

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FERNKLOOF NATURE RESERVE (FNR) ADVISORY BOARD (FAB) HELD AT ONRUS RIVER BOARDROOM, HERMANUS ON FRIDAY, 17 AUGUST 2012**

## **1. Welcome, Attendance and Apologies**

**Present:** Duncan Heard (in the Chair) [DH]; Antony van Hoogstraten (AvH), Frank Woodvine (FW), Linda Griffiths (LG), Andrae Marais (Cape Nature) [AM], Councillor Pieter Scholtz, Lee Burman (L.Bn),

**Apologies:** Neville Michaels (Director: Protection Services) [NM], David Beattie (Vice-Chair), Muthama Muasya (MM), Rudi Frazer (Chief: Traffic / Licenses) [RF].

**In attendance:** Liezl Bezuidenhout (Environmental Manager, Overstrand) [LB]; Penelope Aplon (Environmental Officer, Hermanus) [PA], Jill Hendriks (PA, Onrus Office) [JH], Neville Green (Environmental Officer, Kleinmond) [NG].

The Chairperson welcomed everyone present. The Chairperson informed everyone that Mr David Beattie was away on holiday and Dr Muthama Muasya from UCT who will be travelling to the UK. Dr Muthama Muasya forwarded a plant list for the board to look at. Everyone was informed regarding the structure of the Agenda that has been slightly changed.

## **2. Confirmation of Minutes the Meeting of the Fernkloof Advisory Board held on 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2012**

### **2.1. Library File for Minutes**

The previous minutes had been circulated by e-mail to all members and no comments were received thereby confirming these Minutes..

JH confirmed that the minutes were put on the official Overstrand Municipal website as well as the intranet for the public to have access. Confirmation was given by JH that the library file has been opened and all the previous minutes for this year are available for the public.

**J. Hendriks**

### **2.2. Comments from Council on FAB Minutes dated 18<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

LB confirmed that the Minutes were distributed to Council and Senior Management and no comments were received thereby confirming that there was general agreement with the contents of the Minutes.

**L. Bezuidenhout**

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **3.1 Hermanus Astronomy Centre (Item 3.1)**

The Astronomy Centre Application will be dealt with in terms of stakeholder inputs towards the Fernkloof Integrated Management Planning process. Withers Environmental Consulting Services and Urban Dynamics will be required to consult the Hermanus Astronomy Club in order to evaluate the merit of the Centre with respect to objectives and goals of the Fernkloof Nature Reserve, as well as the site specific sensitivity of the proposed location. A site specific sensitivity analysis is therefore required

of the consultants. This information will then be presented to the FNR Planning Committee (which includes FAB) for a final recommendation in this regard.

**L. Bezuidenhout**

### **3.2 Amendment of By-laws relating to FNR an FAB (Item 3.3)**

NG submitted a draft copy of the Fernkloof Advisory Committee Bylaw (an amendment of the Fernkloof Advisory Board Bylaw, in terms of the Protected Areas Act Regulations, 2012) for comment. Certain details as listed in the new bylaw would require consultation between Council and the FAB prior to the publicising of the bylaw for comment with the MEC for approval. The FAB and EMS are requested to review the document and to submit comments.

**FAB/EMS**

### **3.3 Invitation to Mayor to attend a FAB meeting (Item 3.4)**

DH confirmed that the Mayor is aware of the meeting dates for the rest of the year and she will attend when she is available. The board expressed their best wishes to the Mayor to a speedy recovery.

**Mayor's Office**

### **3.4 Dumping at Hoy's Koppie (Item 3.7)**

PA informed everyone that Mr Dean Gardiner, Field Ranger of the Environmental Section will be handling all related matters concerning Hoy's Koppie. Weekly patrols has also been scheduled. PA confirmed that it was decided that EPWP will clean Hoy's Koppie every Friday. PA stated that an order has been generated for the removal of spray paint.

**P. Aplon / L. Griffiths**

### **3.5 Galpin Hut (Item 3.9)**

Site visit was conducted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August by Liezl, Penelope & Dean. A list was made of all the requirements/ needs that will be discussed with BotSoc regarding the suggestions. The income of the Galpin Hut is as follow:

*Year 2011* - Feb 2011- R390, March 2011- R850, April 2011- R0, - July 2011- R280

*Year 2012* - Feb 2012- R600, March 2012- R340, April 2012-R 710- July2012- R560

**L.Griffiths / P. Aplon**

### **3.6 Provincial By-pass Road (Item 3.11)**

AM to find out from the Provisional Road's Planning Department about their intentions with the road. LB has read a letter with the current status of the By-pass road and will include an abstract with the Minutes.

