

# ZANDVLEI PROTECTED AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

MEETING HELD AT THE IMPERIAL YACHT CLUB / ZANDVLEI SPORTS CLUB, MUIZENBERG ON  
WEDNESDAY 28 March 2018

<b>Present:</b>	A. Lathif Gafoor (LG) Nyanisa Tshaya (NT) Dave Jubb (DJ) Mark Clive Arendse (MCA) Dalton Gibbs (DG) Andrew Taylor (AT) Cherry Gilham (CG) Mike Miller (MM) Neil Armitage (NPA) Bernelle Verster (BV) Gavin Lawson (GL) John Fowkes (JF) Sandra Fowkes (SF) Damian Gibbs (DaG)	Ward 64, also MDGA DEA & DP, Coastal Management MDGA Acting Manager, ZENR CoCT, Regional Reserve Manager CoCT Friends of Park Island PenCC UCT \ Recreational Yachting Chair, ZPAAC CBC ZVT, Westlake Wetlands Project ZVT Zandvlei Sports Club
<b>Apologies</b>	Angus Hemp (AH) Peter Kruger (PK) Dave Walker (DW) Gillion Bosman (GB) Abdulla Parker (AP) Anthony Roberts (AR) Aimee Kuhl (AK)	MDGA TZT Sea Cadets /CPUT CoCT – Council TCT CTEET CoCT Councillor, ward 64
<b>Invited:</b>		

Item		Action by
	<b>Meeting opened: 14h02</b>	
1.	<b>Welcome:</b> Extended to all by Bernelle Verster	
2.	<b>Attendance Register:</b> Signed by all.	
3.	<b>Minutes of previous meetings: Matters Arising:</b>  Letters to council about green jobs bungle and conditions around Joshua's resignation has been	

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	<p>sent.</p> <p>PAAC meeting held at Zandvlei on 26 March feedback:  <u>Presentations:</u>            Chandre Rhoda: Managing Mallards in Cape Town Nature Reserves. Flyers and information were shared with the ZPAAC members: <a href="http://www.capetowninvasives.org.za/">http://www.capetowninvasives.org.za/</a>.            ACTION: All groups, TZT, CBC, Park Island etc to have this information on their website and contribute to awareness around invasives            e.g. <a href="http://zpaac.org.za/invasives/">http://zpaac.org.za/invasives/</a>            It is better communications to 'save the indigenous species' rather than 'kill the invasives'.</p> <p>ACTION: Request invasives team to do a biannual education, e.g. flyer drop (does not have to be specific about dates of cullings)</p> <p>Dr Phil Richardson: Baboon Management in southern Cape Peninsula <a href="http://hwsolutions.co.za/">http://hwsolutions.co.za/</a>            Interesting stat: 446 baboons currently in the city (suburbs and Cape Point) This is double the desired population...</p> <p>Agenda item: Management Plan update            Zandvlei plan in by 'TBC', a year from gazetting, so aim for hopefully around June 2019. Now called a Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP - pampered :) )            Check the zonings, the basic things. (NB to have, say, high intensity uses for the areas we may wish to develop, and the areas we really need to protect)            e.g. Zandvlei needs fish species list updated (Josh did work)            The vision may be too broad, some objectives can do with more detail.            Person responsible: Leighan.Mossop@capetown.gov.za</p> <p>Ratified minutes are now on website and updated: <a href="http://zpaac.org.za/zpaac-minutes/">http://zpaac.org.za/zpaac-minutes/</a></p>	<p>All</p> <p>BV</p>
4.	<p><b>City Matters</b></p> <p>1. River wardens job loss</p> <p>Change of policy from city, so we no longer have permanent staff. We now have roaming teams. That is 5 years of work, experience and training lost. This is very short-sighted. Money required : R160 + R140 * 22 working days per month = approx R6600/month, R80 000/annum</p> <p>There is nothing we can do. The Zandvlei Trust does not have money for this.</p> <p>ACTION : Can we source private funding for this from the Westlake business park?            What are the legal implications ? From City point of view no legal obstacles.</p> <p>Important to keep communication. How to work the system. There are two people in need of employment. One residing in Westlake and one in Nyanga. Could potentially work with one person with the back-up of the roaming teams.</p> <p>Related and affected: Floating booms to hold back invasive water weeds have been cut, need a watchful eye. It is being cut by someone on the water. Another consequence of losing the river wardens is that they are not able to monitor to boom.</p> <p>2. Sewage spills in Rutter road : feedback from AT</p> <p>There was a lot of press, some incorrect information fed to the press. A blockage caused by accumulation of rags (many of them used for menstruation). Not related to the bridge maintenance. First action is to clear the sewer to allow further flow to go. The allegation of 10 000L pumped into the vlei is incorrect. The honeysucker can't suck the</p>	<p>SF, JF</p> <p>All to keep an eye out</p>

