

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING OF THE FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION HELD ON THURSDAY, 24TH AUGUST 2017 AT THE FISH HOEK CIVIC CENTRE.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- Mr. Brian Youngblood welcomed attendees and welcomed and introduced the 3 guest speakers.
- Alderman Felicity Purchase and Councillor Aimee Kuhl were unable to attend as they were engaged in Council matters.

2. ADMINISTRATION

- Changes to the Constitution's objectives were unanimously adopted.
- The minutes of the last QGM were unanimously approved.
- The proposal that FHVRRRA membership subscriptions should remain at R 70 p.a. for the next financial year was unanimously approved.

3. TEARS ANIMAL RESCUE PRESENTATION.

Marilyn Hoole, co-founder of The Emma Animal Rescue Society (TEARS), a well known non-profit organization in the Fish Hoek Valley and beyond, presented an overview of the history, aims, methods, accomplishments and present status of the organization and of the ways in which the community can offer much needed support.

History: The genesis of TEARS was due to the vision of Emma Geary-Cooke, who wished to start an organization to alleviate the suffering of animals in Masiphumelele. Sadly, Emma was tragically killed in a car accident just 2 weeks before the organization was officially formed. Two friends collaborated in realizing her dream and TEARS came into being in January 1999.

Aims: TEARS is not just an animal shelter. The organisation strives to meet the animal welfare needs of low income communities. Core aims are to rescue, rehabilitate, reunite and re-home lost, abandoned, abused and neglected animals and to educate the community, particularly children, on all aspects of animal welfare.

Methods used to achieve these aims include:

- Providing primary health care for animals, such as vaccination, deworming and parasite control.
- Free sterilizations of cats and dogs and the provision of food.
- Providing two daily mobile animal clinics, serving Masiphumelele, Ocean View, Mountain View, Redhill and Capricorn Park.
- The establishment of two on site clinics in Lekkerwater Road and Kommetjie Road.
- Initiation of a Feral Cat Project, with sterilization of 200 feral cats per month.
- The provision of a seven days a week call response service.

Accomplishments to date:

- In January 2007, TEARS acquired Wenga Farm, a 3.1 ha property in Sunnydale. In May 2016, after protracted negotiation with Council, TEARS received permission to build an eco-friendly “green” animal shelter of excellence on Wenga Farm.
- In one year (1st March – 28 February, 2017) 4 572 animals (dogs, domestic and feral cats, and rabbits) were sterilized. In addition, 3 517 procedures were performed at clinics – almost 300 per month.
- Since inception, homes have been found for well over 15 000 animals.
- The establishment of 3 TEARS charity shops and two TEARS book shops.
- Many fund-raising activities, i.e. the sale of calendars and Christmas cards, Pet Days, Dinners, Auctions, Golf days etc.

What of the future?

With the downturn in the economy, TEARS has struggled over the past few years. To operate optimally a staggering R 1.2 million per month is required. To obtain this sum, TEARS has had to subsidize the clinic by 70% and austerity measures, including substantial staff reduction, have been instituted, which impact on the ability to service indigent communities.

The public can assist TEARS to get back on its’ feet by:

- Adopting a TEARS Shelter pet.
- Volunteering services, i.e. dog walking, caring for cats, helping in and supporting retail stores, helping with and supporting charity events, foster an animal.
- Donating monthly via debit order/ stop order or obtain a My Planet Card.
- Becoming a member of TEARS.
- Placing collection tins at retail outlets.
- Leaving a Legacy.

Commenting that TEARS was fortunate to be situated in such an animal loving community, Marilyn ended by thanking all those who have supported TEARS so wonderfully over the years.

4. DR. TONY HAWKRIDGE: HEALTH EFFECTS DUE TO SHORT AND LONG-TERM EXPOSURE TO DUST – SPECIFICALLY KAOLIN DUST.

Dr. Hawkridge is a medical doctor and public health specialist, currently working in the Western Cape’s provincial health department, where he heads up the Health Impact Assessment Directorate. The FHVRRA requested Dr. Hawkridge and Chris Loans from Dustwatch to address the meeting in response to a dust complaint from residents and ratepayers about the perceived health effects on people living in the vicinity of the AMDEC Group development on the corner of Kommetjie Rd and the Glencairn Expressway. The site of the development is the old Serena Kaolin Mine and dust from excavations seem to have caused various health problems in the local community. The City investigated on 14 December 2016 and confirmed that the dust complaint was justified, as at least four pieces of dust and air quality legislation had been violated. Speaking in his personal capacity, Dr. Hawkridge gave a short but comprehensive overview of the causes, degrees and effects of dust pollution, with special reference to kaolin, summarized as follows:

