

TOKAI DISTRICT RIDING ASSOCIATION (TDRA)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at The Range, Orpen Road on Thursday 16 March 2017 at 19h00

2016/2017 Committee Members :

Karena du Plessis (KdP)	Chairperson
Grant Chapman (GC)	Vice-Chairperson
Emma Tiffin (ET)	
Michelle Matthews (MM)	Secretary
Julie Myrtle (JM)	
Marianne Berry (MB)	Treasurer
Jess Fogarty (JF)	
Carol Poole (CP)	

Apologies:

Emma Tiffin
Melissa Finkelstein
Sonia Bouwer
Julie Ward
Karin Blignaut
Bianca Said
Pauline Oliff
SANParks

Agenda Item	Minute	Action
1	Welcome Karena (KdP) welcomed all those in attendance and thanked everybody for their continued support of the TDRA.	
2	Minutes The minutes of the 2015 AGM held on the 12 th of April 2016 were tabled and approved by members	
3	Chairperson's Review KdP acknowledged that there have been many challenges facing horse riders over the past few years largely as a result of the devastating fires in 2015 and trying to retain trails in the area. KdP encouraged horse riders to be considerate of other park users as complaints have been received regarding the conduct of horse riders in the park.	
4	Trails Feedback Carol Poole (CP) indicated some of the highlights of the past year as well as some of the challenges for the new year. The main achievements of the TDRA over the past year were summarised with highlights including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The completion of the upgrade to the Airlie-Neva bridge. A very generous donation of a concrete slab from Top-Floor was used for this project for which the committee extends its appreciation.• The reopening of certain areas of Upper Tokai which was achieved by co-operation with cyclists in the area and for which our thanks is extended to the cyclists and SANParks. This	

	<p>access is limited to certain trails on weekends only. A map is on the Zwaanswyk Close gate and CP requested that all horse riders please ensure that they are familiar with the permitted areas before venturing up the mountain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opening of the picnic site transit route, the rules in this area are strictly enforced as this is a picnic area and no provision has been made for horse riders in this area in terms of the management framework. CP thanked SANParks for this concession and urged all members to again ensure that they are familiar with the rules of use in this area before entering the picnic site. • The Upper Tokai Road Trail is open and horse riders are encouraged to use the full width of the trail to avoid creating a deep, rutted area. • The new gate at the Stone Church which ensures that there is access to middle Tokai from the Soetvlei side as the access road was fenced off to better control access to the area. The city is currently upgrading the Orpen / Spaanschemat Road corner near Uitsig with cycle lanes – which should make this corner a lot safer for horse riders. <p>The main challenges for the coming year were explained with these being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Tokai trails are very rocky and eroded in certain areas so maintenance will be needed to try to retain these trails especially if there is a wet winter. • Alien trees require constant management and although SANParks has put a framework in place it may require additional efforts from horse riders to assist in the areas that horses use. • Access to Chrysalis has been fenced off due to ongoing vandalism and crime on the estate culminating with a fire in the climbing wall containers earlier in 2017. A gate is likely to be required with very strict access control for horse riders who are TDRA members to be able to access this area as a corridor linking Upper and Middle Tokai in the future. This is currently under negotiation but the committee is hopeful of finding a resolution. • Ongoing maintenance of reeds and bushes on the greenbelts. <p>A TDRA member raised a concern regarding Lower Tokai Park, this being that it is currently only accessible to horse riders following the perimeter track. This track gets congested and riding could be improved in the park by the introduction of a trail that cuts across the park through the fynbos.</p>	
4	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>Marianne (MB) provided an overview of the financial year and indicated that expenses exceeded income for the period.</p> <p>Major sources of income were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership fees totalling R9900 • Donations from members for trail maintenance and or large trail projects totalling R8820 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest received of R149.77 <p>Major Expense were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gates for access controlled areas • Gatekeeper system • Trails maintenance <p>The current value of funds in the TDRA is just over R19 000 despite the additional expenditure incurred in the financial year.</p> <p>MB indicated that the full financial report would be available on the TDRA website: http://www.tdra.co.za/</p>	
5	<p>Presentation by Nicky Schmidt of Parkscape on safety campaign</p> <p>KdP introduced Nicky Schmidt (NS) who was representing Parkscape at the AGM.</p> <p>Nicky explained that neither Parkscape nor neighbourhood watch are permitted to patrol Lower Tokai Park so they are trying to educate users as to who to contact in an emergency and what signs to be aware of in the area. Horse riders would be welcome to assist as the height allows for better sight of the area. NS indicated that your voice is your best form of defence should you feel threatened in any way. NS indicated that Parkscape is in support of paths through the fynbos to serve both as access paths for emergency vehicles should there be a fire or similar need for such access and for horse riders who can act as elevated eyes over the area. A proposal will be presented to SANParks for their consideration.</p> <p>NS highlighted some of the activities currently being undertaken to improve security in the area, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising clean ups of areas where activity is being observed every second week 	
6	<p>Committee Members</p> <p>Prior to the meeting nomination forms had been made available. KdP confirmed that Carol Poole, Emma Tiffin and Jess Fogarty would not be available for election due to time constraints although Emma Tiffin will still be available to assist with liaising with the Tokai Pony Club and at a sub-committee level. All other committee members are available for the 2017/18 year. A call for further nominations yielded four these being Amelia Cheminais, Hayley Moir, Laura Forde and Maryse Pennington Collins. The above members were approved by the TDRA members.</p> <p>Confirmation of positions is as follows: Karena du Plessis – Chairperson Grant Chapman – Vice Chairperson Marianne Berry – Treasurer Michelle Matthews - Secretary</p>	
7	<p>Membership Fees</p> <p>It was proposed that membership fees be increased from R100 to R150 for the new year. Two counter proposals were put forward by members, one being an increase to R200 for the year and the other being a tiered membership structure with those horse riders who ride less frequently paying R150 and those who ride frequently paying R500. This was voted on by members and the membership fee was increased to R200 as it is important that membership of the TDRA be accessible to</p>	

	as many people as possible without the cost becoming a hindrance to members. Members are invited to make any donations that they feel appropriate as many expenses are anticipated with the new gates and trail work and the TDRA relies on the generosity of horse riders to assist with projects that they benefit from. A very generous donation of R5000 was made by Fiona Archer at the AGM to assist with the new access gates at Chrysalis for which we are extremely grateful.	
8	Prizes At the end of the evening lucky draw tickets were drawn from the pool of attending paid-up members. Prizes included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vouchers for a session with Body Tec • Sports massage donated by Beyond Performance • Sports belts • Clothing • Wine • Coffee Vouchers The TDRA Committee would like to thank the sponsors for their generous donations.	

The meeting ended at approx 20:30.

Certified a true record of the proceedings

Chairperson

Date