

Minutes of the Princess Vlei Forum General Meeting held on 14 July 2016 at LOFOB

Present: Philip Bam, Gary Stewart, Bridget Pitt, Vilma Maritz, Malcolm Campbell, Lorna Houston, Willie Leith, Jill Williams, Mea Lashbrooke, Avril Harding, Kayaletu, Tseko, Sipokazi, Asanda, Joneal, Portia, Armand, Jody, Matilda Smith, G Sabotker, Riad Davids, Irma Liberty, Angela Niehaus, Mike Roman, Sandy Roman, Rose Saville, Faiza Leith, Lucienne Kelfkens, Beverley Roode, Charnelle Lakay, Casper Bam

Apologies: Dave Barnes, Natalie McAskill, Stuart Hall, Esme Matshikiza, Elton Bezuidenhout, Hoosain Narker, George Davis, Dennis Nick, Tony van Ryneveld, Emile Jansen, Judy Hodson, Mariette, Daubenton, Emma Oliver

1 Welcome and Introduction

Philip Bam, PVF Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed appreciation for the presence of all, acknowledged the Management committee and the presence of the blind residents and further encouraged everyone to make a special effort to ensure that the voices of the blind are heard in the meeting.

2. Management Committee Report- back & Conceptual Development Framework

Both presentations are annexures to the minutes.

Gary Stewart presented the Management Committee report back on progress to date since the last meeting on 27 August 2015 highlighting:

- The signing of Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Cape Town and Princess Vlei Forum
- Ongoing working with the CoCT to finalise the Conceptual Development Framework
- The Conceptual Development Framework
- Transformation projects and
- Challenges

Malcolm Campbell presented the Conceptual Development Framework (CDF) He outlined that it took 9 months to finalise though in the end is basically the same document that was presented as a draft on 9 July 2015. ON 4 April 2016 the CDF was

finalized between PVF and the CoCT. He briefly presented the CDF again to the meeting for the benefit of members who had missed the initial presentation thereof in July 2015. The following key points were noted:

1. The draft had stated that a line of trees would serve as a barrier along Prince George Drive. We had expressed concern for security.
The final version now has a visually permeable barrier.
2. The draft: Parking only between Prince George Drive and the ablution block
Final version: Retaining existing car park and the new car park between Prince George Drive and the ablution block – the latter may be used for the Market.
3. Draft and Final states - Cafeteria with outside seating. We wanted an Interpretation Centre.
4. Draft - 3 jetty's
Final version – has a multipurpose jetty for boat launching, fishing, baptism.
5. The walkway was not reflected but the CoCT is agreeable on this matter and the bridge across the water, is high on the priority list.
6. The CoCT has already advertised 2 tenders and professional consultants have been appointed to work on designs.

Discussion

1. Tenders and development of the PV. *Answer: City will take responsibility for the development of larger developments. We will adopt smaller projects and the play park is one such project. Councillor Southgate had set aside funds toward the Play Park though this then went to the bollards for creating a boundary in the parking area.*
2. What kind of visitors do we expect and how many? *First priority is the local community. Others will be attracted and interested as we have facilities and activities underway.*
3. Thought there would be a bridge over M5? *Pedestrian bridge is very expensive, millions in cost, and if we invest in it, people cross it and there is nothing there it doesn't make sense. Focus on creating a safer, more user friendly space for people to access at this stage.*
4. Cultural aspect and Heritage preservation are not visible? *These issues were strongly represented to Council, it has undertaken to conduct a heritage study.*
5. Who is going to manage all of this? *Strong feelings were expressed that the CoCT should have a Management Plan for the CDF with the forum then holding*

them accountable. In addition the forum requires its own plan for taking all this work forward.

6. Have we secured funders or is there an income generation plan?

We are beginning to talk about a market. In addition, we could not fundraise without the CDF as this is the agreement of what is to happen at the Princess Vlei.

7. How long is the walk? *5km*

8. Are we a registered PBO? *Yes.*

9. Green Point Park has a huge fence that includes parking and operates with opening hours, do we have such a plan?

Fencing is a huge and complex issue, but ways to manage access need to be discussed.

10. Protea Park adjacent to the vlei will also mushroom, how will we manage the informal settlements?

Response: It is a work in progress, as this will be a process and so it is difficult to say what we ought to do.

