

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE GLEN AUSTIN RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SATURDAY 6 MARCH 2010 AT
CRESSET HOUSE HOUSE, 141 HAMPTON ROAD, GLEN AUSTIN

PRESENT:

BJM Bell, I C Visee, S Greyling, A P Harris, Richard Hulse, Heather Holt, Jan & Marie Van Kroonenburg, Kay Penny, Andre Botha, Joan Knowles, Lance Sheppard, Andrew Lanham, Dave Sewell, Magda Prinsloo, Johan Lewies, Guy Venter, Hanno Sierts, Reuben & Patsy Krcel, Guy Jackson, Bruno Vandenborre, Elsabe Harvey, Ronelle Wickblewski, Peter McErlean, Anka & Uli Bahmann, Christine Robinson, J Burt, M B May, Anna Haberkorn, Andre Engelbrecht, Wendy Hartley, Glenda James, H Hoedemaker, S Ramakhula, Duncan & Linda McIntyre, Gerhard & Carmenn Schutte, Harriet Strouer, Louis Schraivesonde, James Candy, F C Watson, Peter Crane, H B Van Schalkwyk, S R Hartley, C A Vosloo, G Kunn, R Oertli, Robert Southey, Mark Penrith, Walter & Estelle Corns, Albert & Margaret Van Oldemark, Gareth Slade, Glenn Sheppard, Carl & Shirley Winter, Brian Erasmus, Clyde & Dale Holmes, Dave Cardin, Theo Ramdall, Ivan Persic, Ian Measures, Alex & Gizelle Teixeira. (70)

APOLOGIES:

Alex Divov, Johnathan Russell, Elizabeth Hinke, Adri Van der Veer, Peter Hausler, Geoffrey Robinson, Jenny Froome, Reinhard Kramer (8)

WELCOME:

The Chairman, Mr Alexandre Teixeira welcomed all present with special thanks to all those involved with GARA, the patrols and security. He also thanked the Management of Cresset House for allowing us the use of their venue.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 May 2009 were approved as a correct record by Mr J Van Kroonenburg and seconded by Mrs B Bell.

FINANCIAL:

Audited accounts had been carried out and distributed with the Minutes of the 2009 AGM. GARA now had a separate account for Patrol Glen Austin for monies to be deposited as Donations. The money for the Conservancy is still included on the GARA account and amounted to over R5400. As soon as the Conservancy is registered and a bank account opened in the name of Glen Austin Conservancy, this money would be transferred to them.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Alex Teixeira advised that the sub-station plan for the Zonk'izizwe Shopping Centre has been given the go-ahead, along with the K56 road which will allow access to Zonk'izizwe. The runway is to be improved after the K.56 is completed. Originally a water feature, double-storey apartments, school, library, community centre and park had been planned for the Northern side of the Grand Central property. There is an underground fountain that serves the stream in Glen Austin and which forms part of a Conservancy, so no developments will be allowed for the next 3 years along the Northern part of the property. Should the developers want to go ahead with their original plans, the whole planning process would have to begin again and the residents would have to be advised.

The pipeline planned to be placed along Allan and Dale Roads was discussed. Some residents of Dale Road were concerned that it would affect their properties. Alex Teixeira advised that there are already two other pipelines in Allan Road, and he felt that it would be virtually impossible to fit the third planned pipeline. GARA had to date not received any "concrete proof" that the pipeline was going ahead. To his knowledge an EIA had not been completed.

He advised that GARA committee members held regular meetings with Old Mutual who own the Grand Central property with regard to cutting the grass and erecting a fence along the Northern side of the property (along the back of Donovan Road) in an effort to curb the current crime spree from this side. GARA are currently putting a proposal forward to Old Mutual as to whether we have a concrete palisade, palisade or electric fence. This requires a decision from the Board of Old Mutual, so will take some time.

DEMARCATIION:

Mrs Sinnah Ramakhula, Councillor for Ward 92 advised that currently the Ward includes Ebony Park, Kaalfontein, Glen Austin, Randjesfontein, Country View, Noordwyk and part of the CDB. This accounts for some 1 750 354 voters. After March 2011 Ebony Park may not form part of Ward 92. She had maps available showing the demarcated areas. These maps to be scanned by GARA and circulated to members.

