

SAPRA AGM REPORT 2018

The 2017/2018 year has been very exciting with our committee working incredibly hard for the benefit of our two suburbs.

Credit must be given to our dedicated committee who commit a great deal of time and effort to their specific portfolios. This report will give you an idea of the various portfolios and their activities throughout this year.

In addition to the below reports are ad hoc projects that are short term or ongoing but don't require a dedicated portfolio. They include:

Cell phone masts: This has been ongoing with the Council and the respective cell phone companies. We have requested that the mast location plotting be done in conjunction with the nodal review planning to accommodate the long term signal distribution planning but this was declined based on a judicial ruling recently where the two are under separate authorities. We continue to push and so far have managed to keep them at bay despite signal challenges in our area. The view from concerned residents still seems to be to avoid these lamp post cell masts than to improve the signal yet at some point this will change. We also may be forced into a corner as from a Council perspective, we have no legal standing to fight the erection of these cell masts. This is an ongoing matter.

7 Saxonwold Drive – the Gupta property: We were served papers earlier in the year as the owners of 7 Saxonwold Drive wanted a review of the Council decision to rectify the property in accordance with town planning bylaws. We engaged with ENS, supported by a local resident attorney, to manage this process. We are named as the 4th respondent on this application and whilst we registered our opposition to the application, we have also agreed to abide by the decision of the court. We have received confirmation that the City is also opposing this application. This is an ongoing matter.

Our town planning portfolio is our largest portfolio as well as the heritage applications. We luckily have Craig Pretorius on retainer for all these matters and Heritage has been covered by Lorin Burgoyne. Lorin has sadly tendered her resignation from the committee and we thank her most sincerely for all her work in this portfolio. The Nodal Review is probably one of the largest projects we have to deal with in the coming months. Thankfully, we have Craig to guide us but we also have commitment from residents Andile Skosana, Nicola van der Merwe, Siya Hlongwa, and potentially two others who indicated interest in being part of the team designing the way forward for what Parkwood and Saxonwold will ideally look like leading in from Rosebank in the new Nodal Development Plan. This is going to be one of our massive projects in the next year, and will likely need a hefty investment from SAPRA particularly if we're going to get the traffic issues right.

An upcoming challenge is the widening of Jan Smuts – the traffic issue again is front of mind with this project as the impact on Saxonwold and Parkwood's traffic has not been taken into account thoroughly from the City's planning department. This too will be part of our traffic portfolio in the new year.

Illegal Advertising: despite attempts to get JMPD to enforce illegal bylaw legislation, we are in a never-ending circle of reporting and chasing these transgressions with no success. Earlier in the year SAPRA won a massive initiative through the Public Protector's officer to get COJ to cancel all illegal contracts from the end of their contract term and only establish contracts which were within the

legal advertising boundaries of the COJ bylaw outdoor advertising framework. Whilst this is a massive win on paper, and the fact that COJ are attempting to enforce it, the advertising companies are reluctant and are not taking the fight lying down. It is now sitting with the courts for final resolution. Our sincere thanks to Nick Human for pursuing this tenaciously over the last 5 years.

The Shothole Borer Beetle and its fungus has wreaked havoc over the trees in many parts of South Africa in recent months. There is no known cure for the beetle or its' fungus yet nor a solution on a responsible way for discarding of infected trees to prevent further distribution. There are professionals working on this and we can only encourage you to report infected trees on the app – www.treesurvey.co.za. You can also find out more information on the website www.pshb.co.za.

Below is a compilation of some of our portfolios which we have been working on this year. There are more comments to come at our meeting on Tuesday 30 October 2018 at 18:00 where Azar Jamine will be our guest speaker and where we will have a question and answer session for any queries you may have.

Thank you most sincerely to our committee who dedicate their time and energy to these portfolios. Luckily for the residents in this area, there are people like these who are as passionate about their communities as they are.

By our community, for our community.

Yours sincerely
Tessa Turvey

Town planning / Nodal Review – Craig Pretorius

Over the past year SAPRA has continued to provide important town planning guidance to members, land owners and investors.

SAPRA remains pro-active in their approach to land use change and continuously seeks to achieve a balance between protecting the character of the area and facilitating the required change.

SAPRA's approach to land use management is multi-faceted. Guidance, objections and representations are made:

- Pre-town planning/building plan phase
- On formal town planning applications submitted to the local authority
- On formal building plans requiring heritage assessment

Over 40 town planning related cases were attended during the last year, ranging from rezoning and subdivisions to road closures and land use mitigation.

