

# THE GREATER KYALAMI CONSERVANCY “GEKCO”



## MINUTES OF 6<sup>TH</sup> GEKCO AGM - 2012

**Date** 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
**Time** 18h30 for 19h00  
**Venue** By kind permission: Sunset Boma – R55 Main.

**Present** See attached registration form - 28

**Apologies** Walter Ehrlich, Dave Savage, Paul Griffiths, Al Karaki, Jon Paul, Andrew Barker, Dudley Baylis, Clive Els, John & Pauline Kerr, Chris de Villiers, Vincent Carruthers & Charles Guise-Brown

Agenda	Topic	Action
1	<p><b><u>Welcome – 19h00</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Francois Euvrard welcomed all with special recognition of the DA spokesperson for the Environment Cllr Laurette van Zijl and Walter Barker from the Tree Society of SA.</li> <li>• Margie Donde (Chair) then asked all present to introduce themselves and provide a brief description of their interest and connection to GEKCO.</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b><u>Financial Report – Alwina Brand</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AB showed that there was a loss of (R4 462) in 2012 and (R1 696) in 2011 as a result of increased expenditure against dwindling subs due to a change in the fee structure over these two years.</li> <li>• However, the Balance sheet is still quite healthy with R47 664 in the bank.</li> <li>• Income from the main funding mechanism: arbour day tree selling has also declined over the past three years.</li> <li>• Expenditure rose as a result to spend on branding the area – namely signage that the SVRA (Mandy Collins &amp; Paul Griffiths) has erected in the area. More of this visibility is anticipated by the other RA's.</li> </ul>	
3	<p><b><u>Chairperson's Report – Margie Donde</u></b></p> <p>Margie began with the observation that the objectives of last year's committee perhaps being a bit weighty; but in the end quite a lot was achieved in gaining further: recognition, promoting the area, events, signage, eco trails, permaculture awareness, a new website and creating a new slogan – “Kyalami, your country in the city”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Development responses</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Blue Hills Century Development on the R55 – re-appeal was rejected by the City</li> <li>○ Helderfontein/Zevenfontein Development – appeal was rejected by the City</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Retail Africa Development on cnr R55 and Main Rd – ongoing with the Beaulieu Property Owners Forum taken the lead role on this.</li> <li>○ Hindu Temple on Cedar Rd – together with Cllr Mendelsohn and many registered objectors, this has been averted and moved to Noordwyk</li> <li>○ Wetland abuse by developers on Summerset Estate – Scorpions were contacted and confirmed that there was no infringement of the 30m boundary</li> <li>○ Objections to the K56 – (see later)</li> <li>● <u>Wetland Issues</u> – There is an ongoing sewage and storm water problem on Mr Mole’s farm in Carlswald as a result of high density development higher up the valley. The wetland on his farm suffers from flooding (silting) and sewage spills. There was a meeting at CoJ where GEKCO was present and there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel with JHB Water recognizing their faults and looking into re-aligning the sewage piping away from the stream and corrective storm water management from roads and development catchments. The JRA failed to attend the meeting</li> <li>● <u>Precinct Plan</u> – In order to become more pro-active in relating with the City/Province, GEKCO initiated and is working with the GKRC (Greater Kyalami Residents Council) which is a forum of all the RA’s that fall within the GEKCO area to register a Precinct Plan. Kristen Kallesen is heading this from the GEKCO perspective. The sustainability needs of the equestrian industry are to be highlighted and input from all is requested. Issues to be addressed are road infrastructure (K56, PWV 5 &amp; 9), housing densities &amp; commercial development etc. All involved in the equine industry are to be canvassed as to how this may affect their business – Vets, farriers, GHS, ICB, riding coaches, feed merchants, riding schools etc, in terms of diminished open space and increased traffic.</li> </ul> <p>This precinct plan will allow the residents within the area to prescribe housing densities and developmental &amp; commercial zoning rights which will then be incorporated within the RSDF which is due for revision in 2013.</p> <p><i>Laurette van Zijl</i> suggested that we emphasise employment issues and potential</p> <p><i>Shari de Nobrega</i> suggested that we also emphasis other non-equestrian attributes of the area, namely eco tourism potential, trails etc that may benefit visitors and not just locals. She added that the plan must portray the need to enhance and assist the priorities of the City.</p> <p><i>Andrew Dicks</i> mentioned that Mandy Collins was negotiating with the JRA re the rehabilitation of the dirt roads in Sun Valley and that they had offered that the RA take over the ownership of the roads and maintain them themselves. The positive aspect of this is that the roads could then be</p>	