LB will be attending the Project Team meetings for the By-pass road and will be able to report more information at the next FAB meeting.

**L. Bezuidenhout / A. Marais**

## 4. Administration

### 4.1 New Advisory Members

There is a municipal appointment vacant on the Board. LB, DH and DB must still get together to discuss the vacancy and it will be given priority. The board did put in a request to Cape Nature for Grant Forbes to be appointment as a second provincial on the board. The appointment of Grant Forbes was supported by Tierck Hoekstra, area manager of Cape Nature who will be setting up the appointment letter.

**D. Heard / D. Beattie / L. Bezuidenhout**

### 4.2 Management Plan Progress

Withers Environmental Consulting Services have produced a draft management plan for Fernkloof Nature Reserve and has circulated the document for internal comments within the Municipal departments. NG and PA have reviewed the document and have identified sections which are of concern. The consultants wish to publicize the document for public comment, but Environmental Management Services are concerned that the document does not contain key information. The preliminary stakeholder consultation with FAB, the Cliff Path Management Group and the Botanical Society has not taken place to the degree required. It was established that information was forwarded to the Consultants by various representatives, but that the planning meetings had not taken place. The consultants produced an electronic version of the management plan, which was handed over to the Chairperson on compact disc. The Chairperson undertook to review the document and comment as soon as possible.

**G Green/D Heard**

### 4.3 FNR Budget

LB confirmed that the budget for Fernkloof Nature Reserve has not been finalized yet. LB will request a special meeting where only the budget of the Fernkloof Nature Reserve will be discussed.

**L. Bezuidenhout**

### 4.4 Management Reports

LB confirmed that the Management Report has not been finalized yet.

**L. Bezuidenhout**

## 5. Standing Items

### 5.1. Enforcement

NM did not attend to give feedback.

**N. Michaels/R.Frazer**

### 5.2. Ecological Issues

#### 5.2.1. Keurboom (*Virgillia*) Distribution and Status (Item 3.8)

AM confirmed that the finalized report was given by Grant Forbes. The board decided to circulate the report to everyone with a copy of the minutes and that any discussions or comments to be forwarded to the board.

**A. Marais /D Heard**

### 5.2.2. Electric Baboon Fencing (New Item)

AvH stated that the electric baboon fencing that was authorised by Council was never presented to FAB. AvH was of the opinion that the fence is not affective and it should be removed. AvH questioned whether the fence was still electrified. PA confirmed that Mr Leon Steyn is managing the baboon fence and confirmed that the fence is affective and electrified. LG reported that the solar systems of the electric fence were vandalized and that baboons simply climb over the fence. DH requested that the Environmental Section and Cape Nature provide the board with a recommendation regarding the fence, whether it is effective and necessary. FAB requested that Grant Forbes be available at the next meeting to also give input on the baboon fencing.

**L. Bezuidenhout/G. Forbes**

### 5.2.3. Event Applications

#### 5.2.3.1. The Ride application (Item 5.2.2)

Applicant has indicated that the initial route applied for will be followed; however this journey will not be recorded or televised. A condition will be made that a press release or article be published on the event with the focus on Fernkloof.

**P. Aplon**

#### 5.2.3.2. Vintage Bentley Car Rally

An application has been received for 33 Bentleys to use the parking area above Kammabaai (corner of 11th Street and 6th Avenue.) on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. The application was recommended by the FAB.

**P. Aplon**

### 5.3. Research

#### 5.3.1. Research Applications

- C.Johnson& A. Pauw (University of Stellenbosch): Pollinator shifts and the radiation of the *Leucospermum* genus.
- Megan Welsford (University of KZN): Pollination and trade shifts in *Leucadendron* genus.

Both applications were approved by FAB.