- **Particulate matter (PM)** , of which **mineral dust** is a major component, is a complex mixture of solid and liquid particles of organic and inorganic substances suspended in the air, and comprises one of the most widespread and harmful air pollutants in the industrialized world.
- **Size matters:** Particle size of the dust is more important than the chemical composition or origin, although these do determine the toxicity of the dust. Most health-damaging particles are those with a diameter of 10 microns (μm) or less ($\leq \text{PM}_{10}$), which can penetrate and lodge deeper inside the lungs. PM_{10} represents the particle mass that enters the body and includes both coarse and fine particles. **Coarse particles** (size between 2.5 and 10 μm) are primarily produced by mechanical processes such as construction activities, road dust re-suspension and wind. **Fine particles** (measuring less than 2.5 μm , $\text{PM}_{2.5}$) are considered to contribute to health effects in urban environments, originating primarily from combustion sources. Particles in the PM_{10} size range are commonly present in the air and may be inhaled with every breath. These particles may have a direct effect on the lungs or be absorbed into the bloodstream . Airborne particles, not only the PM_{10} fraction, may also be deposited in the mouth, throat or nose and be ingested.
- **Acute dust exposure** can affect the **eyes** (irritation), **nose** (allergic rhinitis) **skin** (irritation), **airways** (trigger/worsen allergic reactions and asthmatic attacks, coughing, difficulty in breathing, tracheitis, bronchitis, pneumonia) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the **heart** (arrhythmias, non-fatal heart attacks) and the **brain** (strokes). **Premature death** may occur in people over 65 with existing heart or lung disease.
- **Chronic dust exposure** may cause eye and upper airways irritation, chronic lung problems, decreased lung function, chronic silicosis (with silicon dioxide containing dusts) and possibly, heart disease.
- **Susceptibility varies with health status and age :** Most vulnerable are infants and young children, the elderly, people with respiratory conditions, heart disease, diabetes, blood clotting disorders, and the obese.
- **Degree of exposure:** Evidence is consistent in both developed and developing countries for both long-term and short-term exposure, showing that risks increase with length and degree of exposure. Small particulate pollution is associated with health impacts even at very low concentrations and no threshold has been identified below which no damage to health is observed.

RISKS OF KAOLIN DUST EXPOSURE

- Kaolin (china clay) consists mainly of kaolinite (85-90%), natural components of the soil and occurring in the ambient air as floating dust. Kaolin also consists of quartz and mica.
- In the vicinity of mines and industrial projects, kaolinite is likely to be present at high concentrations in the air, although no data are available,
- Pneumoconiosis is linked to **occupational** exposure.
- There is no information on the possible effects of low level general population exposure to

kaolinite.

- Long-term exposure to kaolin causes the development of radiologically diagnosed pneumoconiosis in an exposure-related fashion and clear-cut deterioration of respiratory function and related symptoms have been reported only in cases with prominent radiological findings.
- The composition of the clay is an important determinant of the effects on health, i.e. **quantity and quality of minerals other than kaolinite**.
- Kaolin often contains quartz, which is causally related to silicosis and lung cancer.
- Statistically significant increases in the incidence of or mortality from chronic bronchitis and pulmonary emphysema have been reported after exposure to quartz.
- Quantifying the risk of pneumoconiosis from kaolin exposure is difficult. Data collected to date is inconclusive. **It is estimated that kaolin is at least an order of magnitude less potent than quartz.**

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- “Dust” is not good for anyone
- Fine dust has worse effects than coarse dust.
- Some people (children, elderly, those with existing chronic health problems) are more at risk than others.
- Risks increase with prolonged exposure
- Most health effects relate to the respiratory system.
- Exposure to kaolin has mainly been shown to cause lung problems in **occupational settings** and even then, only at high levels for prolonged periods.
- Kaolin is much less toxic than quartz.

5.

CHRIS LOANS : DUSTWATCH.

