

DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 11:00 ON 11th FEBRUARY 2023 AT THE KRANZKLOOF NATURE RESERVE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

1. WELCOME

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed and thanked all members for attending.

It was noted that the Attendance Register had been signed by all present.

2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were received:

Robyn Wainwright, Margaret Kirsten, Judith Conlin; Tony and Anna Rice, Jeremy Grest; Judith Shier, Jenny Evans, Rosemarie Ziep, John and Di Butcher, Kerry McNiven, Linda Phipson, Malcolm and Bev Glennie, Ebrahim and Feroza Nana; Nora Scholey, Anna Kapp, Renee Freeman, Graeme Bruschi, Melissa Atkinson, Ingrid and Lee D'Eathe, Stella Wells, Harry Holderness, Denise Warburton and John van Zyl.

3. CONFIRMATION OF 2022 AGM MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting were approved by the meeting, and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 90th Anniversary Celebration:

It was noted that an amount of R21000 had been budgeted for the 90th anniversary celebration, and in the end an amount of R20 800 had been spent. It was also noted that this was the most successful celebration the club had held. The Chairman thanked the Committee members who had been involved in the preparations thereof.

5. RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

5.1 New Germany Nature Reserve Financial Assistance:

Although the Club had budgeted any amount for this reserve, the Committee had decided to rather donate funds to several other reserves/conservancies, as follows:

- Springfield Nature Reserve: R3 000
- Giba Gorge: R5 000
- Keep Westville Beautiful: R2 000
- Total: R10 000

5.2 KZN Floods and Impact on Hiking Schedule:

It was noted that some hiking venues were still closed and the Chairman thanked the hike leaders for having gone out of their way to proactively find alternative walking trails.

5.3 Chairman's Last Annual General Meeting:

The Chairman confirmed that as he had served his three-year tenure, this was the last time he would chair an Annual General Meeting.

6. RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE HIKE ORGANISERS' REPORT

6.1 Saturday Hikes

Gil Kraupse, the hike organizer, reported that the Saturday hikes were going very well, and that there were new members who were attending this hike. She noted, however, that the heat of the hot months was a real issue and she proposed that perhaps it was a good idea to include early morning Saturday hikes during those months of the year which were particularly hot. The meeting agreed.

She also recommended that the Saturday hike schedule should include hikes which were outside of the immediate vicinity of greater Durban.

6.2 Wednesday Hikes

The Wednesday hike organizer, Coleen Seath, reported that the Wednesday hikes were also going well. During the hotter months, the Wednesday walks commenced at 06h30. Some of the more popular hiking venues were still closed due to the floods, and she noted that we would be losing access to some hiking trails due to urban development. We also had a shortage of hike leaders for the Wednesday walks.

6.3 Sunday Hikes

The Sunday hike leader, Rani Reddy, reported that the Sunday hikes were well attended, with anything from 17 to 30 hikers per hike.

She noted that we were now able to upload routes via a data base, so that new hike leaders wishing to lead hikes could easily do this.

6.4 Weekends Away

It was noted that the problem with arranging weekends away was that one had to pay upfront for these reservations, and it was then not always possible to achieve the numbers to fill up a block reservation.

Given the lack of support for weekends away, it was decided not to fill this portfolio, and that members who wished to organize a weekend away, could do so informally.

6.5 Club Magazine

Merle Mackenzie reported that the magazine was being emailed to the majority of members and this was working very well. There were only about 15 magazines still being posted. She noted that she had edited her last edition, as her three-year tenure had come to an end.

7. RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The Club's Financial Statements were distributed to all attendees.

The Treasurer, Biff Maggs, reported that the club had a strong balance sheet, with a surplus, as the Club did not have high expenditures. It was, therefore, not necessary to increase subscriptions.

It was noted that the club had an amount of R101 000 on call.

It was reported that the Club currently had 234 members and 30 honorary life members.

8. CONSIDER AND RATIFY SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR 2024

It was agreed that the fees for 2024 be retained at R100,00 per member, given the healthy financial status of the Club.

9. APPROVE ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLUB'S CONSTITUTION AND RULES

It was noted that there were no proposed amendments to the Constitution or the rules of the club.

10. TO ELECT NEW OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2023

The following portfolios were vacant and needed to be filled:

- Chairman
- Magazine Editor
- Secretary
- Weekends Away Organiser.

The following nominations were received and seconded:

10.1 **PORTFOLIO: CHAIRMAN:**
NOMINEE: MERLE MACKENZIE
PROPOSER: Biff Maggs
SECONDER: Philip Collyer

10.2 **PORTFOLIO: SECRETARY:**
NOMINEE: RUTH GRANTHAM
PROPOSER: Biff Maggs
SECONDER: Philip Collyer

10.3 **PORTFOLIO: MAGAZINE EDITOR**
NOMINEE: PHILIP COLLYER
PROPOSER: Biff Maggs
SECONDER: Jonathan Sampson

10.4 Jonathan Sampson was nominated as Ordinary Member.

10.5 Peter McElwee was nominated as Ordinary Member, but declined to accept.

10.6 **ELECTION OF HONORARY AUDITOR**

Philip Collyer proposed that Rolf Klein remain as the Club's Honorary Auditor. This was seconded by Colin Turner.

11. **CHAIRMAN'S AWARD:**

The Chairman awarded Jenny Rooks the floating trophy for her outstanding service and contribution to the Club in her role as Hike Leader, and also nominated her as an Honorary Life Member.

12. **CLOSURE:**

There being no further matters, the Chairman thanked the members for their participation and closed the meeting.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE