

Friends of Moreleta Kloof

Moreleta Kloof Natuurreseervaat



Minutes of : The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Friends of Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve (FMK) Meeting

Held at : Rademeyers Restaurant, Moreleta Kloof

Date : Tuesday, 12 November 2013 **Time: 18:32 – 20:32**

Attendance:

	Name	Abbreviation	Title
Required:	Sarel van der Merwe	SvdM	FMK Chairman
	Andrew Meyer	AMR	FMK Director
	Jeannie du Plessis	JdP	FMK Director
	Deirdre van Helsdingen	DvH	FMK Director
	Johan Visser	JV	FMK Financial Director
Apologies:	Ernst Retief	ER	Birdlife SA
Attendees:	Sarel van der Merwe	SvdM	FMK Chairman
	Pierre Steenkamp		
	Lizel Steenkamp		
	Andrew Meyer	AMR	FMK Director
	Adelene Marais	AM	City of Tshwane: Nature Conservation
	Helena Coetzee		
	Deirdre van Helsdingen	DvH	FMK Director
	Wim Alberts		
	Sonja Alberts		
	Paul Edwards		
	Johan Visser		
	Judy Eeghen		

Item #	Description	Responsibility
1.	Opening, welcome and confirmation of agenda SvdM opened the Meeting at 18:32. All agree that meeting will be held in Afrikaans with the report in English. The agenda was unanimously approved by the meeting. SvdM invited the meeting to add points to the agenda if required, but no further points were proposed.	SvdM
2.	Attendance and apologies Apologies from Ernst Retief were received.	All
3.	Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM: 10 October 2012 SvdM presented the minutes of the previous AGM and the requested the meeting for approval these minutes. The minutes of the AGM of the FMK of 10 October 2012 were unanimously approved by the meeting.	All
4.	Chairman's report SvdM presented the FMK chairman's report which covered the following: i. Overview and status of FMK activities ii. Highlights iii. Discovery and Sensory Trail Project a. funding and completion of phase 1 An Opening ceremony of the Discovery Sensory Trail Project was held on the 24th of October b. Comment from Mathys Roets c. Comments from the visitors to the trial and Bird Hide	SvdM

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Moreleta Kloof Natuurreseervaat



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	<p>iv. Removing alien plants and trees from the reserve On-going project. Work for water helped, 15 people worked for three months, paid by Nature Conservation.</p> <p>v. Protection of the Palisade Fence We are actively seeking donors to help our partner, Nature Conservation.</p> <p>vi. Concerns</p> <p>a. Condition of the Palisade Fence Need to motivate residents to take responsibility for the stretch of palisade in front of their properties and/or sponsor sections @R190/section.</p> <p>b. Construction work at Rubenstein and Blouhaak Adelene Marais (AM) of the City of Tshwane: Nature Conservation explained that due to a process of declaring the present sewage contractor insolvent a delay in the completion of this work is experienced, but that the City of Tshwane is attending to this at present. The tender for the project is currently open.</p> <p>c. Quality and availability of guards Major problem at the moment with no guard for the 6pm to 6am shift @ a cost of R8000/month AMR suggests an emergency meeting MKE and Brinant might be able to help. AM will also see if there is anything she can do from Nature Conservations side.</p> <p>d. Runners abusing the kloof and intimidating walkers. Need to look into access fees, runners pay fees to use other parks but not here. They cause erosion and intimidate walkers. It was also mentioned that mountain bikers must never be allowed access.</p>	
	The chairman's report is attached for reference purposes	
5.	Overview and approval of financial statements	JV
	<p>a. 2012-2013 financial statements.</p> <p>i. JV presented the FMK 2012-2013 financial statements. These financial statements will be made available on the FMK website. The meeting unanimously approved the financial statements.</p>	
	<p>ii. 2013-2014 budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM stated that 1500 people visit the Kloof each month and that FMK's only income comes from membership fees and donations. The financial statements are 9 months old and it is suggested that the AGM be moved back, a decision must be made with regards to the date. AM comment with regards to entrance fees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cashier point must adhere to certain requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brick building Bulletproof glass Safe It was suggested that FMK members enjoy free access and that non members pay a fee. <p>The directors and working groups must find a way to generate regular</p> 	