11. Who will take care of the vlei?

This is a city property, including maintenance, cleaning, safety etc this is the city's responsibility not PVF. Also, our response is to hold the city accountable and make sure they do their job.

12. We should clarify what the city must deliver, chase them up on it and negotiate top-ups with the city.

13. How do we maintain our advocacy on this matter? We got here, because of the activism, it is so powerful. So how are we going to strategise to keep moving forward?

We continue to engage the city. It is their property, we are partners and need to guide them. The activism mode was great in the campaign we are not losing momentum, this meeting is keeping activism alive, we need to see the community getting involved. There is ongoing interaction with the city. Our biggest problem is the slow pace.

3. Small Group Discussion

The meeting divided into small groups to discuss various focus areas, below are the notes from each group.

Market

A question that arose - If there are other income options would a market still be considered?

More physical activities (LOFOB).

1. How will this infrastructure be used and by whom?

Answer: Local vendors to showcase local products
Economic activity should not be a threat to the community and environment. Let's not commercialise the space. Organic products. Lofob stand perhaps.

2. What is needed to facilitate and maximise use?

Answer: A project manager

3. What possible sources of funding could we explore?

Answer: Funds itself. Tourism. Local business

4. What are the next steps to start up this project?

Answer: Look at existing facilities.
Design and explore interests. Use of wooden structures.

5. Are you available to serve on a sub-committee to take this forward?

Answer: Someone local is needed to look after this

Conservation

1. How will this infrastructure be used and by whom?

- ∞ Answer: The Princess Vlei has value as a "gateway" with its mix of birdlife and endemic fynbos as it combines conservation and recreation.
- ∞ Also has a conservation value as a habitat for plants and animals.

2. What is needed to facilitate and maximise use?

Answer: infrastructure that is environmentally sensitive.
Access to the nature on the site facilitated by:

- ∞ Signage – to make nature visible
- ∞ Walkway
- ∞ Bird hiders

∞ Interpretation centre

3. What possible sources of funding could we explore?

Answer: did not discuss

4. What are the next steps to start up this project?

Answer: Clean-ups, clearing litter & water, planting, alien clearing can be done by volunteer groups.

Walks and Water Recreation

1. How will this infrastructure be used and by whom?

Answer: The Water - paddle skiing, cycle boats, canoeing, fishing
Cycling, walks, duathlon, orienteering, Three Vleis Race, events and competitions

2. What is needed to facilitate and maximise use?

Answer: Appropriate surface needs to be attended to. Could have different surface types, catering for varied needs – further engagement and investigation required - running; bikes, walking and for the blind.

We need to be using the Vlei now, as usage increases awareness and support.

3. What possible sources of funding could we explore?

Answer: A Friday night food market similar to the Range in Tokai which includes food and entertainment.

A drive for pledges of R50 / R100 month.

4. What are the next steps to start up this project?

Answer: To do it.

We need to fetch walkers and start walking. Can advertise in people's post.

5. Are you available to serve on a sub-committee to take this forward?

Answer: Faiza, Beverley, Casper, Tseko, Gavin, Lorna

Heritage

1. How will this infrastructure be used and by whom?

Answer: Local communities, tourists, schools / universities, artists heritage practitioners,

- ∞ Build a heritage centre / khoisan village (need not be physical can incorporate teaching language etc.) / this needs exploring with the local people as nothing is concrete.
- ∞ Form a heritage committee.
- ∞ Can be interwoven with tourism
- ∞ September is heritage month.

2. What is needed to facilitate and maximise use?

Answer: An environmentally friendly building / centre
Architectural students could be drawn on to get involved.

3. What possible sources of funding could we explore?

Answer: Needs a conceptual plan for fundraising
Tourism, crowd funding.

4. What are the next steps to start up this project?

Answer: Further discussion is needed. Need to get people together to talk about Heritage at Princess Vlei.
Session with Heritage practitioners to develop a vision that can be presented to the City.

5. Are you available to serve on a sub-committee to take this forward?

Answer: Jill, Malcolm, Vilma, Avril, Willie, Matilda

4. Fundraiser

We have booked and are selling tickets for Remembering the Lux on 3 September at the Baxter to raise funds for admin and project costs of Princess Vlei Forum – everyone was urged to buy tickets.