She advised that the Regional and Stakeholders Summit will be held on 20 March at the Midrand Primary School – no time was given. Residents are encouraged to attend this meeting and put forward their proposals for the Glen Austin area for the next five years in order for the Government to plan their budget.

SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Senior Superintendent Steven Moodley of the Midrand Police appealed to the residents for a partnership in policing our area, which is currently the most problematic for crime in Midrand. There have been some really nasty incidents with two deaths in Glen Austin recently and the police are really battling to get crime down. He introduced Gareth Slade, the Chair Person of Sector 1 which incorporates Glen Austin and President Park. Gareth had been appointed by the community at a separate meeting. He emphasised that by building a partnership of trust between the police and the community, we could work together to fight crime.

Questions from the floor:

“There is a front end loader that keeps opening up a road block and creating an escape route along Hampton Road, between Douglas and Dale”. Glenn Sheppard undertook to investigate.

“Why are breathalysers not kept at Midrand Station?” – Snr Supt Moodley advised that SAPS do not keep breathalysers, but JMPD do. He advised that should a person be asked to breathe into the machine and be found to be over the legal limit, it was not just a simple case of arresting them, they have to be taken to the District Surgeon for blood tests. The focus for SAPS is on serious and violent crimes, JMPD are there to focus on vehicles and road offenders.

ROAD CLOSURE SCHEMES AND BLOCK WATCH PATROLS:

Glenn Sheppard advised that at the last AGM road closures were discussed and some decisions were taken. The area has been divided up into blocks with separate committees responsible for each block. GARA will be responsible for the co-ordination of the process in each block, advising on pipe-lines, ensuring access for emergency services, etc.

To date progress in the blocks is as follows:

- Blocks 1 & 2 – very slow – not much progress.
- Block 3 – Approximately 40 signatures to date and progressing well.
- Blocks 4 & 6 – have combined and have approximately 33% of the required signatures.
- Block 5 – 80% of signatures have been obtained and progressing well.

He advised that 80% of the property owners within a particular block have to agree on the planned road closures. Then a Section 21 Company application has to be submitted to Council and a traffic flow study implemented.

Options to be discussed / decided:

- A complete security village with 1 or 2 entrances.
- Managed security with booms or gates such as Randjesfontein.
- Something similar to Midstream Estates with finger-printing.
- Image capturing on camera.
- Pedestrian access to be investigated as to how to control.
- Concrete palisade fencing for 2 km would cost in the region of R1,5 million
- Normal palisade fencing, electric fencing.
- A dedicated security company – ADT, Cornerstone, Chubb?
- Maintenance of gates and fences
- A once-off monthly payment – or ?
- Possible fundraising?

Although closing the roads will not prevent crime completely, it has been proved that closed security villages or managed security areas, the crime levels do decrease and the property prices do increase. As Allan Road is a Provincial Road, it will not be closed in the foreseeable future, so we as residents will have to form our own barrier. Some of the panhandles have already been closed. Alex Teixeira advised that if say 4 residents on the panhandle get together they can put in a gate and if the costs are shared, it is not that excessive. People interested in the process can contact GARA for names of suppliers can sometimes these suppliers offer up to a 40% discount.

Questions from the floor:

“How Eskom personnel read the meters if panhandles closed / access restricted?”

Eskom now only read meters every three months and sent out notices for residents to read their own meters and they can phone in or email the meter readings direct to Eskom.

“All the roads in Glen Austin were to be tarred”

Alex Teixeira advised that there were insufficient funds and also a lack of material to finish the projects already in hand including the potholes, so JRA have made it a priority that the next batch of material should be made available for our internal roads, so maybe 2011.

“What about a stop street for the corner of George and Pitzer Roads?”

Christine Robinson has been in contact with JRA who advised they have conducted a traffic study during the morning, midday and afternoon. They are now investigating a “yield” sign.

“Allan Road (from Dale to Olifantsfontein) has no traffic sign indicating the speed limit”

“Very few people stop at the stop streets at Douglas and George – could we not introduce roundabouts instead?” Glenn Sheppard advised that as Allan Road is a provincial road, the by-laws are very complicated and not an easy problem to sort out. A suggestion from the floor was may be to involved the JMPD and have more visible policing.

