



Minutes of the Ramsgate Ratepayers and Residents Association Annual General meeting held at the Lions Club on Monday, 25 March 2024 at 17:00

Minutes

1. Administrative matters

- 1.1. Welcome and apologies;
The Chair of the RRRRA Mr Bob Black, opened the meeting and apologies were noted from Bills Ross-Adams, Cailyn Ross-Adman, Mike Geiger, Rob Goldman, Izak Joubert, Mandy van der Merwe, Ross Douthwaite, Alan Hurlbatt and Alan Bosch.
- 1.2. Verify a quorum
There was a quorum present at the meeting with 24 members present, and including proxies there was a representation of 59 members.
- 1.3. Approval of the Special Meeting minutes.
The meeting minutes of the AGM were approved at the Special General meeting. The special meeting minutes were proposed by Doug Sparks and seconded by David Knowles.

2. Nominations

The Chair noted that there were nominations that had been received already and asked if there were nominations from the floor. There were no more nominations taken from the floor. The Chair called upon the Secretary to explain the process of the voting.

Sarah-Jane explained that each person had been given a ballot form if they were paid up members of RRRRA. On each ballot there is a spot for members to vote for 3 nominees for one year terms and another four spaces for members to vote for nominees to serve two year terms. Each member is expected to place one of the following names in each of the spaces provided. Once members had completed the ballot they were collected and counted while the Chair presented his report.

Nominations:

One year term - three places:

- Robert Black
- Sarah-Jane Capazario
- Sarah Unworth

Two year term - four places:

- Pauline Lee
- Peter Lancshire
- Paul Johnson
- Steve Thomas
- Suzette de Jager



3. Chair's Report

The Chair thanked the previous 2 Chairs and their respective committees for bringing the RRRA through a very difficult phase where we encountered a pandemic, the knock-on effects of the social unrest and the subsequent escalating cost of living. The previous team had carefully managed the money and we received the ring fenced R30k grant from RNM for the refurb of the ablution block at Big Tree beach. Happily there is more than sufficient money in the bank to continue running the Association in the current format.

Before last year's AGM, the 3 remaining members co-opted 2 more and preparations were made for the AGM. A call for volunteers was made at the AGM, and the result was a 12 person committee that progressed from a "nice to meet you" to the formation of a unified team, dynamic, positive and prepared to put in lots of time and effort to get this far.

The team adopted the following portfolios: Marketing/Communication, Projects, Local Government, Finance and Secretariat with team leaders for each. The result has been outstanding.

The Chair reminded members that all those who served on the Executive Committee and the various subcommittees/portfolios were volunteers, who were not paid. He further noted that the committees worked long and hard to achieve positive results. The Operations Committee has taken on various projects such as the successful amending of the constitution to bring it up to date and user-friendly.

This amended Constitution was successfully presented at a Special General Meeting mid-term. Our regular full committee meetings are lively and a chance to plan joint strategy and review previous and ongoing work.

We still encounter difficult challenges and make mistakes too. The struggle to manage a virtually non-functioning UGU has created serious problems with potable water supply and the processing and safe piping of sewage. Attempts to contact and coerce Ugu to provide good service delivery are made daily and fall on deaf ears. Also we have no control over UGU but never stop trying!

RNM is different and we have established good 2-way communication and have seen progress, but "budget constraints" is always quoted. The KZN Provincial Roads Dept which is responsible for maintaining the R621/National Road/Marine Drive, has been slack with maintenance and virtually not carried out any maintenance since Raubex won the R500M tender to refurbish the road from Southbroom to Port Shepstone. These roadworks are progressing well.

There are the constant financial restraints with a few loyal members paying their R150 annual membership and we survive from that and the generosity of members of the community who pay extra amounts monthly and contribute to active and proposed projects.

