Ian Measures on info@glenaustin.co.za. He would then follow up on the complaint.

Government Patrol Groups are being organised for Glen Austin & President Park, and these groups would have a chairman who will report to the CPF committee to help fight crime. Blue Hills area is already involved in this scheme.

Local hot spots for the theft of cars are Sanridge and Carswald shopping centres. Car guards will not step in to prevent a crime.

Ian was prepared to answer any further questions after the meeting.

CONSERVANCY

George talked about a Conservancy which was of an environmental advantage to an area. It made sure that by laws were adhered to as far as flora and fauna, bull frogs etc were concerned. A circular asking for volunteers to make application would be sent to all contacts soon.

Mrs Hinkle said that Caroline Yetman is holding a meeting on 14th May to discuss bullfrogs and she had a lot of experience with conservancies. The invitation will be circulated to all members.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Alex Teixeira talked about Gautrain and Zonk'izizwe. By July this year, Bombela would have finished their section in Midrand of Gautrain. Then the track will be laid and the electrical installations completed for the train to do test runs.

Zonk'izizwe is going ahead. Internal road infrastructure has started. The New Road intersection over the highway will be closed for 8 months to build the double-decker section from the highway to Zonk'izizwe. This will cause major traffic problems.

Glen Austin internal roads re-tarring plan starts from September 2009. They will be of the same quality as Rosie's Place.

Mrs Bell asked if the barrier at Donovan/Austin Roads could be removed. Alex replied that this was on the plan, but the dirt section of Donovan Road had to be tarred.

On Allan Road there will be a Sasol pipeline. There was a question about the repair of Allan Road, but as this is a Provincial Road, GARA did not know of any plans to do this.

DEVELOPMENT OF STRYDOM FARM

On 7th May 2009, GARA had received a notice of the EIA for this project, which borders Glen Austin along Van Riebeck Road. It was also in the Midrand Reporter and The Star. This notice had been sent to all members and contacts on the GARA data base. The form to be registered as an Interested/Affected party must be completed and emailed back to them by 29th May 2009. There is to be a Public Meeting at the Eskom Conference Centre on Thursday 28th May 2009 at 18.00 hrs and it was important that people attend to make heard their concerns.

Alex informed the meeting that many meetings were attended by the Committee members, but we needed more Committee members to share the load.

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

People volunteered to stand on the Committee.

Mrs T Wheeler, Mrs Mari-Ann Kuhn, Ms Christine Abrams, Mr Antony Mc Phee and Mr David Joubert

Alex was asked if GARA knew the names of all property owners. The data base does have a lot of this information, but the property database is incomplete.

Adri asked for a vote on the road closures. 62 for and 4 against, including 11 proxies in favour, and one proxy against.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Jan Van Kroonenburg asked if Councillor Sinah Ramakhula had been officially invited to the AGM. It was confirmed that a letter had been delivered to her and she had sent her apologies. Also Chief Supt Moodley had been invited, but he was on leave.

Mr Van Kroonenburg requested that only legally registered businesses should be allowed to become members of GARA George Hillhouse agreed.

Mr Van Kroonenburg asked about the latest Development Plan for Jo'burg, which shows access roads from the proposed K56 into Donovan Road. When the Glen Austin Spatial Development Plan was drawn up, it was agreed that there would be no roads into Glen Austin from the K56. This must be adhered to. The committee confirmed that a meeting was being set up with JRA to deal with this matter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16.45.