**P. Aplon**

### 5.4. Land and Infrastructure

#### 5.4.1. Fernkloof Village Drainage report (Item 5.1)

NG confirmed that Mr. Dirk van Rooyen (Hydrologist) had been consulted as to the characteristics of the site and proposed activities FNR. It was confirmed that the adjacent property as well as the area within FNR, were located within an alluvial fan. The existing drainage pipe was at a level higher than the water

table and was therefore ineffective. The proposal was therefore to excavate a substantial trench (2-3 m deep) within the FNR and to install an agricultural drain, which would be more effective than the existing system. Drawings had not yet been compiled for this work. From the discussion with the hydrological engineer, it became apparent that access would be required for the excavator and that a 5 m wide strip of land would be required as a spoil area during construction. NG is preparing a response in terms of the NEMA regulations as well as the new Protected Area Regulations, to the effect that the proposed work will require a Basic Assessment Report and an Environmental Authorisation. The costs of the impact assessment, the design, the installation of the drainage system and the rehabilitation of the site, would be for the applicant's account, if the Municipality were to agree to the initiation of such a process. NG was in the process of drafting the letter to the complainant and would complete the document in due course. Copies of the letter would be forwarded to FAB for comment / response.

**N. Green**

#### 5.4.2. Hermanus Bird Club: Bird Hide Proposal(New Item )

A request has been received from the Hermanus Bird Club to construct a bird hide next to the Klein River Estuary (to replace the existing one that was now unusable as the estuary shoreline had changed) within FNR. The specs are as follows:

- a structure is less than 10 square metres and
- of a "temporary" nature
- supported on wooden poles
- a green "chromadek" type IBR sheeting so that it will blend in with the surrounding area.
- The access to it will also be a small path that will have minimal visual impact and
- parking would be at the existing car park on the Hermanus - Stanford road.

PA to submit letter to DEA&DP to determine the applicability of NEMA to this application.

**P. Aplon**

#### 5.4.3. Bosko Church – Lease Agreement

Discussion around this matter started, however when a map indicating the site in relation to the reserve boundaries was shown, the accuracy of the reserve map was questioned. PA to confirm the reserve boundaries.

**P. Aplon**

#### 5.5. Klein River Estuary Management

LBn confirmed that the Kleinriver Estuary Management Plan information was forwarded to DH. LB reported that any other information regarding the other Estuaries are available on the Estuary's Web site, that was put together by Ms Sue Matthews (Estuary Coordinator) LB informed everyone about the Kleinriver Estuary that breached the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2012.

#### 5.6. Report from the Hermanus Botanical Society

LG confirmed that they are attending to the security of the buildings and are in the process of putting in a new safe. The alarm system and entrance gate have had repairs and renovations. The sewerage tanks are being replaced and hopefully will be completed by the Fernkloof Flower and Eco Fair.

LG reminded and invited all FAB members of the Fernkloof Flower and Eco Fair which takes place in the Fernkloof Nature Reserve from the 20 – 23 September 2012. Massed displays and over 400 individually named fynbos flowers. The theme this year is “ Bees and their role in the Fynbos “

LG invited the FAB members to the Speaker’s Evening at the Fernkloof Hall at 7pm. Mrs Karen Watkins will speak about the flowers and blooms on her mountain trails in the Western Cape.

Hoy’s Koppie.: Refuse and builders rubble has been removed from the Lord Roberts side of Hoy’s Koppie. Thanks to the Law Enforcement and cleansing department of the OM.

Dogs are still being allowed to run unleashed on the Koppie by some owners but the HPP guards have been given orders to request the owners compliance of the municipal by-law or face intervention by the Law Enforcement.

It is hoped that the spray painting and graffiti, and the rubbish in the cave will be removed as soon as possible. The HPP must be more diligent in their work at monitoring the cave and the koppie.

#### 5.6.1. MoA with Overstrand Municipality i.t.o. FNR (Item 5.4.2)

PA confirmed that the Memorandum of Agreement is currently with Mr Don Kearny, Area Manager of Overstrand Municipality. DH requested that the Environmental Section to follow up with Don Kearny.

**L. Bezuidenhout**

#### 5.6.2. On and off FNR localities of herbarium species. (Item 5.4.3)

LBn provided a comprehensive list of plants on and off the Fernkloof Nature Reserve. LBn confirmed that there are 1100 different species.

#### 5.6.3. Accuracy of signboard in FNR gardens (Item 5.4.5).

LG confirmed that previous feedback was given by MM regarding the incorrect signboards. The Chairperson suggested that photographs be taken of the signboards and to forward them to MM, to identify the accuracy of the signboards.

**L.Griffiths**

#### 5.6.4. Nursery

##### 5.6.4.1. Indigenous plants for Municipal use for rehabilitation purpose.

List has been sent to the nursery with a request that customers prevent the further spread of these species into the greenbelts and reserve.

