

Minutes of the Riebeek Valley Ratepayers Association Committee Meeting

Date: 12 October 2022

Time: 18:00

Venue: The Barn

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomes all present

2. Attendance

Jennifer Kamerman (JK)

William Pulles (WP)

Koos Erasmus (KE)

Basil Friedlander (BF)

Joshua Geldenhuys (JG)

Solveigh Smit (SS)

3. Apologies

Henk Bruwer (HB)

Mathiam Smit (MS)

4. Matters discussed:

4.1. Building Guidelines

The committee followed up on and discussed this initiative, which had been determined as a top priority during previous meetings. The plan is to implement a framework of aesthetic and architectural building guidelines for the Riebeek Valley, which would form part of the town planning and building approval process for new developments and additions to properties in the valley in order to protect the overall appearance and heritage aspects of buildings and land usage.

4.1.1. Agreed on next steps, in order:

- BF to compile a post-mortem of previously unsuccessful attempts to create building guidelines for the Riebeek Valley.
- JK to identify two to three other municipalities who have successfully implemented a similar framework. Overstrand and specifically Stanford had already been identified as a potential option.
- JK to get key contact details from identified municipalities and engage with them to understand their steps to success and any lessons we can learn.
- RVRA committee to create a rough document which broadly details the intended framework for local building guidelines. The scope must be limited to Riebeek Valley, and it should allow for interpretation and recommendations from authorities and other stakeholders.
- BF to engage with Alwyn Saayman (Swartland Mun., Head of Town Planning) on our intentions with reference to the framework document. Ask Alwyn for feedback on the framework and recommendations for the next steps to make this plan a reality.

4.2. Special Rates Area (SRA)

WP reiterated that the SRA initiative had, unfortunately, been declined by the council. Alternative options were discussed, such as the creation of HOAs at the option of residential groups for the payment of levies which could be used to fund security and infrastructure development within the boundaries of such HOAs. The advantage of HOAs is that they can be created without the

approval of municipal authorities and can be used as a vehicle to generate and distribute additional funds and services. The disadvantage, in contrast to an SRA, is that residents are not forced to opt into an HOA, which can potentially create unfairness in the distribution income and expenditure generated by the HOA. BF further added the municipality has an existing responsibility to effect certain upgrades and maintenance in the valley with the rates they already receive, and that bringing such issues forward to the municipality along with public shaming has proven successful for developments in some instances in the past.

4.3. IDP Contribution

Following up from the previous meeting, it was reiterated that we wish to submit individual form submissions for feedback on the proposed Municipal IDP, and in addition, submit collective feedback on behalf of the RVRA. JK undertook to submit a response on behalf of the RVRA.

4.4. Website

JG updated that he had spoken with Andy Bytheway - the previous website developer - to get more context on this initiative and agree on the best way forward. JG said that the new website, once launched, should prioritize the following: (1) Easy member sign-up, (2) Relevant communication to members and information about the RVRA, and (3) Links to resources, such as meeting minutes, municipal contacts and pages, etc. JG explained that the website would have ongoing costs that are normal in the industry: Around R120.00 per year for the rvra.co.za domain hosting fee, and around R69.00 per month for website builder software that would enable a modern design and make the website easily updatable at inception and into the future. The Committee agreed that JG would front these website costs, send an email to The Committee with confirmation of the costs, and that The RVRA would reimburse these costs to JG. To fund the website and other operational costs,

it was agreed that RVRA members would each be required to pay an annual membership subscription fee between R50.00 and R200.00 (still to be determined).

4.5. RVRA Bank Account

The Committee resolved that three persons – Jennifer Kamerman, William Pulles and Mathiam Smit should be the approved signatories on the Association bank account with all payments from the account being authorised by any two of the three approved signatories.

5. Meeting concludes

The meeting adjourns at 19:45

The next meeting: 9 November 2022 at 18:00 (every second Wednesday of the month)

Signed:

Date:
