Moreleta Kloof Natuurreservaat



Minutes for : Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Friends of Moreleta Kloof (FMK)

Venue : FMK Information Hut, Moreleta Kloof Nature Reserve

Date : Thursday 08 November 2023 Time: 16h00

Attendance:

	Name	Abbreviation	Title
Attendees:			
	Faan Grundlingh	FG	FMK Director / Chairperson, FMK Member
	Jeannie du Plessis	JdP	FMK Director / Committee Member, FMK Member
	Rouxne Botha	RB	FMK Committee Member, FMK Member
	Andrew Meyer	AMM	FMK Member
	Connie Swart	CS	FMK Member
	Carli Swart	CaS	Non-FMK Member
	Ivan de Clerk	IdC	FMK Member
	Carol Martin	CM	Adopt Moreletaspruit
	Liame v d Westhuizen	LvdW	ARC Plant Health and Protection
	Adelene Marais	AM	City of Tshwane Nature Conservation
Apologies:	Elke Geggus	EG	FMK Member, Proxy
ripologico.	Rosemarie Hannweg	RH	FMK Committee member, FMK Member, Proxy
	Hannetjie Liebenberg	HL	FMK Member, Proxy
	Leroy Smith	LS	Non-FMK Member

Item #	Description	Responsibility
1.	Opening and welcome	
	FG opened the meeting at 16:15 and welcomed everyone in attendance.	FG
2.	Attendance, apologies and proxy	Noted
	2.1 Attendance as indicated per the Attendance list.	
	2.2 Three x proxies of FMK members (Elke Geggus, Rosemarie Hannweg and Hannetjie Liebenberg) were handed in.	
	2.3 Apologies received for Elke Geggus, Rose Hannweg, Hannetjie Liebenberg and LeRoy Smith.	
	2.4 The meeting was a quorum.	
3.	Approval of minutes of 09 November 2022 AGM	All
	3.1 The minutes of the AGM of 09 November 2022 was signed by the FMK Chairperson, Faan Grundlingh. It was presented to the meeting and accepted without any changes.	
4.	Confirmation of agenda	
	4.1 FG invited the meeting to add points to the agenda if required. The agenda was approved by the meeting.	All

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5. Chairman's report

FG

- 5.1 The Chairman presented a written report and asked JdP to present an overview of activities and concerns which will be dealt with under heading 7. FG mentioned the ongoing activities of FMK as invader plant control, maintenance of the paths, fences and bird hide, guided walks and walks with experts.
- 5.2 At the previous AGM it was decided that FMK would remain an Article 21 company and to that end CMV auditors were instructed to pay all outstanding fees to the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC). This was done and FMK 's status was upgraded too fully paid and current. New directors were appointed and current directors removed.

At a committee meeting in January it was decided to appoint Reachout Financial Services as new auditors for FMK. FG stressed that this decision was made for practical and convenience reasons only and did not in any way reflect on the service that CMV provided to FMK through the years – their service throughout was professional and they were very generous with their time. He thanked them for that. Reachout's offices are more central - they are located in Alphen Park and one of their directors is also a member of FMK.

- 5.3 FG mentioned as highlights the Saturday morning alien hacks, the guided walks with wetlands specialist Antionette Bootsma and other walks with experts in various fields.
- 5.4 The sewage running into the reserve from the adjacent residential areas, the general condition of the palisade fence and vagrants forcing their way into the reserve, were mentioned as concerns and ongoing challenges.

The low membership numbers and lack of funds and general maintenance of the reserve also remain a concern.

A major concern was the development of ptn stand 88.

5.5 FG wished to thank donors for their support.

AM for her wetlands talk in February, as well as for her continued support of FMK in various ways.

He also thanked JdP and the Wille Vrywilligers for all their hard work.

A big thank you to Karl van Dyk and RB for maintenance of the fences and pathways.

And LeRoy Smit and his Sunday morning hack team for all their hard work.

Please refer to the Chairman's report for more detail, if required.

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6. Overview and approval of financial statements

- 6.1 FG stated that Reachout had drawn up the financial statements for the year ending 28 February 2023 and this was signed off by FG and JdP. CS pointed out that as FMK was a Non-Profit Company (with a relatively low income) their financial statements did not have to be audited. Reachout only compiled the statements. The FMK finances are still in the green.
- 6.2 FG thanked Reachout for all their work with the finances.
- 6.3 Reachout was appointed as auditors for the next year.

In January Leon Badenhorst informed FG that he would not be able to carry on doing FMK's monthly books as he had other commitments. At the January committee meeting FG undertook to take care of the monthly bookkeeping until a replacement for Leon was found.

7. Overview of activities and projects presented by JdP

JdP

FG

- 7.1 JdP said that the clean-up and clearing in the reserve is an ongoing process and reasonably successful. Most of the volunteers work together on Wednesday mornings (Wille Vrywilligers), but there are others that work individually elsewhere in the reserve on other days. She thanked RH for organising the Saturday morning hacks where the tree popper is a big favourite amongst the workers. During these sessions we remove lantana, black wattles, privets, bugweed, Jerusalem cherry, yellow bells, inkberry and many more. Karl van Dyk has also designed and built a few gadgets to help us remove alien plants.
- 7.2 The palisade fencing needs attention as it stops game from escaping and for security reasons. Before Covid large sections of the fence were painted with a rust converter paint and these sections are still looking relatively good. AMM asked if there was still paint available and JdP replied that we had used all. Unfortunately the paint is extremely expensive, in excess of R2400 per 20l. Karl van Dyk and RB have been working on the maintenance of the fencing and paths. Unfortunately there are no more steel pins that Karl used in maintaining the paths. However, the paths are in a good condition.
- 7.3 The bird hide is still in a good condition except for the walkway leading up to it. The deck and ramp at the toilet also need attention from time to time. Karl and RB do repairs with hardboard when necessary. The ideal solution is to replace the synthetic wood planks, but FMK do not have the funds a previous quote came in at R80 000.
- 7.4 Antoinette Bootsma (Wetland Specialist) has helped us a lot with talks, walks through our wetlands and advice on how to protect it. She also helped with advice regarding the development of Stand 88 and problems that might occur. Unfortunately she has immigrated to New Zeeland to further her career there.
- 7.5 In May Elane Joubert did a full SASS and in October Noloyiso Mbiza from the Department of Water and Sanitation helped us with a MiniSASS. Noloyiso has