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	<p>flow up, the depth of the spill is too shallow. Use antiseptic powder and then power spray the residue off. The bioremediation powder is used when the flow cannot be returned to the sewer. It solves the problem from a health perspective, but not the nutrient problem.</p> <p>First one was blamed on roots through the infrastructure. Second on rag blockage. Schooner Road was two to three days before there was a response.</p> <p>Priority is blockages next to wetlands or ecosystems. But it is dependent on current jobs.</p> <p>The people to call is the call centre : sms or email. We do understand that it is difficult to contact the call centre. And/or the rangers. Email is most effective.</p> <p>The source of the rags are likely Westlake. There is an education drive from the City.</p> <p>We need to recognize that behaviour change is the biggest problem. WE need to get the message out there that people need to contact the correct number.</p> <p>Dalton Gibbs:</p> <p>1) Zandvlei Manager Post New reserve manager has not been appointed - May is optimistic. This is an URGENT post!!! What is the hold-up? CVs have been received, a shortlist has been produced. These need to be checked, then ... a period of time before it gets anywhere. The holdup is bureaucratic. ACTION: BV to send another mail to Aimee.</p> <p>2) EPWP Labour Staff The Area Based council has given 2x Expanded Public Works Programme worker posts for Zandvlei for this financial year (until 30 June 2018).</p> <p>3) Law enforcement – generally and gang activity in canals in Retreat</p> <p>Lathif : the gang activity is getting uncontrollable, considering more extreme measures. Need more systemic solutions.</p> <p>ACTION : BV and SF to explore ways to intervene that does not involve violence.</p>	<p>BV</p> <p>BV, SF</p>
5.	<p><b>Province Matters</b></p> <p><b>DEA&amp;DP</b></p> <p>State of the Coast Report Project Draft report has been received from consultants and was reviewed internally, will be sent to the PCC (Provincial Coastal Committee) members for further review.</p> <p>Estuary management project The Province in updating the existing draft plans aligning them with the National Environmental Management Protocol and also developing new Estuary Plans. Zandvlei Estuary Plan is also one of the Plans that are being updated. There have been some delays but the Plan will be made available to the forum as soon as we receive it back from the consultants.</p> <p>The Estuary Management Workshop</p>	

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	<p>The workshop was held from the 6<sup>th</sup> until the 7<sup>th</sup> of March and was a success.</p> <p>Coastal Access Workshop The workshop was mainly for the Municipalities; was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March.</p> <p>Coastal Access Strategy and Plan The Project has been finalised.</p> <p>Coastal Access Bay The Bay Law is currently undergoing vetting process.</p> <p>Coastal Management Lines and Implementation Mechanism Final deliverables are being reviewed internally.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Memberships and Representatives Update</b> None.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Project list report back and update</b></p> <p>Note from Julia Wood when asked about civic engagement in projects, due to frustration with slow pace of City intervention: “Large scale co-management is problematic. But different small projects can work.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Weed harvester:</b> Regatta was last weekend. Thank you to DG and the team for managing the extreme situation and making the regatta possible. The situation is extreme and any sort of a solution is desperately needed for the recreational aquatic users.</li> </ul> <p>LG discussed the quote he obtained to bring the weed harvester from Princessvlei. Apparently, historically there used to be two machines at the Marina. One was mobile. The one at Princessvlei belongs to the Marina. LG argued that as Princessvlei is smaller, 500m by 400m and the Marina is much larger, together with the consideration that the weed harvester at Princessvlei cannot work during the leopard toad breeding season, about 5 months of the year, that the weed harvester needs to be brought back to Zandvlei. DG noted that both machines are old and the requirements of the two waterbodies are different. GL confirmed seeing the Princessvlei machine working. SF asked if the weeds at Princessvlei can be managed through biocontrol and if there are ways for the ZPAAC /TZT to assist them, allowing for appropriate assistance to come to Zandvlei. We do not know if there is money to keep both machines running.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> BV to clarify this information from City Parks. <b>ACTION:</b> DG to give contact details</p> <p>The point was then raised that an image of a smaller machine or the ‘boat people’ could be used to manage the weeds, perhaps with the help of the recreational water users. This intervention may not serve the ecological functions as well as the big harvester but may make the lives of the paddlers and yachtspeople easier. DaG noted that through the SAS Constitution paragraph 7.1.4. “engage in the conservation, rehabilitation or protection of the natural environment, including flora, fauna, the oceans or the biosphere”; there may be avenues SAS can introduce that IYC could follow through in this regard. to help with the management of the vlei for the</p>	<p><b>BV</b></p>