Gareth Slade Chairman of Sector 1 policing and the link between the residents and the police advised that Snr Supt Moodley provides each patrol with a duty roster of who is on duty from SAPS that evening. Currently there are 700 properties in the sector and only 120 patrollers – more volunteers are required – we really need more support from the community – please get involved as the community are the eyes and ears for the police. Currently each evening there are four vehicles on the Eastern side of Glen Austin and another 4 vehicles on the Western side. More vehicles are needed and foot patrollers are also needed. The patrols have definitely had an impact and our crime levels are thankfully reducing. Of concern is street numbering, should an emergency occur, numbers are not clear and some folk use plot numbers and others the street address. Please use the street number that appears at the top of your “rates bill” and ensure that it is clearly visible.

Glenn Sheppard will shortly be sending out an e-mail to residents to advise of an initiative to establish a domestic workers forum within the next 6 to 8 weeks. With each resident's permission their domestic workers and other people employed on the property will be invited to attend 2 or 3 sessions on a Saturday morning. They will be trained on how to deal with crime and how to become involved in helping the fight against crime.

There has also been a recruitment drive for new reservists and to date 23 people have signed up.

Estelle Corns advised that there are 30 new members that have recently joined the 2-way radio system, which is a fantastic way to communicate with your neighbours and the area. 4 additional 2-way radios will be purchased for the block watch vehicles. Glenn Sheppard has managed to obtain 2-way radios at a reduced price, details of which have been circulated to residents. Should anybody be interested in purchasing a 2-way radio, they can contact Glenn. Payment for the 2-way radios to be made into the Patrol Glen Austin account. A voluntary R250 payment from residents to cover the costs of vehicles, bullet-proof vests, torches, 2-way radios, etc can also be made into the Patrol Glen Austin Account.

An electronic occurrence book (EOB) has been set up and details of all crimes are to be sent to lehnberg@mweb.co.za. All incidents are to be entered into this book in order that we can process the information. No matter whether it is a cut fence, suspicious person or car, or something more serious, please relay the incident. If there is no report, we can not be made aware of problems and the police will not be given more resources should it be needed.

A marketing team has been set up to help with fund-raising, organising street parties and helping the community to get to know each other and to become more involved.

Ian Measures said that should residents have any problems with police asking for bribes, etc, please note down the number on the side of the vehicle – e.g. MR59 which is the police reservist vehicle – do not need to note down the registration plate. The police member has to wear a name badge – take down name, vehicle number, date, time and location and pass information on to either Ian, or Snr Supt Moodley for action. Most of our police members are honest and we are trying our best to get rid of the dishonest members.

The website is in the process of being upgraded and all GARA members will be given a user name and password in order that critical information can be shared. If you have not paid your GARA membership fees by 1 April 2010 then you will no longer receive all the relevant information or have full access to the website.

MEMBERSHIP:

Christine Robinson advised that GARA currently has 154 members. The workload is increasing on a daily basis with approximately 50 e-mails per day being received for GARA, which equates to about 600 e-mails per week. As Christine is employed by Alex's company on a mornings only basis (08h00 to 13h00) the GARA work is voluntary and has to be fitted in.

She said that the Woodward family have sent their grateful thanks through to GARA to all who have helped in cutting grass, erecting the security fence and general support over the past few weeks. She also thanked George Hillhouse who has moved to Polokwane for all his help on the committee with his portfolio of memberships.

There was an amount of R240 deposited into the GARA account in February, with no name – was it you? Please contact Christine so that the amount can be reconciled. There is also an amount of R20 being paid every month for at least the last 10 years from C Berkin paid in from Standard Bank – could this person also please come forward.

GARA subscriptions are R240 per annum per household and a further R60 per annum if you wish to support plans for the Conservancy = R300. For the over 60's the subscription is R120 per annum and R30 for the Conservancy = R150. The amounts to be paid into:

Bank:-	Nedbank
Branch:-	Midrand Branch
Branch Code:-	168642
Account name:-	Glen Austin Ratepayers' Association
Account Number:-	1686054653 (Current)
Reference:-	Please give your surname, and street address e.g. Hillhouse, 171 Allan
Receipt:-	Please advise us of your transfer, we will confirm receipt of subscription (by e-mail), when bank statement received.

