

MSUNDUZI ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS, RATEPAYERS AND CIVICS (MARRC)

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STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
DATE: 19 SEPTEMBER 2020
VENUE: CLARIDGE FUN FARM
DURATION: 10H00 TO 17H00
FACILITATOR: REKHA NATHOO

Background

MARRC is a newly formed organisation that aims to promote and work towards is a Msunduzi Municipal area in which all its people are accorded social justice, respect and dignity by the provision of equitable services. MARRC is on a mission to address the many challenges faced by the municipality and in order to provide a strategic response it was decided that strategic planning session is vital in order to create unity and a common purpose of the collective.

The strategic planning process is vital part of any organisation so as to develop a key focus whereby all who are part of MARRC are in a position to work together for a common cause.

The strategic planning process was facilitated by Rekha Nathoo an external facilitator who has no connections to MARRC so as to provide independent and critical input and steering the process in the right direction through the participants of members of MARRC.

Prior to the start of the strategic planning session, the facilitator requested all to prepare for the session and that all come up with two things we want to achieve for the session.

FIRST PART OF SESSION: -

Team was required to do a video of the Jerusalema dance in a space of 20minutes. During the feedback session, participants were asked to reflect on the exercise and the following were responses from the participants.

- Togetherness
- Purpose
- Fluid leadership
- Self-nomination leadership\
- No plan but achieved action
- Just do
- No discussion
- Planning
- No checking

SECOND PART OF SESSION: -:

Each person was to team up with another and get to know the following from them:

1. Who are you?
2. Why are you part of this group?

THIRD PART OF SESSION:

Every person's answers for point two above were detailed. viz:

- Sense of social justice
- Get knowledge
- Dismayed at what PMB has become over the years
- See something done -What was the City of Choice is now the City of Chaos
- To unite everyone-have a much more collective voice
- Share our knowledge to solve our rates and problems with the municipality.
- Less talking more action (This was all done 15-20 years ago at the very same venue)
- City that I am proud of and want to bring back the image if the City of Choice
- Cannot sit and watch and do nothing about it.
- Become the voice for the voiceless
- Build a better community/build Ubuntu
- Wasn't raised to be a bystander-help assist-end goals
- Here to learn and absorb and be art of this history making
- Joining this team gives you strength, attitude doesn't pay. MARRC has opened doors
- Part of a safer and cleaner society/City and fight the municipality
- Serve the community as I possibly can
- City is deteriorating-try to educate community and what their rights are. Teach the community to participate in the change with more rights
- Give back to the community, mandate to help them achieve goals get them to become active citizens.
- Still keen to help people help themselves
- Not a type of person to point a problem and not come up with a solution. Education is power. Miscommunication between community and municipality. Clear communication -the right thing at the right time.

FOURTH PART OF SESSION:

The team was divided into group. Each group had to have a designated rep and had to caucus on what they think should be our goal for the next two (2) months, and to subdivide it by weeks, till they reach week eight.

Coin exercise was done: lesson learnt: "THE CODE IS ALWAYS ON THE TABLE"

Each representative for each group had to present their goals to each team. Called: "Blind Issuing"

Team 1: -

Rep: Candace Homan

Their team had the following goals/issues to deal with:

1. Water Subcommittee-do research, educate ourselves accordingly and set up a network of municipal contacts.
2. Electricity Subcommittee- do research, educate ourselves accordingly and set up a network of municipal contacts.
3. Billing Subcommittee- do research, educate ourselves accordingly and set up a network of municipal contacts.
4. Set up more RRA's Subcommittee

Team 2: -

Rep: Dee Bedingfield

Their team had 2 goals/issues to deal with:

1. Infrastructure and
2. Billing System

Team 3: -

Rep: Shabeer Hoosen.

Their team had the following goals: -

1. Billing System (This was a goal of an individual in their team and not the collective)
2. The collective decision was to increase MARRC's support base-i.e. cover every suburb & ward. More representatives of other areas.
3. Need to have a base and proper office so we can run our office etc., with its own resources.

FIFTH PART OF SESSION:

Each representative for each group had to present their goals to the entire team.

A summarized outcome for the next eight weeks was developed.

SUMMARISED OUTCOMES

IDENTIFIED NEED	ACTION 1	ACTION 2	ACTION 3	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
GROW MARRC MEMBERSHIP	Identify geographic areas already represented	Determine and formalise entry/ membership requirements	Plan outreach and inclusion of more RRA's / civic organisations	3 WEEKS Mid-October	MANCO AND Marketing and Membership sub-committee
CREATE SUB-COMMITTEES OF SPECIALIST INTEREST, KNOWLEDGE AND ENGAGEMENT	Identify and agree on focus areas. Proposed: 1. Water and sanitation 2. Electricity 3. Waste & environment 4. Roads (incl surfaces, traffic control, street lights...?) 5. Billing matters 6. Marketing and Membership 7. Legislation & policy	Assign / allocate members to sub-committees (minimum no of people per sub-committee ?)		2 WEEKS First week October	Volunteer and MANCO
			Sub-committees meet; -Elect chairs of sub-committees; Identify processes for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge acquisition; • active engagement with citizenry and municipality 	MID-END NOVEMBER	MANCO and Chairs of Sub-Committees
WORKSHOP 2	Detailed Plan of Action	SWOT analysis	Roles and Responsibilities	END NOVEMBER	MANCO and FACILITATOR

END OF SESSION

The group agreed on the following: -

1. To have a zoom meeting with just this team that were present today on 28/09/2020 at 19h30-20h30.
2. In the interim each person must consider which subcommittee they would like to it on and give their answer at the above-mentioned zoom meeting.
3. This same group will meet at the next workshop which will be in two months' time.