In addition to the above SAPRA is continuously involved in the policy formulation process for the area in consultation with the local authority. To date the Saxonwold and Parkwood Precinct Plan has guided development successfully. The city's Spatial Development Framework, 2040 has since been approved, essentially allowing for certain development within walking distance from the Rosebank Node and Gautrain Station and most recently we have had to respond to the Draft Nodal Review currently still being prepared by the City of Johannesburg. SAPRA has initiated a new precinct planning process, which will seek to respond to the development intent of the Draft Nodal Review. We have had to wait for the local authority to complete the aforementioned process prior to

engaging the community on the precinct plan review, but foresee this being completed during the next year. The local authority estimates the approval of the Nodal Review early 2019, which will facilitate the review of the precinct plan. Please take notice of advertised public meetings in this regard as the Nodal Review proposes substantial change to not only Saxonwold and Parkwood but to key suburbs across the north of the city. As previously informed there will be a shift in development potential from what is currently a mono-type suburban environment to a mixed use urban city form, likely to change the character of the area over time.

From a practical point of view development change has not occurred in Saxonwold and Parkwood to the same extent as some of the neighbouring suburbs (Dunkeld, Melrose, Houghton Estate) adjoining Rosebank.

Development change and applications have still been focussed along the fringes of the area along major roads and adjoining the Rosebank Node. Improvement of non-residential uses has occurred along Jan Smuts Avenue, Oxford Road, Bolton and Chester Roads. The odd increased residential density development has also occurred in these locations.

Over the next year the main development thrust is likely to occur in the quadrant of the area adjoining the Standard Bank Building, with two applications already received for mixed use buildings of 10-15 stories in height. These types of land use approvals are likely, due to the location of these properties in relation to the Rosebank Node and the Gautrain Station.

The other part of the area likely to experience the most change is along Newport Road adjoining the business uses on Jan Smuts Avenue. The renewal of this “old business strip” together with an emphasis on a convenient location may see the surrounding uses become desirable for redevelopment. There are already applications for residential densification along Bolton Road and Newport Road and a new development adjoining the Woolworths parking area. The Goodman Gallery site is also in line for redevelopment.

Property value remains high and will most likely remain so due to the desirable location thereof, despite the future probable change in character of the area. Even though policy change allowing for redevelopment will occur, the physical change takes much longer to implement which will allow for perceptions to change, adjustments to be made and the area to remain desirable.

Date	Street	Number	Erf	Suburb	Description
05 July 2018	Wantage	53	584	Parkwood	Objection letter sent
05 July 2018	Bristol	50	55	Saxonwold	No objection, they are within their rights for zoning, size and
05 July 2018	Sussex	24	400	Parkwood	no objection, but letter sent in interest of safety, parents to drop off on Sussex not Wells
05 July 2018	Ashford	32	542	Parkwood	Craig has assessed the application and says we should
11 July 2018	Worcester	78 & 80	733 & 734	Parkwood	Objection letter sent
08 August 2018	Chester	47	295	Parkwood	Objection letter sent, we will re evaluate once nodal policy comes into effect.
08 August 2018	Wantage	49	582	Parkwood	Objection letter sent, they need to include a certain condition about a guest house, once included we will
10 September 2018	Cotswold	60	170	Saxonwold	Conditional withdrawal of objection
21 September 2018	Saxonwold Dr	15	531	Saxonwold	Conditional withdrawal of objection
16 October 2018	Newport Rd	27,28,31,33	329-332	Parkwood	Objection sent back in 2015, townplanner attending hearing in view of resolving the height and basement issue as well as the parking requirements.

Security Report – Costa Qually

Saxonwold and Parkwood fall within the Rosebank police precinct. The 2018 crime statistics again reveal that our precinct has one of the lowest levels of crime in the country. However, there still are instances of crime and the statistics mean little to someone who has been a victim. Everyone can play a part in combating crime by taking precautions, being vigilant and in reporting any concerns or suspicious activities to your security company or to the police.

Several of the crimes that have taken place were opportunistic in nature. Some occurred where driveway gates were left open and some where access was given to the property without first confirming the identity of the person seeking entry or the validity of the reasons for requesting entry to the property. Having a degree of scepticism and being cautious will provide you with greater protection. Instructing your domestic assistants in this regard is recommended.

There have also been a number of driveway robberies where people were followed home from restaurants or shopping centres. In most cases the victims of these crimes were wearing expensive watches and jewellery. If you want to wear these items when you go out, you should arrange with your security company to meet you at your home on your return.

The Rosebank police station continues to be short of manpower and vehicles. These concerns have been raised with provincial SAPS management but, unfortunately, little has happened to date to remedy this. These shortages are also being experienced in many other precincts within Gauteng. The Rosebank police officers are to be commended for their efforts and successes they have achieved despite the problems they face.

The high level of security company activity within our suburbs is a positive contributory factor to combating crime.