Contact details for GARA are:

E-mail: info@glenaustin.co.za

Tel No: 011 023 0606 – Monday to Friday 08h00 to 13h00 (Christine Robinson)

Fax No. 086 503 8057

P O Box 4267, Halfway House 1685

NOMINATION OF GARA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2010:

Alex Teixeira advised that with all the developments in Midrand and a lot happening "behind the scenes", the GARA committee needs more volunteers. Brigitte Bell, Wendy Hartley and Maria Van Kroonenburg were nominated to join the team.

DEVELOPMENT OF A CONSERVANCY: "The Evil That Men Do – Lives After Them"

Carl Winter introduced Peter McErlean who is Chairman of the Conservancy Committee. Carl has been involved in environmental issues on the mines and quarries and has some folk interested in helping to set up the Conservancy. Peter has lived in Glen Austin for 3 years and was delighted to hear that 107 people have paid their R60 membership in order to create a Conservancy in the area. He stressed that "we want to make it fun". He thanked Elisabeth Hinke in her absence for all the behind the scenes work she has been doing. The Conservancy will not only include our famous bullfrog, but focus on bio-diversity covering the fauna and flora of the area. He suggested that we arrange "bakkie brigades" and get together for say half an hour on a Saturday to cut down blue gums, clean up the pavements, and also get to know your neighbours with a "street party", we could also arrange get-togethers and invite an expert to give a talk on say "trees". He suggested that if residents were not able to help with the block watch patrols, may be they could become involved in the Conservancy. Carl Winter had drawn up an "opinion poll" which will be e-mailed to all GARA members. Please complete and return the form, even if you are not interested.

The meeting ended at 16h30.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GLEN AUSTIN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HELD ON
SATURDAY 26TH JANUARY 2013 AT 1300 HOURS AT CRESSET HOUSE, 141 HAMPTON ROAD, GLEN
AUSTIN.

Present: 56 signed the Attendance Register, but counted 80 in the room.

Apologies: Jonathan Cain, Nicolette Niemiec, Maureen Harrington, Ilse Welters, Themba Ngobese, Laurie Kay, Rachel Peattie, Michelle Randall, Maria McGibbon, Maria van Kroonenburg, Donald Burnett, Anna Haberkorn, James and Marguerite Mackay, Pete Uys, Sue Gornall, Terry Thorpe, Jenny Froome, Glenda Franco, Glenda James, Cathie and Walter Webb, Guy Venter, Dave Sewell, Rad Hadfield-Jones, John and Sylvia Lowman, Garth Edwards, Kay and Graeme Penny, Robert Southy, Xaviar La Cante, Ivor and Elizabeth Cartmell, Trudie Geldenhuys, Rita Sierts, Malia Roets.

Glenn Sheppard, Chairman GARA, welcomed all present .

GUEST SPEAKERS

KAREBO

The first guest speaker was from Karebo who are working with Eskom to replace in the homes the old light bulbs with CFL'S, LED downlighters, shower heads, flow restrictors, geyser and pool timers. This service is free of charge. There used to be a system where you could exchange your old light bulbs at shopping malls, but to make sure that the lights are actually installed in the home, Karebo are supplying this service. Tel: 086 999 0900 or email green4free@karbeo.co.za.

Leaflets were distributed and the service is very good, usually the same day or next day.

KRISTEN KALLESEN FROM JUST ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION, MIDRAND

Kristen first showed a short video clip on a very funny interview about a tanker breaking up and losing oil.

She informed us of a lot of misleading information about energy saving. People need to do their homework on types of solar panels. We must recycle paper, glass and food. Grey water has to be saved and recycled as by 2015 the country will have serious problems regarding a clean water supply. Conservancies are important.

MINUTES OF THE AGM MEETING 27 JANUARY 2012

The 2012 Minutes had been distributed by email. They were confirmed as a correct record by Steve Johnstone and Patsy Kreel.

