

MSUNDUZI ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS, RATEPAYERS AND CIVICS (MARRC)

Tel: 072 536 2978 E-mail: msunduziarrc@gmail.com
PO BOX 100969, SCOTTSVILLE PIETERMARITZBURG 3201

MARRC MANCO MEETING - MEETING MINUTES

Page 1

DATE OF MEETING: Friday 29 January 2021

TIME OF MEETING: 18H30

LOCATION: ONLINE PLATFORM - ZOOM

MEETING LENGTH: 1h56m

NOTE TAKER: J.WILLIAMS

PURPOSE: FOR THE CHAIR TO TOUCH BASE WITH MARRC MEMBERS AND ESTABLISH A WAY FORWARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR

IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	SURNAME		ORGANISATION	CELL NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
ANTHONY	WALDHAUSEN	AW	MARRC	0725362978	msunduziarrc@gmail.com
DEIRDRE	BEDINGFIELD	DB	BBL RRA	0845556830	deebed@gmail.com
EDITH	ELLIOT	EE	ASHLYN RRA	0824159435	elliott.edith018@gmail.com
GAETENE	LE GRANGE	GL	BISLEY RRA	0720789269	
JACYN	FANNER	JF	C/M RRA	0828630291	jfanner@gmail.com
JAY	WILLIAMS	JW	MARRC	0728415646	Jayjay.jacobs3@gmail.com
JOHN	POWELL	JP	BISLEY RRA	0833205067	
KANTHA	NAIDOO	KN	LINCOLN MEADE RRA	0677592908	kanthanaidoo29@gmail.com
KEVIN	BEEKRUM	KB	ACM	0825625555	
MEGAN	NICOL	MN	MONTROSE RRA	0828535599	chairman@montrose-residents.org.za
PETER	GREEN	PG	SCOTTSVILLE RRA	0827745477	greenjep10@gmail.com
THEO	NGCOBO	TN	NAPIERVILLE RRA	0827889691	ngcobots7@gmail.com

AGENDA ITEMS	PERSON	DISCUSSIONS/DECISIONS/STEPS/OUTCOME
WELCOME	AW	AW welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained he wanted to run through everyone present and get a little history to every-
RRA UPDATES	ALL	<p>PG (SRRRA) gave a brief breakdown of a current development being contested in Scottsville area, mentioned he has moved to Athlone area but still owns residence in Scottsville.</p> <p>John (BRRRA) mentioned his business suffered hard last year and unfortunately closed its doors March of last year due to Covid.</p> <p>GL (BRRRA) mentioned the RRA had a slow start due to Covid and its restrictions. Mentioned they also did start late in the year and are only starting to gain some traction.</p> <p>Jacyn Fanner (CMRRA) stated last year was indeed a tough year, that things did halt a little. Mentioned this year her RRA is taking on many large issues in the area. Stated that people need to forge a relationship with people inside the Municipality, Gave the story of Illegal dumping and how they conquered with the help of a Mr Mhlongo from the Municipality.</p> <p>MN (MRRRA) mentioned the RRA was struggling due to Covid, mentioned they've needed to have a public meeting, also mentioned she will be passing the reigns over. Not stepping back from the committee just not running it anymore.</p> <p>Kevin (ACM), mentioned ACM can tackle issues that are local, Regional and National. Happy to join forces and make a stand. Mentioned people need to be more innovative.</p> <p>DB (BBRRA) mentioned Covid has caused a bit of an overwhelming sense, since people can't exactly meet and greet. Stated they hoped to have a public meeting in February following all Covid protocol. Wants to call a Manco meeting to establish a way forward in holding the Municipality accountable.</p> <p>EE (ASHLYNRRRA), mentioned a resident has been doing some illegal biddings, such as encouraging residents to be a part of the rates boycott, blocking the train line access to prevent dumping, planted trees along the road not within Municipal restrictions. Has piloted a clean up project which has seen some benefit. Edith mentioned they are in constant battle with truckers, who constantly drive massive trucks on the old road causing massive damage, one part of the road has collapsed. Mentioned the Municipality are trying to push for a lot of approvals before a certain deadline. Mentioned the rivers are extremely poisoned, Also mentioned the factory FFS wants to double its emission output.</p>