FALLOUT DUST GENERATED BY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

Chris is a professional Chemical Engineer and teaches Environmental Monitoring, Occupational Hygiene (Allergens) and Health and Environment (Air Quality) at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and is an external Supervisor within the Department of Environmental Sciences. When the City’s Air Quality Management Unit was approached for a speaker, DustWatch was recommended. However, they were appointed by AMDEC, the company against which dust complaints were directed. Nevertheless, AMDEC agreed that Chris could speak without bias on the measures undertaken to alleviate dust problems emanating from construction sites, as summarized below.

DUST DEFINITIONS: **Dry deposition** , the type under discussion, occurs when there is no rainfall, **fugitive dust** emanates from non-definable sources, i.e. fields and **precipitant dust** is any matter with an aerodynamic diameter below 100µm.

Steps to take when there is a dust problem

- Inform the local authority (LA) of the dust – generating activity.
- The LA will request a dustfall monitoring programme to be instituted within one month of being made aware of the problem . Dust mass/m²/day is measured for 30 days + 2 plus watering down and the use of Dustex, which binds smaller dust particles to larger ones, making them less harmful to health.

- If the applicable action level is exceeded, then a dust management plan is requested by the LA within 3 months of the start of the dustfall monitoring programme.
- The dust management plan must be implemented within one month of the approval of the plan by the LA.
- The Air Quality authority will request feedback at agreed time intervals.
- Communications by the affected community/persons should be directed to the LA by formal letter. The LA must confirm receipt thereof and communicate progress over time.
- The dust management plan includes a complaints register. All complaints are viewed by the LA when reviewing the progress of the plan at the agreed time intervals.

THE NATIONAL DUST CONTROL REGULATIONS determine the dust fall rates ($\text{mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$) averaged over 30 days, as well as the permitted frequency for exceeding these rates.

In a residential area the dust fall rate must be below $600\text{mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$ and in **non-residential areas** $1200\text{ mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$. In both cases the permitted frequency of exceeding the permitted dust fall rate is twice within one year, but not in sequential months.

THE CARRIAGE OF AIR BORNE DUST PARTICLES.

Wind velocity and particle size are the most important factors – the higher the wind velocity the larger the dust particles transported. Vegetation does not impede dust movement unless it is close to the source of the dust. Trees will arrest $50\mu\text{m}$ particulates whereas bushes are more effective – arresting $80\mu\text{m}$ particulates.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- 1 Dust measurement concentrates on fallout whereas in a high wind dust moves horizontally. Dust receptors are at a low level – therefore will give a low reading.**
CHRIS: SA has chosen fallout dust to be the legal requirement.
- 2 If the dust monitor is placed close to dust generation, an incorrect reading will result.**
CHRIS: The height of the dust monitoring unit is legislated as is the dust fall rate, i.e. 600 or $1200\text{ mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$ at the boundary of the property.
- 3 Is municipal water being used to water down?**
CHRIS: Dustex is a water saving requirement. It keeps particle sizes larger for longer, therefore less water is used.
- 4 Should people living in the vicinity of the AMDEC development be worried about kaolin dust?**
TONY: No dust is good, but kaolin dust is no worse than other dust. Any dust is harmful to high risk groups.
- 5 A 2004 Mining Weekly article states that the soil at the Serena (AMDEC) site contains 1/3 kaolin and the other 2/3 comprises free silica and mica.**
TONY: Silica occurs in quartz and most sand and is toxic to the lungs, causing silicosis over prolonged exposure. The amount of silica in kaolin dust is much less than in quartz.
- 6 Can free silica content in fallout dust be measured in the Fish Hoek Valley?**
CHRIS: Measurements can be taken in the home – cost about R 800.
- 7 The AMDEC site was originally a non-residential area but is now designated a residential area. Have the allowed dust fall measurements been changed from non-residential to residential. If not, could AMDEC be required to pay for this to be done.**
CHRIS: AMDEC is not legally required to do so, but there could be grounds for motivation to do so. A reading of a dust fall rate above $600\text{ mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$ will require a dust fallout management plan.

8. **From personal experience, since the Evergreen site has been developed I have experienced year-round allergies, not just seasonal allergies.**

TONY: A case of association vs. causality – the differences between the two are very difficult to prove. Therefore, I am unable to answer and suggest you see an allergologist.