Zoo Lake Users Committee – Fran Haslam

Litter - this is a daily problem and especially over the weekends. The City does provide a litter picking service and depending on the amount of litter, they either clean up quickly or within a few hours. There are never enough bins but whether we have millions of bins or not regrettably the displaced people empty the bins at night and certainly don't put back the rubbish into the bins. How does one educate the users about removing their litter and take pride in using Zoo Lake. The City do not have the personnel to walk around educating the users and until we can get our Master plan put in place regrettably this will be a daily problem and concern, as well as the recyclers and the displaced persons.

Security - We would dearly love to have a CAP Security team to assist us with By-Law enforcement and security. Regrettably until we can obtain sustainable funding this area remains a major concern for us. Regrettably even when JMPD are in the Park over the weekends and at special events they appear to be reluctant to enforce the By-Laws. I have escalated this concern to the 'Powers to be' but again without the personnel and regular educational programs these issues remain a concern. With the change in shift hours for JMPD from 6a.m. to 6p.m. they are no longer clearing the park at 6p.m. and the users are now remaining in the park until after 8p.m. Another concern that I have addressed with JMPD.

Dogs - Dog walkers appear to be reluctant about keeping their dogs on leads and picking up the poo..... even though the signage and By-Laws state only dogs on leads etc.... until we have the proper security this remains a problem. We have yellow dog poo bins but regrettably they are not used for dog poo and need a good coat of paint and new signage. A project for the New Year.

Storm Water Drain - That area has now been cleared and we are waiting for JRA to erect a brand new fence. We are hoping that once that area has a new fence and the storm water cleaned and repaired that area will no longer be a concern and security risk.

Fire Hazard - The users to the Park put their hot coals at the base of the trees when braaing outside the designated braai area. This is a concern for us as not only are the trees being damaged but a fire can start up at any time as they leave their coals smouldering at the base of the trees and we have already lost a few trees because of this and falling on people. JMPD are supposed to enforce the By-Laws with regard to no braaing outside of the designated area and put out the fires but regrettably this is erratic. The reeds are also set on fire next to the Bowls Club by the displaced people which is another fire risk.

Projects in the pipeline:

Erosion project around the Lake - We have put a proposal together to launch this project during October / November and are waiting for approval from City Parks to take this further. A press release will be issued with all details once the JCPZ give us the go-ahead.

Maintenance - We do weekly site visits and report back to JCPZ on areas that need attention and assist where we can. We also assist with cleaning out the flowerbeds around the lake and general clean-up of the area.

Proposed Master Plan - Our main focus for the year was to present our proposed Master plan for the Zoo Lake Precinct to the relevant stakeholders at the City and Community. Our proposed Master plan has been well received and endorsed by all. The next step is to put together a Management company and Steering committee and draw up a partnership document between ourselves and the City in order for us to proceed with our proposed Master Plan and embark on a fund raising campaign to get Phase 1 of the project up and running. We have a long way to go but it's encouraging and exciting and our end goal is to develop a sustainable and workable upgrade project for the Zoo Lake precinct and develop this City asset into the "Central Park" of Johannesburg.

Parkview SAPS and JMPD - We attend the weekly crime meeting at Parkview Police Station where we address any areas of concern around Zoo Lake with SAPS and JMPD. We have scheduled a meeting to meet with JMPD's By-Laws unit and hopefully put together an awareness campaign where we can educate and inform the users to the park about the By-Laws.

Website – Bill Haslam

The new SAPRA website became operational during the year and after a few teething problems the site has stabilized and is working well. Our objectives on the rewrite were to:

1. Upgrade the site to be more user-friendly and appealing.
2. Incorporate the SAPRA membership database onto the website so that the members would be able to keep their data up to date and relevant.
3. Ensure that the security on the website against hackers was up to date and effective.
4. Enable members to pay their subscriptions using the website and their credit cards.
5. Provide for an automated email reminder system for members to renew their subscriptions.
6. Allow members to have full access to their subscription history.
7. Provide statistics on membership to the SAPRA committee and facilitate activities which are related to members only (such as providing resident passes) or those who wish to receive our newsletters.
8. Allow members to opt out of receiving correspondence, such as our newsletter.
9. Allow differential membership for pensioners, corporate members and other members and to allow a member to include family members as part of their membership.
10. Facilitate the updating of information on the site thus keeping it current and fresh.