AGENDA ITEMS	PERSON	DISCUSSIONS/DECISIONS/STEPS/OUTCOME
RRA UPDATES cont...	ALL	<p>KN (LMRRA), making slow progress with the Municipality, slow repairs are being done. Stated the rra sees the benefits of being together with MARRC, the membership is growing. Verges and Toxic air is constant complaints of the LMRRA.</p> <p>TN (NRRRA) greeted everyone. Mentioned the RRA is still a 'new born baby'. They are building themselves up. Have made a WhatsApp Chat Group, mentioned they still need to introduce themselves to the ward councillor. Stated they met the Station Commander of Prestbury Police station to join the CPF. Also mentioned they have cut a few verges and had assistance from the municipality by them sponsoring Fuel.</p> <p>AW thanked everyone for their feedback. Mentioned they should meet once a month to touch base and give feedback. Also mentioned everyone should have a strategy meeting to work on how to assist each other moving forward.</p>
DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED RATES BOYCOTT	AW	<p>AW opened the floor to discussion.</p> <p>DB (BBRRA) Mentioned everyone have to be cautious with a rates boycott. It is illegal. Supporting a Rates Boycott would cause a sense of "non payment", It's a self defeating purpose. Counterproductive.</p> <p>KN (LMRRA) agreed.</p> <p>PG (SRRA) agreed with the previous speakers. Also mentioned that if you stopped paying rates, and its 80% of the population, the Municipality would collapse. Need to work rather on receiving the services paid for.</p> <p>KB (ACM) In agreement with previous speakers. Always has been his standpoint. As per his proposal in the chat... – [Lost Connection to call].</p> <p>EE (ASHLYNRRRA) In agreement – however we should continue to look for other legal channels to hold the Municipality accountable. Build a dossier against infringements. Suggested MARRC go directly to Mr Duma (the Administrator), to hear his views moving forward. We need to be sitting in every Municipal meeting. Asked to hear DB's opinion on where the Municipality is "hiding" from us. We need to find a way to fact check, and ask where does the fault lie, whether it be the Mayor, the municipality etc. If we engage political members where does that leave us as MARRC? We should drive all human rights violations to the president.</p> <p>MN (MRRA) is in agreement with all previous comments. Asked if a Special Ratings Area is something they could successfully drive in each RRA. The local Municipality has provision for this. Is it something we can action?</p>

AGENDA ITEMS	PERSON	DISCUSSIONS/DECISIONS/STEPS/OUTCOME
<p>DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED RATES BOYCOTT cont...</p>	<p>AW</p>	<p>AW responded in saying it was something they had engaged with some-one last year on this, but will need to follow up.</p> <p>MN (MRRA) Stated they could easily get 60% buy in.</p> <p>TN (NRRRA) is in support of no Rates Boycott. Need exposure, mentioned how the MU Fund once exposed something was done about it. Should give support to other areas, Let our problems be known.</p> <p>DB (BBLRRA) made reference to the court cases in Grahamstown and North West. Mentioned the reason the people won was because of water provisions, which is a human rights angle. Msunduzi Municipality isn't so flawed on their water provisions. If we bring legal action against the municipality perhaps we'll come right. One angle is Humans Rights on water services. Need to meet a common ground. There's a great awareness of Msunduzi's Failings. We will have the ear of COGTA. We would have sympathy if we hone in on a specific angle which may be more cost effective. Mentioned elections are coming up in August, Which means the people dealt with now, will be a whole new crowd. Try start something right now so that there is already a foundation when the new personnel takes over. Find one or two areas that are very legal specific. Look to OUTA on what aspect we can put the legal pressure the most.</p> <p>AW Mentioned the two areas they can look at are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluations Roll Process, Submitted a report but no response, Take legal route to force them for those documents. - MU Funding, take legal route. Requested Mayor to take off Agenda in Council meetings. <p>KN (LMRRA) stated a special ratings area is a route to look at, however there some restrictions. Suggested getting in touch with James Martin on by-laws and researching. Also mentioned a Specific Performance Application. Kevin Beekrum to prepare a dossier, lead us to the people.</p> <p>EE (ASHLYNNRRA) Stated Special Rates wont help with the current fundamental issues. IMPAC + COGTA could form a pressure group, collect the necessary information on who is under-performing in the government. Form multiple pressure groups. Stand behind the people standing against Msunduzi.</p> <p>AW stated that he appreciates everyone's input.</p>