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	<p>closed off where they enter the ‘R’ arterials and as such the GEKCO and or RA perimeter secured.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>JEA</u> - <a href="http://www.justenvironmental.co.za">www.justenvironmental.co.za</a>. The JEA is up and running with a few initiatives to hand. Kristen Kallesen is the current chairperson.</li> <li>• <u>Maps</u> – Paul Fairall was approached last year to provide a ‘shape file’ map to cover the GEKCO area that would provide overlays of wetlands, road infrastructure development (K56, PWV 5 &amp; 9) and other points of interest. This was provided with limited success as to map usability.</li> <li>• <u>GEKCO Green Events</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Arbour Day</u> – this will continue and be expanded to cover the entire month of August.</li> <li>○ <u>Permaculture</u> – A number of courses were held over 2011/12 and thanks to Beaulieu Prep School for hosting. John Nzira was again the recipient of a number of awards from GDARD for his work in this field.</li> <li>○ <u>Energy talk</u> – Dudley Baylis hosted a successful inaugural talk on “Sustainable energy and your pocket – the good, the bad and the just plain stupid energy solutions for your home and business.” More are anticipated but champions are required.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Calendar</u> – the 2012 GEKCO calendar was launched this year which will be expanded on going forward.</li> <li>• <u>Website</u> – a new modern and more user friendly website has been launched that will be more interactive. See <a href="http://www.gekco.co.za">www.gekco.co.za</a></li> <li>• <u>Signage</u> – Sun Valley has led in putting up GEKCO signage with other RA’s to follow. Final JRA permissioning on signage location is forthcoming (Mandy Collins) before we continue with this project.</li> </ul> <p>Margie thanked all who have helped and supported GEKCO over the past year.</p>	
4	<p><b><u>Discussion on the K56 – Kristen Kallesen</u></b></p> <p>Kristen and Margie highlighted the negative aspects on the K56 road development: besides splitting Glenferness in two and result in losing 40 odd AH zoned properties, it will result in commercial development alongside which in turn will further degrade the area to high density and commercial development will negate all that GEKCO is trying to achieve and what the residents in the area are trying to protect. This is a major project for all to support as failure will affect all going forward extensively. The only people to benefit from this road are the developers on either side of the K56 (Steyn City and Century Properties - Zevenfontein)</p> <p>Chris de Villiers from Glenferness is heading the project and increased activist</p>	

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	<p>visibility is required by all. Businesses that will be affected are requested to write 'impact statements' on business letterheads as to what has been invested and how these developments will negatively affect your business. All are urged to object: Register as a I&amp;AP with <a href="mailto:lizelleg@mweb.co.za">lizelleg@mweb.co.za</a> and so become part of the EIA process, sign the petition on the GEKCO website or go to the 'save Kyalami website' at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/savekyalami">https://www.facebook.com/savekyalami</a></p> <p><i>Laurette van Zijl</i> emphasised that by joining the EIA process, one could either stall the inevitable, but more importantly use it to ensure that the process fulfils all relevant GEKCO criterion</p>	
5	<p><b><u>Ratification of membership fees – 2013</u></b> It was agreed that there would only be two classes of membership going forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordinary private member at <b><u>R 200.00 p/a</u></b></li> <li>• Residents Associations at <b><u>R 3 000.00 pa</u></b>. Corporate sponsorship to be encouraged in this category as long as the corporate adheres to the aims and objectives of GEKCO</li> <li>• The non-paying 'supporter' membership falls away.</li> </ul> <p><u>Proposed:</u> Andrew Dicks <u>Seconded:</u> Kate Tasseron <b><u>Passed unanimously</u></b></p>	
6	<p><b><u>General</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JEA – All are invited to a JEA workshop on the 12<sup>th</sup> May at the Sunset Boma. Details on the JEA website</li> <li>• Leeukop Prison Potential – Cllr Annette Deppe mentioned that she had met with Prison authorities and members of the Royal Bafokeng who were interested in reviving the 'eco development' of parts of Leeukop prison for eco trails and permaculture development. Creating a store to sell produce and arts and craft product from residents of Diepsloot or Olievenhoutsbos would also gain approval.</li> <li>• Polo tournament – Annette Deppe said that she believed that there was to be a world class polo tournament at the Baxter/Effick polo fields at Waterfall estates for us to take advantage on to promote our activism.</li> <li>• Walter Barker stated that one should check where the equine industry</li> </ul>	

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	<p>sourced wood chips for bedding as chips obtained from furniture factories mostly used toxic treated wood which became toxic compost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judith Taylor (Earth Life Africa – JHB) mentioned that all use the <a href="http://www.mobilitate.co.za">www.mobilitate.co.za</a> website to ensure that all problems or queries with the city reached the desired people.</li> <li>• All RA's to be approached to see what their areas have to offer with regards 'eco tourism' or other speciality offerings etc</li> <li>• Annette Deppe further added that there was a day in October where Riana Moosajee (sp) would allow a road to be closed to promote alternative modes of transport. This is an opportunity for us to highlight the Bridle pass rat running problem and promote equestrian issues as a fun day.</li> <li>• Margie pointed out that there is a requirement for 'newsletters' to be created and distributed widely</li> </ul>	<p>Follow up required by committee</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><b><u>Election of new Committee</u></b>  <u>Current Committee standing for re-election:</u>            Margie Donde            Alwina Brand            Dudley Baylis            Kate Tasseron            Kristen Kallesen            Francois Euvrard            Rozanna White            Andrew Dicks            Ram</p> <p><u>New 'committee' members</u>            Laurette van Zijl – in capacity as legislative specialists            Wendy Steven-Jennings – interested in the precinct plan            Simon Busken – interested in Leeukop Project            Shari de Nobrega - interested in Leeukop Project            Robyn Hare - interested in Leeukop Project</p> <p>All were unanimously accepted to the Committee. Portfolios to be allocated at the first meeting</p>	
	<p>“Everything will be ok in the end            And if its not ok            It's not the end!”</p>	<p>Meeting ended at 21h12</p>

Minutes compiled by Andrew Dicks