- 8 **When the kaolin mine closed was a final certificate ever issued for proper reclamation of the land? If so, there should not be a dust problem.**

CHRIS: I don't know whether such a certificate was ever issued.

9. **Brian Youngblood : FHVRRA Chair: On a recent visit to the AMDEC site, the reservoirs (reportedly used for damping down) were not full and the ground was filled and compacted. Indigenous vegetation had been removed and construction activities were causing increased dust levels.**

GIFTS AND THANKS: The Chairman thanked the 3 speakers for their presentations..

A donation was made to TEARS and two donation boxes were placed in the hall, as well as TEARS leaflets. Leaflets for the local Neighbourhood Watches were also made available.

6. COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No councilors present due to pre-existing work commitments.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- The FHVRRA is in the process of becoming a NPO and a pro bono auditor and accountant are required.
- Chantal Breytenbach, Secretary, has resigned – thanked for her contributions.
- FHVRRA has a new Facebook page which should be available by year end.
- There was a 5% property rates increase on 1st July. A 3 bedroom house in Fish Hoek now sells for around R 1.9 million and sectional title units between R 800 000 to 1.5 million.
- Citizen rebates – no need to renew annually.
- An objection against the erection of a 25m cell phone mast at the railway station was upheld. but PRASA appealed and the appeal was upheld. A comment was made that radiating non-ionizing beams are OK, but don't stand within 10 m or live within 50m of them!
- Trying to confirm with the Liquor Authority whether Pick and Pay's liquor licence application has been denied. It has not been ruled upon yet.
- AMDEC construction/dust complaint – refer to report in August 2017 newsletter.
- Fish Hoek Galley & Bistro lease expired June 2016 and has been granted short extensions. We have requested a proper 3-year tender for surety of tenure.
- Griffizi Brothers Circus contained no animals, so no objection raised. However, they overstayed and applied for a liquor licence, to which an objection was made.
- The motions by Kalk Bay Resident's Association to name Manila Steps and for the City to take control of the Kalk Bay Harbour were supported.
- All 15 lights on Jager's Walk are now functional.
- PRASA has agreed that the Dolphin Park Subway, noted for crime and grime, can be closed.
- Level 4b water restrictions have been implemented, with an allowance of 87 litres water per household per day. All previous exemptions have been revoked – consumers must re-apply.
- Only 22.5% of dam water is useable and we are 125 million litres over the required water usage. The City is installing water management devices at high consumer homes. Desalination processes to be implemented.

- The City is challenging the requirement to source electricity from Eskom only, as it needs cheaper electricity to power its energy intensive desalination plants.
- The Mayor announced today that an additional 7.8 million rand has been allocated to Kommetjie Rd and Ou Kaapse Weg.
- Support has been given to St. James Ratepayers Association regarding an environmental assessment on the plan to increase The Point parking area at Kalk Bay Harbour. To prevent congestion, it will be necessary to indicate when the parking is full.
- The road rehabilitation between Kalk Bay and Clovelly should be completed by October.
- The Houmoed Avenue project will now take 36 months rather than 30 months with Chebec Rd. Being proposed for one way North travel.
- Capri Drive's median island is being removed to become a temporary driving surface. No news on the objection to the proposed new road to the proposed new electrical sub station in Silverglade.
- Sarah-Jane Brown has been appointed as convenor of the Fish Hoek Centenary – 20 events are in the planning stage over the next 16 months.
- We dealt with 16 departures and 3 leases in the last quarter. There are many high wall applications, but these are considered unsafe by Neighbourhood Watches and urban planners.
- Speaker at the next QGM on 23rd November will be Liquor Authority Appeals Tribunal Judge Deon van Zyl, and Donald Moore, a local conveyancing lawyer who will speak on Liquor Licence legislation.

THANKS AND CLOSURE

The Chairperson thanked the 3 speakers and Terry Rothwell and Arthur Smith (projector and PA system), the Girl Guides (refreshments), and all EXCO members for their contributions to the meeting. Put to the vote, the consensus was that there should be no more than 2 speakers per quarterly General Meeting. Collection boxes for TEARS were made available and the car guards were paid in advance.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Next Quarterly General Meeting: 23rd November 2017. In the Fish Hoek Civic Centre .