AGENDA ITEMS	PERSON	DISCUSSIONS/DECISIONS/STEPS/OUTCOME
WAY FORWARD	ALL	<p>KB (ACM) mentioned everyone is upset with good reason. Stated people are trying to fix a Public Sector problem with a private sector solutions. Mentioned they need a small committee of 2-3 people. Can have firms look at Municipal laws pro bono. Look at legal action like giving MARRC authority in decision making in MANCO Municipality. NO DECISION MAKING YET! Just data collecting and coming up with A,B and C solutions.</p> <p>EE (ASHLYNRRRA) asked if the billing was the 2nd March or 2nd Feb and if anybody has been into the office for the new document.</p> <p>AW stated no.</p> <p>EE stated it was a violation of rights that it is such a task to collect these documents, that everybody needs to raise stink as it hasn't passed council yet. Asked if anybody was within the office radius to collect the documents for her.</p> <p>DB (BBLRRA) stated from her last COGTA meeting she believes there is NO document to comment on as of yet. No budgets have been done. Also stated she supports Kevin's statements.</p> <p>KB (ACM) stated getting a legal opinion gives MARRC options. Stated the Municipality is playing with MARRC because they believe MARRC is all bark and no bite, and with Legal backing MARRC may have more "clout".</p> <p>AW mentioned they should have a sub-committee to liaise with legal representation.</p> <p><u>Volunteers for Sub-Committee</u></p> <p>Kantha Naidoo – LMRRA</p> <p>Kevin Beekrum – ACM</p> <p>Edith Elliot – ASHLYNRRRA</p> <p>Volunteers were seconded by all. No objections.</p>
PLAN OF ACTION, MOVING FORWARD		<p><u>Plan of action moving forward</u></p> <p>EE – Been engaging with Enviro Lawyer so there is that avenue.</p> <p>AW—to provide committee with case studies and articles on similar court cases.</p> <p>KB—to take lead on Sub-Committee and inform rest of members on way forward.</p> <p>TN supports KB's approach, but we must also be mindful that they must expose their frustrations to the highest structures. Mentioned complacency has been the main root of the issues.</p>

AGENDA ITEMS	PERSON	DISCUSSIONS/DECISIONS/STEPS/OUTCOME
PLAN OF ACTION, MOVING FORWARD cont...		<p>AW thanked all for their input. Mentioned the Memorandum that was handed to the Mayor 30 days prior. Also mentioned the 10 letters that to date have no responses. Asked if this is something the Sub Committee just formed should focus on.</p> <p>KB (ACM) stated the Sub Committee should focus on the Legal Advice, separate from the usual barrage of letters and media coverage.</p> <p>KN (LMRRA) agreed with Kevin’s statement. Next step is to take matters up with COGTA. Get them to sign alongside MARRC.</p> <p>DB (BBLRRA) suggested we send the letter to COGTA but CC in the Mayor as well. Also stated she supports the statements of KN and KB.</p>
ACTION STEPS	AW	<p>AW :</p> <p>Sub-Committee will formalize themselves and engage legal advice.</p> <p>AW will send Legal coverage from all current lawsuits against Municipalities.</p> <p>Continue with pressure on the Municipality.</p>
CLOSING	AW	<p>Thanked everyone for their time and input. Mentioned MARRC should have another zoom meeting in February to touch base and swap notes. Mentioned again Monthly meetings is a must.</p>
END		<p>THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 20H24.</p>

Evaluation:

Did we stay on track with the agenda?

Did everyone participate?

Did we achieve the meeting purpose?

Did we clarify next steps?

Was this meeting time well spent?

