BELVEDERE EAST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the BECA Annual General Meeting
Date: 28 October 2025
Time: 7:00 PM
Venue: Batavia School of Skills, Imam Haron Road
Committee Present: Alan Glasser (AG), Merilyn Mehl (MM), Sonja Jensen (SJ), Angelo Kriger (AK)
Attendees: Residents, Members and prospective members (attendance register on file. As attached)

1. Welcome and Opening
The Chairperson welcomed all attendees, including new and prospective members, and provided an overview of the association's progress over the past year.

2. Area of Operation
The BECA service area was confirmed as:

- From Kromboom Road perpendicular to the M5
- Extending to Belvedere Road
- Crossing at Chichester Road
- Up Garfield Road and connecting to the M5 boundary

This area comprises approximately:

- **1,600 residences**
    - 1,000 houses
    - 600 apartments

The Chair noted that this is a large area requiring coordinated community support and participation.

3. Membership Growth

- Membership increased from **79 members (3 years ago)** to **417 members** as of October 2025.
- Growth attributed to the work of the new committee over the past two years.
- Continued recruitment encouraged to reach broader community representation.
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4. Key Priority: Crime Prevention & CCTV Project
Crime prevention remains BECA's highest priority.

4.1 CCTV Project Progress

- Approximately **R100,000 raised** toward CCTV expansion (just short of 50% funding target).
- **14 CCTV cameras installed** to date.
- Additional privately installed cameras (e.g. Imam Haron area) integrated into broader network.

4.2 Impact

- Cameras have assisted in:
    - Preventing burglaries and criminal activity
    - Providing footage to SAPS investigators
    - Supporting successful arrests and case building

4.3 Phase Two Plans

- Expand coverage to all **entrance points** into the area:
    - Imam Haron Road
    - Belvedere Road

    - Kromboom Road
- Goal: create an integrated “spiderweb” surveillance network.
- Additional **LPR (License Plate Recognition) cameras** planned via council discretionary funding.

4.4 Funding Appeal
Members encouraged to contribute to CCTV expansion.
Contributions of any amount welcomed via SnapScan or direct payment.

5. Road Safety & Traffic Calming
5.1 Traffic Circle Installation
- Traffic circle installed at **Stewart Road near Golden Grove School**.
- Achieved after long engagement with Roads Department and councillor.
- Improved safety for pedestrians and school children.

5.2 Stop Sign Visibility Improvements
- Stop sign at **Milner Avenue / De Mist** being repainted in high-visibility colour.
- Continued engagement with City on enforcement and compliance.

5.3 Future Measures
- Additional traffic calming initiatives planned near schools and key pedestrian routes.
- Speed calming measures (including speed humps) under consideration.

6. Relationship with City of Cape Town & Councillor
- Positive working relationship maintained with City and Ward Councillor.
- Increased membership strengthens community advocacy and service request impact.

7. Discretionary Ward Funding Allocation
BECA secured **R450,000 discretionary funding** (effective June 2026).

7.1 Choo Choo Park Upgrades
Planned improvements include:
1. Pathways for cycling and walking
2. Additional park access points (including Belvedere Road entrance)
3. Safe pram-friendly routes through park
4. Outdoor exercise equipment
5. Improved landscaping and accessibility

8. Parks & Environmental Management
8.1 Partnership with U-Turn Social Enterprise
BECA partnered with U-Turn to:
- Support rehabilitation and work opportunities for homeless individuals
- Provide structured work in community parks

8.2 Outcomes
Improvements visible in:
- Choo Choo Park
- Laurier Park
- Treehaven Park

Work completed includes:
- Grass cutting and maintenance
- Planting and landscaping

- 12 new trees received from City of Cape Town
- Composting and environmental initiatives

9. Community Events & Initiatives

9.1 Community Market

- Annual Kidpreneur community market successfully hosted. More than R7000 raised in revenue from the market.
- Participation from local residents and small businesses.
- Strong community engagement observed.
- Iftar hosted by the BECA residents in Treehaven Park
- Annual Halloween event planned for 31 October 2025

9.2 Future Events

- Intention to expand markets and community events in parks.
- Engagement ongoing with councillor to reduce regulatory barriers.

9.3 Community Support Activities

Members supported various initiatives:

- Animal welfare donations
- Assistance to homeless residents
- Support for firefighters during local fires
- Community transport support for school events

These actions reflect strong community cohesion.

10. Advocacy on Municipal Tariffs

BECA lodged formal objections to City of Cape Town tariff increases and fixed charges.
Key concerns:

- Rising electricity and water fixed charges
- Increased household monthly costs
- Impact on affordability for residents
- Councillor committed to continuing advocacy at council level.
- Tariff review process currently underway.

11. Membership Fees

Annual membership fee remains modest (approx. R60 per year / ±R22 per month equivalent).
Members encouraged to continue supporting BECA to sustain projects and advocacy work.

12. Property Value & Area Reputation

Well-maintained parks, security initiatives and active civic engagement contributing positively to:

- Area safety perception
- Property values
- Marketability of neighbourhood

13. BECA Committee election, thanks and acknowledgements

- Current chairperson and committee members were nominated to serve again and were unanimously re-elected. They all accepted.
- Taheera asked for new volunteers for the vacant positions/portfolio's: Treasurer, Social Media, Membership.

Taheerah extended special thanks to:

- Councillor Richard Hill for ongoing support

- BECA Committee members/volunteers: Leslie (Treasurer – resigned/vacant), Merilyn (parks revitalisation support), Max (parks programme contributions), Alan (planning and building compliance oversight), Angelo (Security and Access control), Sonja (Marketing and Social Media Management), Maheerah (Secretary)
- All community members, volunteers and donors
- AK thanked TS on behalf of the BECA committee and members for her unwavering commitment and dedication to growing the Civic Association.

14. Questions & Discussion
Questions raised and answered.
Members encouraged to continue engagement and participation.

15. Closing
Chairperson thanked all attendees and encouraged continued membership growth and community collaboration.
Lucky draw was held and prizes were given to lucky numbers drawn. Prizes were donated by BECA businesses, Committee members and residents. Please see attached for donors and prize winners.

Addenda

1. Attendees
2. Financial statement
3. Lucky draw: Donors and prize winners.

Meeting adjourned.

TAHEERA Shaboodien
Chairperson:

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Maheerah Gamieldien
Secretary:

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