THANK YOU'S AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Glenn thanked the following.

Theo Antoniades of Thila Printing for printing all our AGM notices and various notices during the year free of charge.

Isisango Convention Centre – Ilsa Welters for hosting all the GARA Executive Committee Meetings each month and providing delicious snacks.

The GARA Committee for dealing with sometimes complex problems. Thanks to Christine as Secretary for dealing with all the incoming email questions from Members and Non Members. The Newsletter sent out weekly – unfortunately only read by around 30% of the community. Glenn asked residents to read the Newsletter as it contained a lot of useful information.

Thanks to our City of Joburg contacts which have been built up over the years and are very useful.

COJ RATES AND MEETINGS

This was discussed last year. The public meeting on the Rates Policy held on 21st January 2013 was poorly attended by Glen Austin Residents. If the residents do not attend these meetings our voice will not be heard.

When reporting any problem GARA cannot do it on behalf of the residents. A resident has to report on 011 375 5555 and pick the correct option and get a reference number. After 3 weeks if the problem has not been fixed i.e. water, potholes, street lights etc., then email the full information to info@glenaustin.co.za and GARA will chase it up.

There had been fundraising and social events by the Conservancy during the year – Rob Fowler, Chairman of the Conservancy, will elaborate later.

Councillor Leepile Motsumi is our Councillor for Ward 92. We must involve him more in Glen Austin issues such as pushing for a better rates discount or a separate Category for our area. His email is leepilemotsumi@gmail.com, leepilemo@mweb.co.za or leepilemo@webmail.co.za. His COJ email address is very unreliable.

SPENDING FUNDS

As the COJ do not seem to be able to replace the stolen street names we are in the process of obtaining quotes for large paving slabs to be put on the street corners with the street names stencilled on in white reflective paint.

MEMBERSHIPS

In 2007 we had 23 members and this rose in 2012 to 252. To date this year GARA has 154 members. This is pathetic out of the 650 or so email addresses we have on the database. A request to please talk to your neighbours and friends in Glen Austin to join. The fee has not changed for 12 or more years and is R240 for the membership and an optional R70 for the Glen Austin Conservancy.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

There has been three years of negotiations with Old Mutual Properties regarding fencing the Grand Central Airport area – along the whole of Dale Road from the Pik it Up Refuse Depot to Church Street and on New Road from the Gautrain fence to the first company buildings. This is Clear Vu fencing and should stop infiltration of Glen Austin from the Donovan Road area.

Joburg 10 Plus is the new system replacing the old contact system we used to put forward the problems Glen Austin experiences. These meetings will be quarterly. We have a very good relationship with the Regional Director or Region A, Abigail Ndlovu with the old quarterly system and this has continued.

We had the meeting with the MMC of COJ last September at Cresset House.

There have also been other environmental meetings attended by Christine.

FINANCE

The slide explained the income and expenditure.

The cost of running the office/website etc., is around R35,000 per year so with an income of around R56000 from Memberships, there is not a lot of money left.

Patrol Glen Austin received contributions but the replacement of safety equipment is an on-going expense.

Donations were made to Sector 1 Police. You may have seen the container at the Midrand Police Station, which required an air conditioner and office furniture. Replacement torches and spare cell phones were also donated. When the Sector 1 cell phones have to be repaired there are two cell phones that they can use in between time.

SECURITY

Steve Johnstone, Chairman of Sector 1 Police reported that crime is still increasing. There are patrols from 7pm to 6 am weekends. Patrol Glen Austin - the number of volunteers has drastically reduced to a handful and Steve needs around 80 people to offer to do even a couple of hours a month. Out of the 800 properties in Glen Austin, this is not an unreasonable request. He thanked those who are patrolling. Volunteers will be the ears and eyes only to report suspicious events.

He also thanked Isisango Convention Centre for hosting the Sector 1/CPF meetings free of charge.

He thanked Shirley Winter – Secretary of the CPF for her assistance during the year.

It was hoped that the container at the Midrand Police Station would be operational soon and those who volunteered to be Commissioner of Oaths should be interviewed in the near future.