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> agreed to teach us how to do the MiniSASS so that we can do it on our own. This will be done over the next couple of months.

> FMK have also become involved with WaterCan, an OUTA initiative, which tests watercourses all over the country. We have already done a number of tests, including a test at the source of spruit on the Wingate Country Club premises. One of the reasons for monitoring the stream is so that we can build up a record of the quality of the stream before the development at the eastern boundary of the reserve starts.

- 7.6 Last year Ivan van der Walt (Landscape Consultant) came to give advice regarding the large areas that were exposed once the invader plants had been removed. He advised that grass seeds should be planted to stop erosion. Shade and sun mixture seeds were purchased and demarcated areas planted. Unfortunately, extremely little grass germinated and new growth is hardly noticeable. In our opinion the cost far out ways the advantage gained and we have decided not to purchase more seeds.
- 7.7 The pollution situation has improved, but there are still some problems with sewage entering the reserve from the adjacent residential areas. This is difficult to trace as it comes in through the stormwater drains. Other litter from the stormwater drains is also a big problem - plastic, paper and cardboard get washed into the reserve every time it rains.
- 7.8 The development of portion stand 88 next to the reserve is a cause for much concern. The Basic Assessment Report (BAR) was submitted to the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) who referred it back with certain conditions and new requirements. We will monitor the situation closely.
- 7.9 JdP acknowledged Andre Jooste, Pieter Theron and other donors for their continued and much valued support throughout the year. Thanks also to Carol Martin and Elaine Lubbe for assisting with the MiniSASS's. And a big thank you to Ollie Linde who transported the pellets for our animals all the way from Frankfurt.

8. **Tshwane Nature Conservation inputs**

- 8.1 AM said a tender was once again out for the gene pool management in the Reserve. She said that Tshwane Nature Conservation has a MoU with the National Zoological Gardens for the supply of ostriches and blesbuck. A male ostrich was released into the reserve in August this year.
- 8.2 AM said Moreleta Kloof has been approved as a National Nature Reserve and is no longer a Municipal Nature Reserve. However, Tshwane still remains the owner of the property.
- 8.3 AMM enquired about the status of the renewal of Rademeyers' contract. AM replied that the restaurant now fell under Tshwane Group Property and no longer under Nature Conservation. However, the contract was a month-tomonth contract which had five more years to run.

AM

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	8.4 AM informed the meeting that the parking area was going to be overlain with a G5 layer – this should improve the surface dramatically.	
9.	Confirmation/election of FMK directors and resignations	FG
	9.1 FG will remain as chairperson and JdP, RH and RB will serve as additional committee members.	
	9.2 Adel Hosken resigned as secretary as she has relocated to the Western Cape. The post of secretary is still vacant.	
	9.3 FG spoke with Leroy Smith who "manages" the Sunday morning hack group and LS agreed to become involved in the running of FMK. In terms of FMK's constitution nominations for committee members should be advertised two weeks before the AGM, with a proposer and another person seconding the proposal. Unfortunately, this was not done. FG asked the meeting to waive this requirement and allow LS to be chosen as a committee member. AMM and CS seconded the motion and LS was chosen as a committee member of FMK.	
10.	General	All
	10.1 The meeting discussed how to increase membership numbers and how to get more people involved in the activities of FMK. It was suggested that we contact the Community Policing Forum (CPF) for the area and also the ward councillors committee. Eg we could put out on the ward committee that we need paint and then ask for donations.	All
	JdP suggested that we contact businesses in the area for donations. CS commented that FMK cannot issue 18a certificates, but CM said that WESSA can – donations can therefore be made to WESSA who will then issue the 18a certificate and pay the donation in to FMK's bank account.	
	10.1 As mentioned in the Chairperson and JdP reports, the development of stand portion 88 is of great concern to FMK. FG said that one of the reasons for monitoring the quality of the water through the reserve was to establish a record of the quality of the water for future reference. JdP has obtained permission from the Wingate Country Club to test the water at the origin on their premises.	
	10.2 For acknowledgments see 7.9 above and the chairpersons report.	
	10.3 CM reminded the meeting that the Great Southern Bioblitz was taking place from 24 to 27 November. She encouraged all to download the app and participate, and also to encourage friends and family.	
11.	Guest speaker	
	11.1 Liame van der Westhuizen of the ARC Plant Health and Protection gave a talk on pompom, other invaders and the biological control. She is a researcher in the weeds division. She also offered to put FMK in contact with specialists in	

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12.	other invader categories. Next AGM	All
	Date for the next FMK AGM in 2024 will communicated to FMK Friends and the public.	

Meeting adjourned at 17h15

Minutes of meeting approved by:

Faan Grundlingh Chairperson of FMK

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