Friends of Moreleta Kloof

Moreleta Kloof Natuurreservaat



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	income for running costs and maintenance.	
	<p>b. Vote of thanks to bookkeeper and auditors. The meeting thanked JV for the preparation of the financial statements and budget and the auditors were thanked for the audit performed as well as the preparation of the financial statements for the meeting.</p>	
	<p>c. Appoint/confirm bookkeeper and auditor for next year. The meeting unanimously re-appointed CMV Auditor as FMK auditors for the next financial year.</p>	
6.	Moreleta Kloof projects and activities	All
	<p>a. Discovery and sensory trial development project.</p> <p>i. Status Completed phase 1 of the project which includes a wooden rest deck and toilet combination as well as a bird hide and paved parking for use by disabled persons. The parking is connected to the tarred road that leads to the rest deck and bird hide. The trail is 2 kilometres in length and will be clearly marked for easy and safe navigation for users and will be accessible to any person visiting the Kloof. Certain areas of the trail will be kept as natural ground to also allow the user to experience the sense of feeling the sand under their feet. Nature Conservation came to our rescue with the connection to the sewer system, supply, installation and upkeep of a water reservoir for the toilet as well as the final, touches and cleaning of the areas around the toilet and the bird hide</p> <p>ii. Opening of facility and Handover An Opening ceremony of the Discovery Sensory Trail Project was held on the 24th of October. The opening and acknowledgement towards the donors as well as the handover of the facilities to City of Tshwane Nature conservation was attended by of RMB, Birdlife SA, COT Nature Conservation, Friends of the Kloof, members of the Friends management team and other celebrities.</p> <p>iii. Comments from Nature Conservation AM thanked FMK for completion of the project and undertook to maintain the facilities.</p>	
	<p>b. FMK membership project</p> <p>i. It was discussed that the limited number of FMK members are of concern and that this should be specifically addressed by the board of directors and that a director should be assigned the responsibility to address this issue.</p> <p>ii. Suggestions were made to increase the annual membership fee.</p> <p>iii. More importantly there is an urgent need to inform current members of their membership fee status. This must be addressed ASAP.</p> <p>iv. It was also suggested that advertising the additional benefit of FMK membership such as free visits to nature reserves could motivate people to become Friends of Moreleta Kloof.</p> <p>v. More discussions and specify actions on FMK membership and marketing will be addressed at further FMK director and FMK member meetings.</p>	
	<p>c. FMK marketing project(s) Along with canvassing for more FMK members the meeting agreed that</p>	

Friends of Moreleta Kloof

Moreleta Kloof Natuurreseervaat



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	<p>projects should be undertaken to promote the Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Sonja Alberts will help with marketing projects.</p> <p>The meeting stressed that the following should however be kept in mind:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the Kloof should remain restricted. FMK members should specifically be encouraged to get involved with and participate in activities that benefit the Kloof. Access to the Kloof by large organised groups, and activities that will be detrimental to the Kloof, will not be allowed. 	
	<p>d. Clean-up, clearing of invader plants.</p> <p>This is an on-going effort done under the guidance of City of Tshwane Nature Conservation. Helena Coetzee said that the learners of Hoërskool Waterkloof will again help with clean-up on Fridays in 2014. Jeannie du Plessis was specifically thanked for her contribution in this regard, as well as the persons who donated their time and services for this effort.</p>	
	<p>e. Palisade maintenance.</p> <p>It was stressed that the palisade needs urgent maintenance in some areas and that this remains an on-going concern. The City of Tshwane Nature Conservation stated that they, funding permitted, would help in this regard. It was again reiterated that people should take responsibility for the stretch of palisade fence across their properties. Will also look at sponsorship for fence upkeep and other FMK endeavours</p> <p>SvdM appealed for help in this regard and said that he could be contacted by persons who would like to help. He can supply the paint specifications and colour of the paint that should be used.</p>	
	<p>f. City of Tshwane Nature Conservation inputs</p> <p>Adelene Marais mentioned that after the regionalization their situation has become increasingly dire with less than half their budget and job insecurities. But she will never the less continue to do everything she can to support the FMK initiative.</p> <p>JdP thanked AM for everything she does for the Moreleta Kloof and wished her luck with the obstacles ahead.</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>JdP</p>
7.	Confirmation / election of directors and resignations	SvdM
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> SvdM nominated Pierre Steenkamp as a director and was seconded by AMR. Lizel Steenkamp was asked if she would assume the responsibility of FMK secretary and she agreed. The following directors were unanimously re-elected by the meeting as FMK directors for the next term of office: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sarel van der Merwe Jeannie du Plessis Johan Visser Andrew Meyer Deidre van Helsdingen SvdM remarked that not everyone on the management team needs to be a director. Sonja Alberts said she would help with marketing. During the next director's meeting, following this AGM, the chairman of the board of directors will be elected and portfolios of responsibility will be allocated to each director. 	
8.	General	All
	No additional items were added to the agenda but a few of the issues arising from	

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Moreleta Kloof Natuurreservaat



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	<p>this meeting was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Concerns and priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Security and safety of the Moreleta Kloof <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Guards ii. Palisade maintenance b. The availability of funds through membership fees, donations and other sources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Getting existing members' membership fees up to date. ii. Card Swipe Facility - The credit card machine at the gate – FMK needs a full report from JdP to establish viability iii. Improved marketing to increase FMK membership numbers. iv. Actively involving FMK members in Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve projects c. Suggestions for other avenues of financial input and involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A gate at Rademeyers entrance with access control and entrance fees for visitors ii. A fine system for those not adhering to the rules and regulations iii. Lotto funds iv. BEEE element – security and painting of palisade for points on their scorecard – social development (scorecard closes October each year) [Paul Edwards] v. Honorary game ranger [Wim Alberts] vi. Adopt an animal d. Overgrazing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Need reports from experts that we can take to Nature Conservation e. Public accountability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. AMR said that security used to be a big problem and because this threatened people livelihood and personal safety, they got involved. But with improved safety people aren't scared anymore, not concerned and not involved. ii. Used to get the major income from the previous owners of Rademeyers, making it possible for for FMK to manage the kloof and organize fun events. This is not possible anymore. iii. FMK needs around R100 00 per year to properly maintain the Moteleta Kloof and its fence 	
9.	Next AGM	All
	The date for the next AGM has not been fixed. The FMK will be notified by e-mail.	LS

Meeting adjourned at 20:32

Minutes of meeting approved by:

Sarel van der Merwe
Chairman of FMK