It is important to report even the smallest crime of a fence cutting. If crimes are not reported then the resources provided by the police will be reduced as they will be deemed to be unnecessary for our area.

Steve reiterated the plea we do every year, year in and year out and in the Newsletters. Please put your House number (not your Plot Number) on your gate or at the entrance of your panhandle. Steve and his team waste hours and hours trying to find a property when there has been an emergency call out. Last week a child drowned on George Road and the emergency services could not find the house.

The Glen Austin Radio Network - a poor response to the Sunday night roll call.
The Radio Licence is paid for by GARA and all those using the network have to be members of GARA.

Mrs Kok from the floor complained that she could read the Newsletter but not open the attachments on her phone. She has to wait until she gets home to do this.

Trevor Stacey suggested Google used to locate premises. There were other suggestions of having a map of the area with house numbers printed on, but Glenn responded that in an emergency the team do not have time to look up maps. A street number on the gate is the answer.

GLEN AUSTIN CONSERVANCY

Rob Fowler (Chairman) thanked his committee team for their support and help during the year.

The highlights during 2012 were the film One Life, breakfasts and sundowners at the Glen Austin Pan. Three dog walks were well supported. There was also a Bonsai Meeting and a Gluhwein Evening. Volunteers also went out to tie up the trees planted by the Parks Department and to remove weeds and collect litter. Litter bags had been put on poles on George Road which were emptied by Pik it Up.

There is around R18,000 in the bank account and some of this will be used for education.

There is a concern for the safety of horse riders in the area due to the traffic – perhaps traffic calming is required.

Put up bird feeders to enjoy the variety of birds we have in our gardens.

Glenn added that due to constraints – the Parks Department are only going to cut the pavements once a year and so requested residents to do this to make our area look a nice place to live in.

GATED COMMUNITIES

BLOCK 4 & 6

Block 4 & 6 were forging ahead with their target of two thirds of the residents to agree to the closure. A bank account had been opened to commence paying for all the formalities required by the City of Joburg.

Mr W Strydom of Strydom's Farm had requested that the block come to the table with payment for part of the wall proposed along Van Riebeeck Road.

GLEN AUSTIN ESTATES – (BLOCK 5)

Douglas Road gate had been automated. The main entrance at Rosies Place needs to be completed. The erection of CCTV cameras is next. Glen Austin Estates are looking into leasing the roads from JRA. They will also have to reapply for the closure in July 2013.

ILLEGAL BUSINESSES

Residents have reported such businesses and we await response from the Council

ILLEGAL SIGNAGE

This is also a problem and has been dealt with by Bruce Beevers. We aim to be a poster free area.

ROADS

General potholes are escalated by GARA. George Road sand section is still an ongoing request for tarring with JRA but it may only be compacted and gravelled.

Speed , tonnage and stop signs have been requested where they have been stolen.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

As mentioned earlier – pavement grass cutting will only take place once a year. Several open plots with long grass have been reported.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Carl Winter is keeping in touch with Mr Colin Holmes of Kerry Seppings Environmental Management Specialists, regarding the planned Sasol Gas Pipeline which at the moment has two routes – Van Riebeeck Road and Pitzer Road. There will be a Public Participation Meeting called and residents will be informed of the date and venue as soon as we receive the information.

Illegal dumping – please take details of the offender, record date and time and if possible take a photograph.

Burning of garden rubbish and grass - this is against the by-laws for Agricultural Holdings. We suggest, bin, bury or compost.

GLEN AUSTIN WEBSITE

The website crashed last year but we thank Andriette Ferreira for persevering and rebuilding it from scratch. Christine does the content of the Newsletter but Andriette adds all the lovely pictures. People must use the website as there is a large amount of information about such items as by laws and notices from COJ.

Andriette is looking into the bulk SMS system for urgent messages.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

All the committee at the date of the AGM had agreed to stand. There were no objections. A request for extra hands was made.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

A request was made for GARA to set up a Face Book Page. Glenn thought this a bad idea as all the confidentiality of email addresses etc., would fall away.

Ian Measures commented that more plots are being sold but for leasing to tenants. This is a big problem in President Park.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 15.30 hours.

SIGNED


GLENN SHEPPARD (CHAIRMAN)

DATE.....