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	<p>purposes of yachting.</p> <p>ACTION: CG to find out if the Capricorn Industrial Park has a little machine.</p>	CG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Litter trap:</b></li> </ul> <p>Waiting for the updated report incorporating the changes discussed at the last meeting (Nov 2017) by ZAA. This report will then be sent to environmental consultants to get input on an EIA.</p> <p>The general decision at the discussion after the last meeting is that the approach to use an interim solution at a cost of less than R1 million would be short-sighted, and that a more concerted approach to get a better engineered (but more expensive) solution is preferred.</p> <p><b>outstanding ACTION from last meeting:</b> Get the list of names of the people in the directorates.</p>	<p><b>BV to nudge WvW</b></p> <p>??</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Litter reduction upstream and in general</b></li> </ul> <p>It was noted with concern that litter cleanup in the Sandriver canals is seriously hampered by gang related activity, where any strangers are seen as threats and/or mugged. Council workers cleaning up the canals have guns pointed at them or shot at.</p> <p>From LG: Mike Ryder is coordinating a net installation, using 80mm net and 60mm net. The total cost is estimated at around R8 000, to include the nets, 'the drill hire, eyebolts, rebar etc'. This is being funded by R5 000 from Marina da Gama and the report back hopes that the Zandvlei Trust will cover the remainder outstanding amount. NPA expressed concern that the nets are a disaster waiting to happen. It will be seen if the nets fill their function with the coming rains. Community pro-activity is commendable but it is concerning to see action taken against advice from and without relaying this information to the ZPAAC. Some exasperation was expressed with the anticipation of 'I told you so's should the nets perform poorly indicating a frustration with the lack of cooperation with the rest of the stakeholders from a subset of Marina da Gama residents.</p> <p>At the recent Dutch cocreate workshop that CG and BV attended, a PackaChing concept was presented: <a href="http://www.packaching.co.za/">http://www.packaching.co.za/</a> . This is a good way to incetivise recycling, but the concept currently does not include collection of the problem litter – polystyrene and chips packets which is the main composition of the litter in the canal currently (CG). DG suggested using these for filling eco-bricks. At the workshop someone mentioned making bags out of the crisp packets (see e.g. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ-sJdcdVmk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ-sJdcdVmk</a> ) and there is some progress on a polystyrene recycling network (<a href="https://www.polystyrenerecyclingnetwork.com/">https://www.polystyrenerecyclingnetwork.com/</a>). The ZPAAC encourages more intervention upstream to reduce the litter at source.</p>	<p><b>BV to put on website</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dredging / Sediment Management</b></li> </ul> <p>This would deal with the nutrient issue better than weed.</p> <p>DaG made contact with the people knowledgeable about dredging at Port Owen. This may be a very cost-effective option. The discussion about the amounts that need to be moved and what to do with the dredgings was had again (refer to previous minutes). There may be uses for the dredgings, like sand bags to rehabilitate the banks and as bulking agent for compost made from</p>	

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	<p>the harvested weeds, but ideally we need permission to dispose of the sediment out at sea. If we do this slowly over a long time (e.g. 3 or 4 years), this can reduce the environmental impact, which may not be significant in the first place.</p> <p>SF : During the ZEMF meetings this was also discussed. Much work has been done to draw on.</p> <p>GL : Catchment management has a blanket authority to maintain the vlei. But there is a reserve layer on top of that. Important to clean the machine before it comes here – biodiversity issues.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> BV to formally engage with permissions of disposal with DG, Telcott Percent and Julia Wood. DaG to engage with Port Owen and write up a plan about schedule of transport and dredging, how to transport, the details of the machine (capacity, dimensions, what fuel it uses etc), etc.</p>	<p><b>BV DaG</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nutrient Management and integrated estuary management in general.</b></li> </ul> <p>A new weed has become more dominant in Zandvlei. <i>Chara vulgaris</i> likes high Ca conditions. This shows a shift from plant to algal dominated. Next step is algae, this would be very bad for the health of the vlei, and is due to the nutrient buildup as a result of not having adequate flushing – a direct consequence of the drought.</p> <p>Following concerns from the Muizenberg Lakeside Residents Association (MLRA) about bank erosion (Gradual collapse of bank at Zandvlei - at the caravan park, also in line with the Sea Scouts building and opposite Imperial Yacht Club.) and an offer from them to assist with repairing the banks, combining this with the dredging and having an overarching plan to rehabilitate the banks to allow for nutrient removal was discussed.</p> <p>From previous meeting this addresses the point “River and estuary banks integrated into estuary to contribute to water quality improvement, flood management and bird and fish habitat.” From previous meeting: “DG: This would need a shift how we manage the infrastructure.”</p> <p>DG: The city has just appointed a coastal engineer. DG met with other group whose banks are also collapsing and would want the engineer to advise on recommendations at Zandvlei too. CG: Park Island had interventions, none of it worked, it is a trial and error thing. Looked at what the Yacht club did (?) brought Danny Bankyberg (?) – bought potato bags and filled with sand and cement (suitable for dredgings?), Worked for 4 months filling bags, sewing them closed and packing them.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> BV to report back to MLRA about what is required, the intended objective, show the locations on the map, and details on where they are adjacent to infrastructure.</p>	<p><b>BV</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Quality Monitoring : Analysis and Citizen science</b></li> </ul> <p>BV met with Suretha Dorse (Senior Environmental Professional: Water Quality Monitoring &amp; Project Management, Biodiversity Management Branch, Environmental Management Department) to discuss the water quality monitoring of Zandvlei, and how citizen scientists can contribute.</p> <p>Suretha is new in this role and currently auditing the points managed by the Catchment Management department and adding four more points of interest to the Biodiversity Management. Once completed she will send an updated map with the locations of the points.</p> <p>Candice Haskins from Catchment Management Department aims to do an annual report of the</p>	