11. Providing members with a retrievable source of relevant local information

Fearnhead Park – Tracy Davies

Work done:

Maintenance of the Park - City Parks are cleaning the Park regularly and cutting the lawn frequently, and we keep an eye on this and follow up if they miss a schedule. Merry go round, planks keep going missing, and City Parks have replaced these several times this year. There is a job card for the Merry Go Round to be painted. Colonial fencing was installed on the Blandford side; we are still waiting for more colonial fencing on Dudley side near, playground area. The marshy area is improving, and drying out. We are still monitoring, but believe with cooperation and intervention of City Parks and Joburg Water that cause has been identified and appropriate steps taken to prevent a recurrence. Palisade fence on Dudley Road, has been repainted. This was a project involving several sessions over several months, with the assistance of youth volunteers logging community hours.

Safety and security -The locking of the Park is now being done by CAP Security, and they are keeping a vigilant eye on activities in the Park. We do have several people who spend their days in the Park. We have identified that most of them are people who sleep at the Immaculata Centre in the evenings, and who bide their time in the Park during the day. We know who they are, we are trying to get them profiled with help of the Ward 117 Committee and Rosebank Homeless Society, and are trying to find them work, either ad hoc or contractual. There is a new station commander at Rosebank, and he has met with us, and given his word that they will keep an eye on the Park, and there have been several raids on the Park over the last year. Park Wardens have also made several visits, unfortunately not at times we have suggested as being prime time to catch offenders of by-laws. If you see anything untoward in the Park, please contact CAP, who in turn will contact the relevant authorities (0861 227 227)

Installation of Owl Box - An owl box was installed in the Park in September of this year. It is intended to attract a spotted eagle owl. There is also an information board which is attached to the closest signboard. We will keep you posted on any further developments.

Basketball hoop - We will be installing a basketball hoop in the Park in the next few weeks. We have obtained the relevant permission from the City and we are just waiting for a team from City Parks to visit the Park to agree on the most appropriate site for the hoop.

Yoga in the Park - We had a pilot yoga session in the Park last year, which was not very successful, so we have shelved that idea for now

Gym equipment for the Park - This item has been included in the IDP plan for our area.

Future projects:

Upgrade children's area - A group of mum's with young children, have expressed a keen interest in upgrading the playground area. This would involve fencing in the area, installing a jungle gym that is more apt for younger children, introducing a mini cycling paved track, and bringing in rubber matting around playground equipment. They will embark on a fund raising initiative and SAPRA will work with and support them in this endeavour. Currently there is a callout for an interested person who could assist in producing a graphic design of what is planned so that it can be used in submission to the City

Dog poo bins and signs - The Committee is currently working on project of introducing bins across our 2 suburbs including poo bins in Park and other identified hot spots

SAPRA BLOOD DRIVE

Over the past year, we have introduced a SAPRA community driven blood drive, which is aimed particularly at our Residents. We have had 3 drives so far, with varying success.

The Northern Suburbs Tennis Club, (located next to Fearnhead Park), have both generously and kindly provided their premises as a venue. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts for this.

The next drive is scheduled for **SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2018 FROM 10H00 TO 14H00** at the Tennis Club. We urge you to come and support us.

A Re Sebetseng – Chola Makgamathe

A Re Sebetseng is a monthly city-wide cleaning campaign, which means “let’s work.” The campaign was launched by Mayor Herman Mashaba in 2017 and it strives to encourage all of Johannesburg’s residents to take care of the environment and seeks to promote a culture of reducing, re-using, and recycling waste to ensure that Johannesburg becomes one of the cleanest cities in Africa.

The campaign takes place on the third Saturday of every month and aims also to address issues of littering, illegal dumping, overloading of bins, and dilapidation of open spaces.

SAPRA has participated in the campaign since its inception and has had 8 monthly clean-ups this year. There are some residents that have been playing their part outside of the campaign and I would like to specifically mention Mariette Theron and her husband who have adopted Lystanwold triangle and attend to its general maintenance on a regular basis. I would also like to mention Brian and Lynne Mausenbaum who regularly pick the litter along Bath Avenue. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Nasira Bhikha-Vallee who contributed R1000 to the campaign. This money will be used to buy the necessary equipment required for the monthly clean-ups.

The focus for the campaign for the next few months will be centred on increasing community engagement and involvement. This will include involving the businesses and schools in and around Saxonwold and Parkwood as they have an important role to play in ensuring that the campaign is sustainable.

Community Hours – Kelly Redman

SAPRA hosted a number of volunteer opportunities for scholars and students to contribute to their volunteering portfolios. Through SAPRA scholars and students earned around 100 volunteer hours during the year. Volunteering opportunities during 2018 were focussed on painting the fence around Fernhead Park in Parkwood. Teams were allocated to cleaning and rust removal, priming and painting. Painting occurred on the following weekends:

- Sunday 25th February 2018
- Sunday 8th April 2018
- Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th May 2018
- Friday and Saturday 16th and 17th August 2018

SAPRA will continue to offer volunteering opportunities next year to complete the painting of the fence and clean up campaigns in the parks.