There are some local residents who are the so-called "keyboard warriors" who spread false news, make spurious complaints and make personal attacks. They post on local media which then circulates around the community. This is not just in Ramsgate but is a national and



international problem that hinders our progress and confidence. The local problem is not just with RRRRA , but all the other NGOs, NPOs and volunteer groups. In 1839, nearly two centuries ago, there was a novelist Edward Bulwer-Lytton who coined a phrase that has stood the test of time. “The pen is mightier than the sword” and he would have been astounded at the way it is practised, both positively and negatively.

One excellent result has been the success in getting the RUDP and the NGOs etc. together as a group and informal meetings are held to swap ideas and work together. This is work in progress and will be helped by the upgrading and updating of the RUDP database which is sourced from RNM. It is made available to the NGO's under the RUDP only and entry is protected by separate security passwords. For example RRRRA is able to access Name, Plot number, Phone and email address as prescribed by the POPIA act. CPF is on a separate platform where details are contained, and only they can gain access to augment their own security information which is received separately and presented as the CPF database. This should assist in “getting the message” to the community by improved communication.

Projects. successfully completed included the following:

- the Big Tree beach ablutions with standby water supply which will have the final connection when the water supply is eventually repaired;
- The Photo booth/frame on main beach;
- Ongoing maintenance of the Ramsgate Ramble with a garden service;
- Constant lobbying of the municipalities and regular attendance and participation in the monthly RNM HOD meetings.
- There is a rubbish problem in the main street and we need to work together with the tenant and business/restaurant owners. We are meeting with these people to try to resolve this matter.

A quick look at the future and some very positive projects .

Firstly, one coming from Alan Hurlbatt, one of our team who is a very talented professional designer and artist. The basic concept which has been put forward by RRRRA to the landlords and tenants of the Main Street in Ramsgate, is an upgrade of the current properties, which will hopefully fall in line with the upgrades of the road resurfacing. This proposal is extended to hopefully improve the layout and quantity of the parking in the street. We are currently working with everyone on a concept which will depict Ramsgate as a holiday destination town, current, fun, relaxed and friendly. The plan is to through the use of the “face lift” we will create a brand for Ramsgate, enabling positive marketing and exposure, which will improve our image and attract back the holiday makers and business opportunities. Due to various constraints i.e funding, municipal permissions and construction, the overall vision will be implemented in phases as quickly as possible. The intention is to address the rest of the retail elements in Ramsgate with the same design intent, creating continuity and strength to the brand.

Secondly, the other discussion is about the positive use of the old courthouse which has attracted interest from other professional and local residents and Alan is also involved and will start discussions soon.

The Chair thanked everyone who has helped RRRRA on our journey. He conveyed his sincere thanks to the committee members for the last year and who have evolved into a loyal and cohesive team that works so hard and the whole team expresses the desire to ask the



community to allow all of the team to continue and finish the work that has been started. "Together, we will make Ramsgate a great place to LIVE, WORK and PLAY".

4. Annual Financial Statements

The Treasurer presented the annual financial statements as indicated in appendix A

5. Announcement of the results of the voting for the new RRRR Executive committee

The Chair announced the Executive committee as following:

Robert Black

Steve Thomas

Paul Johnson

Pauline Lee

Sarah Unsworth

Sarah-Jane Capazario

Suzette de Jager

6. Any other business

There was a sign that indicated Margate and Ramsgate and that it needs to be replaced. The Chair noted that the signs were part of the RNM and it is noted that we may need to help and replace the sign.

Sarah Unsworth commented on the Courthouse and replied to a question from the floor. She went on to note she had raised the matter of the courthouse at the Local Gov HoD meeting and it's intended to be used for a police office. . After having spoken to the people who are interested in revitalising it Sarah plans to raise it again at the HoD meeting, since the community has brought it up. Vicki Wentzel had also raised the courthouse in the past and noted that the building has been condemned. Vicki Wentzel noted that she would forward Sarah the correspondence she had on the matter to Sarah.

The meeting closed at 18:30