- *Tropaeolum majus*                      Nasturtium

•	<i>Lobularia maritime</i>	Alyssum
•	<i>Matthiola spp</i>	Stocks
•	<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Kikuyu
•	<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	New Zealand Christmas Tree
•	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island Palm
•	<i>Acacia saligna</i>	Port Jackson
•	<i>Lantana spp.</i>	Lantana
•	<i>Canna spp.</i>	Canna
•	<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Lavatera
•	<i>Coprosma repens</i>	Mirror bush
•	<i>Myoporum tenuifolium</i>	Manatoka
•	<i>Yucca spp</i>	Yukka
•	<i>Diplotaxis tenuifolia</i>	Wild Rocket
•	<i>Limonium perezii</i>	Statice
•	<i>Echium candicans/fastuosum</i>	Pride of Madeira
•	<i>Typha capensis</i>	Bulrush
•	<i>Senecio tamoides</i>	Canary creeper

A long discussion took place around the nursery and having it be the sole supplier of vegetation to the municipality. Currently the nursery does not stock the species that is needed for rehabilitation. It is also uncertain if the nursery will have the space or capacity to cultivate the species needed.

PA would investigate the process of having the nursery registered as the sole supplier

**P. Aplon.**

#### 5.6.4.2. Sale of non-local indigenous invasive species.

PA drew up a list of the Emerging Weeds that was removed along the coastal area and a copy was given to Jack to find out if any of these species are for sale at the nursery. It was requested that Jack ask their clients to prevent spreading of these species on the reserve. It was suggested by LG that the list be distributed to all the nurseries. The Chairperson asked LBN to circulate the list of species that might become a danger in this area to all FAB members. AM stated that the list can also be given to Cape Nature, which in turn will be hand out list to all the nurseries when they do their inspections.

**P. Aplon**

#### 5.7. Report from Cliff Path Management Group

PA reported that all projects for path maintenance and upgrading planned by CPMG and funded out of the Ward 3 budget had been completed within, or close to, the OSM end-June financial year.

Specifically:

- 167 metres of exposed aggregate concrete path around Fick's Pool and across the Hermanuspietersfontein remembrance park
- 102 metres of concrete path leading down to Grotto
- 223 metres of concrete path at Kwaaiwater and Sieverspunt
- 64 metres of concrete path behind Langbaai
- Laterite filling and compacting at three points on the path in the Kwaaiwater and Sieverspunt sections to prevent rain flooding

This work totals 556 metres of upgraded path at a cost of R211 280, or R380 per running metre – far below normal present day prices. The Cliff Path Management Group also participated In the Mandela Day 67 minute project with teams of volunteers removing litter and trimming path edges in Mossel River, in the CBD path area in front of the Windsor Hotel and on Hoy’s Koppie. A public participation milkwood tree planting project took place in Piet-se-bos on 30<sup>th</sup> June. A total of 38 milkwood trees were planted in an area of the forest previously covered in alien vegetation (fig trees).Overhanging vegetation has been trimmed back at Voëlklip and the Roman Rock sections of the path Bridges along the path have been serviced and missing signs have been replaced at three locations. Alien clearing is ongoing. DB has had discussions with Mary Faure, Suné Greeff (tourism), Frank Tennick (geologist) and the newly formed Hermanus History Society all of whom are willing to contribute to the draft copy for the historical, archaeological and geological signage at the koppie access points and the cave. Request that dead branches of milkwoods be trimmed back. This proposal has not been accepted by FAB.

**P. Aplon**

#### 5.7.1. Working for Coast Work program

PA confirmed that the Working for Coast Work program is still proceeding with the clearing and that alternative paths will also be cleared. PA stated that the training for the Working for the Coast’s workers will take place in September.

**P. Aplon**

#### 5.7.2. Upgrade of Grotto Picnic Area ( last report Minutes 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 – Item 3.6)

A joint site visit was conducted on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July with DEA&DP, Cape Nature, Environmental Section and Town Planning at the Grotto upgrade site. In principle Cape Nature approved of the proposal. The DEA&DP official specifically requested that a freshwater ecologist must be involved with the upgrade of the wetland area.

### **1. General**

- 1.1. AvH requested that the KREFT Policy to be discussed at the next meeting and to be added to the next agenda. KREFT Policy to be circulated to all the members
- 1.2. PA informed everyone that the Environmental Section are planning to put up a jungle gym at Fernkloof Nature Reserve.
- 1.3. DH requested that the Estuary Management Policy be circulated to all the members.

### **2. Date of Next Meeting**

23 November 2012

The meeting closed at 12.55