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	<p>water quality in the catchment. The ZPAAC would like a weekly update, thus the discussion revolved around what parameters are useful and realistic to be measured by citizen scientists to contribute to a weekly dashboard.</p> <p>Easier measurements include turbidity, conductivity (an indication of the salt concentration, or ingress of the sea water), pH, temperature. Dissolved oxygen (d)) would be very useful but the probe is expensive. E.coli measurements is useful, and it was noted that the levels are generally low enough to swim in, although general recommendations are limited to non-contact recreational sports like canoeing.</p> <p>The 'wish', or the aspect contributing to Dream Zandvlei is to have an active citizen science component to gather data, which is then interpreted with the support of the City – both Candice and Suretha's departments, that is then used in a easy, quick green/orange/red metric updated weekly on the ZPAAC website.</p> <p>MCA : There is a new salinity monitor at the reserve. We need training on how to use it, and even a volunteer to take ownership of using the instrument to generate data.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> : BV to push this. GL to provide the guideline doc that was on the Zandvlei Trust website that shows how to do the sampling. All to help with ideas. MM to help with data visualisation in the future.</p>	<p><b>BV</b> <b>GL</b> <b>MM</b></p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Financial, Operational and Political Strategy</b></p> <p>GL worked on a job description for this person. Now need to find funding to give the person a secured income while they find their feet. How to link or unlink income from funds generated can be discussed at a later stage.</p> <p>Tasks performed by this person would include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Find out how the City's operational budget gets allocated and by when, what are the systems in place and when does this get submitted. Who deals with this? (A general query asking for this at the meeting was met with silence)</li> <li>2. Get more government money through advertised tenders. Lobby for issues that need attention and funding.</li> <li>3. Explore subsidies and co-funding from responsible commercial developments, build relationships and partnerships with industries affecting and affected by the estuary and the catchment. (Discussion around this is captured in minutes of January 2018 meeting)</li> </ol>	<p><b>BV, All</b></p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>General</b></p> <p>Relook the management plan, Dalton, new manager, Bernelle (Josh?). Develop subsidiary plans specific to our challenges, with timelines, key objectives – a lot more nitty gritty.</p> <p>TODO: make a priorities list for dream Zandvlei: easy to fund, short returns, longer plans, etc. E.g. map Zandvlei in 4D: 3D with attributes like water quality, depth (can work with 2D also), over time.</p> <p>Mouth opening (put schedule on website). ACTION : BV to put on website, send to mailing list for notice board. Done : <a href="http://zpaac.org.za/estuary-mouth-openings/">http://zpaac.org.za/estuary-mouth-openings/</a></p>	<p><b>BV</b></p>

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10.	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p>Proposed meetings for 2018: Wednesdays, 14:00, Zandvlei Sports Club, roughly second Wednesday of the month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 28 March (done)</li> <li>- 13 June</li> <li>- 12 September</li> <li>- 12 December</li> </ul> <p>Working meetings (topics, venue and time TBC, likely some or all of the top priority areas – litter, weed, nutrient, sediment management) – attendance is optional, minutes will be distributed to rest of the group and ratified at next general meeting after discussion if required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 17 January (done – topic was Dream Zandvlei)</li> <li>- 11 April</li> <li>- 29 August</li> <li>- 28 November</li> </ul>	
11.	<p><b>Next Meeting: Working meeting 11 April (may need to be rescheduled). Next general meeting is 13 June.</b></p> <p>David Walker: for the next meeting a short 10 minute slot be given to one of my students (Braden Wilkinson) who has just completed a project on long-term (40 year) trends in bird counts at Zandvlei estuary. I think the ZPAAC will find the results interesting.</p> <p><b>Meeting closed: 15:50</b></p>	