

BELVEDERE EAST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes for BECA Special General Meeting Meeting 18 April 2024 at Batavia School of Skills Hall at 7pm

At 7:15 pm there were 274 paid up members of the Association with voting rights. One eighth of that number is 34.25 requiring 34 members to be present. There were 36 members in attendance. The meeting was therefore quorate.

Apologies: Dale Snyders; Alan Glasser; Ed Kinsey; Heather Harrington; Steyn Kotze; Patricia Craig; Andrew Ringrose; Glenda Wickstrom; Shaheed Galant; Derek Bluck; Nazly Agherdien; Lesley Macfarlane; Shaheen Omar Khalfey; Marc Lunau; Melanie Arnold; M. Shaheed Gallant; Erasmus van Niekerk; Desiree Colyn. (18)

Attendees: Taheerah Shaboodien; Max Schablitzsky; Marilyn Mehl; Sonja Jensen; Grant Watters; Lesley Hart; Terrence Petersen; Justin Wimbush; Imran Abdurahman; Erica Espach; Imraan Faki; Trilby Kepelka; Reza Casker; Shane Abrahams; Ashleigh Mills; Kevin Abbot; Andrew Helfenstein; Janine Joemat; Andrew Ballantyne; Alistair Mather; Irshaad Allie; Lynette Slabbert; Lianne Kelly; Sarah Wade; Lindy Palos; Daiyaan Edwards; Kate Gray; Doreen Chaplin; Michael Perrin; Jalal Allie; Irma Mackenzie; Anisha Bagus; Roslyn Adams; Mickey Butler; Faraaz Faki; Jehan Gerdien. (36)

1. The meeting opened at 7:15 pm. Taheera Shaboodien (TS) welcomed all present and stated that the main reason for calling the meeting would be to adopt the newly drafted constitution. She stated that security is a priority for BECA and that responsibility for additional security measures fell to residents as the CoCT does not have additional resources.
2. The management committee members were each introduced to those present.
Taheera Shaboodien: Chair
Max Schablitzsky: Parks
Max briefly spoke about the 3 parks in the BECA area namely, Choo Choo Park, Laurier Road Park and Treehaven Park. Currently, Choo Choo Park is the priority as it is the biggest of the 3 and the most prominent in the neighbourhood.
Marilyn Mehl: Secretary
Lesley Hart: Treasurer
Grant Watters: Building and Planning Sub-Committee member
The MC was thanked for their voluntary contributions to BECA.
3. TS continued with the security update as Dale Snyders was unable to attend. She encouraged BECA members to report all attempted and actual crimes to the SAPS. There have been 18 incidents recently in the Golden Grove area and only 4 have been reported to the SAPS therefore it is not considered a "hotspot" by SAPS. No additional resources can thus be deployed.

Justin Wimbush from the floor, a HARLYN Neighbourhood Watch Patroller encouraged those present to report all crimes as SAPS resources are allocated according to crime statistics. He also asked members to volunteer their time to join HARLYN as patrollers whose responsibilities are primarily to watch and report suspicious activity to the responding partners.

Erica Espach also encouraged members to join HARLYN as patrollers and stated the following responsibilities-to drive around the area, move sleepers on, check that gates and garage doors are closed, alarms are on.

Terrence Petersen also asked for help as patrollers saying that he knew many of the homeless people in the area and that many of them have social issues and mental health issues. He also stated that HARLYN cooperate mostly with ADT.

TS continued saying that BECA is currently obtaining quotes for 5 cameras at key points. These cameras will be monitored by AI recognising movement at night which is then reported to Harlyn Patrollers. These are also Licence Plate Recognition Cameras which are also more expensive but essential in tracking criminals moving in and around the city neighbourhoods.

R75550 is currently available for these cameras.

TS is hoping to negotiate favourable rates for security equipment for example, anti-lift brackets for sliding gates.

TS requested that members encourage their neighbours to participate in the neighbourhood and in its security measures. She reiterated that there is no budget from the CoCT for security.

TS stated that BECA is currently registering as a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) and invited all present to view the BECA financials at any point.

Daiyaan Edwards from the floor asked to contact to join HARLYN as a patroller. He was directed to Terrence Petersen for details.

Erica Espach -a HARLYN Patroller from Treehaven Close asked members not to leave their bins out at night as they are used to access properties over high walls and fences.

Members were encouraged not to give food and clothing to people of the street as this encouraged more homeless people to enter the area and those who are present to stay. She related her recent interaction with a U-Turn volunteer who said that U-Turn does not attract the homeless people, but rather helps to rehabilitate these individuals. Vouchers which are on sale at many outlets can be exchanged for services at the service centre in Claremont.

TS also mentioned that there are many different types of criminals who appear in several different guises.

4. TS introduced the new constitution which has been widely distributed and commented on. She thanked Paula Ensor for her efforts to improve the constitution so that it met with the requirements for NPO status.

The adoption of the constitution was put to vote by a show of hands. The new BECA Constitution was adopted unanimously by voting members present.

Proposer: Justin Wimbush

Secunder: Terrence Petersen

5. The new website is not yet fully published at the www.beca.org.za address due to technical issues. TS talked us through the website and Sonja Jensen was thanked for her efforts in developing this new website. The new website is also required for NPO status and to receive discounted fees from SAGE.
6. TS mentioned that membership fees would need to be raised for the coming financial year. It will be a 2-3 year process before sufficient households and businesses are recruited to form a CID. The CoCT then collects a fee via the rates bill that is ringfenced to be spent on projects in the BECA area. This is the ultimate goal of the BECA. CID fees are currently in the range of R200 per month per household. The annual BECA membership is extremely modest in comparison.

More members from the BECA area are required. Membership has increased from 79 in December 2023 to 266 paid members and 22 members with outstanding fees; this is out of a possible 1129 homes in the area.

Field Code Changed

TS suggested that annual fees would be increased to R250 p.a. for the new financial year and it appeared that most members in the audience approved of this.

TS clarified that a CID is a civic organisation that is created to improve services to that specific community and is funded via the CoCT rates collection. 3% is retained by the CoCT for bad debt and 97% is made available to the CID. Currently CID's spend most of this revenue on security but the money is also available for other projects.

- 7. Any other business
 - 7.1. AGM will be held in October. Members were encouraged to recruit their neighbours to join BECA.
 - 7.2. Max Schablitsky requested extra helpers for the Management Committee specifically for Parks, Events, Administration. Planning committee requires help from those experienced in building, planning or architectural services.
 - 7.3. Terrence Petersen offered the use of the facilities at Batavia School to the community.
 - 7.4. Taheera Shaboodien was thanked by Sonja Jensen.

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm.

Chair.....

Secretary.....