

KLIPRIVIERSBERG CONSERVANCY

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2009

NEWS ITEMS:

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UP AND RUNNING

After the launch of the Interim Constitution and establishment of an Interim Executive Committee in November last year, work has commenced on establishing the foundations for the Klipriviersberg Conservancy. There has been a phenomenal level of support and we are very grateful for everyone who has expressed an interest and wishes to become involved.

The Conservancy has a post box (P.O. Box 1725, Mondeor, 2110) and will be opening a bank account at the end of the month having fulfilled the requirements of the banking industry.

Interim structures and Constitution have been adopted at this stage as the three municipalities involved in the area require various reports to be made to their respective committees as to what is happening. It is also an opportunity to review and assess the nature of the organisation its structures and to make suitable adjustments and modifications as the Conservancy is setup and begins to operate.

EXCO REPRESENTATIVES & PORTFOLIOS

Representatives for the different categories of membership of the Conservancy are being finalised. The representatives will be responsible for bringing together the diverse groups of people that live, work and play in the area and make use of its various attractions and facilities. The membership categories in terms of the Interim Constitution include:

- Ex officio members that include Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni and Midvaal Municipalities, as well as the Gauteng Conservation Association (GCA)
- Land owners and users who own or use more than 500 hectares of land within the boundaries of the Conservancy.
- Land owners and users who own or use between 5 and 500 hectares of land within the boundaries of the Conservancy.
- Residents including land owners and tenants in established residential townships and agricultural holdings within the boundaries of the Conservancy.
- Businesses.
- Educational institutions.
- Sports and recreational organisations.
- Other organisations and bodies.

It has already been identified that an additional category needs to be considered for those people who are from outside the core area and who have expressed an interest in being involved and informed about the Conservancy

For the purposes of managing and running the Conservancy the following portfolios have been established which will be headed up by members of the Exco:

- Membership
- Administration and Finance
- Management Plan
- Development Integration

- **Public Relations and Publicity**

If any member has any particular passion, desire, skills or resources which will assist in any of the portfolios they would be welcome to participate in the portfolio committee and its activities. There is a lot of work to do and any assistance which can be brought in will be greatly welcomed. Please contact us if you are wanting to become more involved.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It is important to increase the number of members. It is also important that we reach as many people as possible within the area of the Conservancy.

For this reason we would ask you to forward this newsletter to anyone who you feel should be informed and become part of the Conservancy. Contact details for people to become registered with the Conservancy are provided at the end of the newsletter.

Members will have an opportunity to participate and become involved in the activities and programs which will promote the establishment and development of the Conservancy. The potential for both excitement and danger will be revealed to members in due course as the Management Plan is prepared.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Management Plan is a critical document which has to be prepared to guide and manage the activities of the Conservancy. A number of work sessions and meetings with the various membership categories are being planned to provide an opportunity for members to contribute their ideas and suggestions.

In the near future we will give you more information and details regarding how this will take place and ask for your participation and involvement.

LOGO IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Conservancy should have a strong identity. Therefore ideas for a logo for the Conservancy are being sought. Please send in any suggestions that you might have for a logo. An offer has been made for these ideas to then be professionally worked into a suitable logo.

WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Plans are being made for the extensive use of electronic and internet systems and facilities in order to be able to be accessible to everyone and to communicate and keep you informed of what is happening. A critical component of this is a website.

If there is anyone who has, or knows of, someone who can provide assistance in the establishment and running of a website please contact us.

FUNDING AND SPONSORSHIP

As with everything that is good and exciting in this world, money and other resources are required. It has been decided that no membership fees will be charged to avoid excessive management and administration. However, sponsors and donors are requested to make contributions in cash and or kind.

The Conservancy is to be registered as a Public Benefit Organisation and Non-Profit Organisation as soon as possible to enable sponsors and donors to receive tax advantages. As this will take some time to achieve it is suggested that any donors and sponsors who wish to assist should do so by means of a loan to the Conservancy which would later be converted to a donation for tax purposes once the registrations have been achieved.

WESSA/WWF ECO-SCHOOLS MINI CONFERENCE 2009

Eco-Schools is holding a mini conference between 03 and 05 March 2009 at Wits University. The conference is an opportunity for schools to share their learning experiences and ideas around the Eco-Schools programme and environmental action. There will be speakers and interactive "action workshops". Anyone who is interested should contact Hlengiwe Kheswa at 011 462 8364 or info@wessanorth.co.za.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION AND CONTACT DETAILS

The following people can be contacted to provide you with any additional information or to assist you regarding the Conservancy:

Chairman: Andrew Barker - 083 274 4424 or abarker@icon.co.za

Vice-Chairman: Clem Kourie - 082 458 2816 or clemkourie@gmail.com

Hon Secretary/Treasurer: Sue Edwards - 011 680 7367 or edwards@futurejhb.co.za

Should you wish to become a member of the Conservancy please e-mail: clemkourie@gmail.com

Apologies for any cross-posting. Please forward to your family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and networks. If you wish to be deleted from our list, please contact us.