



Report of the Chair

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The past year has been one of consolidation for PRABOA. The committee, all people with a passion for the suburb, have given freely of their time to contribute to its improvement. As with any community, the challenges are never-ending and the resources with which to meet them are scarce. I thank each committee member for their contribution and encourage members of the community to join us in working to build a better suburb for everyone who lives, works and plays here.

a) The Committee

Our committee functions on a portfolio-basis, namely Building & Town Planning, Environment, Safety, Parkhurst Primary, and, Verity Park are the 'public-facing' portfolios, supported by Finance, Legal & Compliance, and, Technology & Platforms. Cllr Truluck attends Committee meetings and is a valuable conduit between our community and the City of Johannesburg.

Each committee portfolio has prepared a report, sight of which you have had and which will remain available on our website. It is impossible to thank the committee members adequately for their contributions – Marius Homewood works tirelessly on the SafeParks initiative, Kundayi Munzara has done sterling work with Parkhurst Primary School, Greg Hirshcson and Catherine Grainger manage all things building, town planning and zoning related, Jacques Hough and Natalie Zimmelman are our environmental crusaders, while Paul Johnson works to keep Verity Park the user-friendly facility that it is. Behind the scenes, Andrew Watts has managed our finances superbly, Chris Diamond has kept us all on the straight and narrow in terms of our legal obligations and risks, and Ryan Hawthorne is the go-to guy for the technology that we use to make our jobs that little bit easier.

Our committee members give generously of their personal time. I urge anyone who is able to spare even an hour a month to volunteer their time to PRABOA. Our committee members have full time jobs, they travel for business frequently, they have families with young children, they are studying part time – just like you. There are so many things we would like to do or to do better, but we are stretched beyond capacity. Please join us.

b) Challenges

Parkhurst is an old suburb by Johannesburg standards, established some 114 years ago. We are all aware of the need for upgraded infrastructure (the electric grid, water pipes, the sewerage system, etc), but those are not things that we can fix ourselves. That said, we urge the people of Parkhurst to build this community in other ways. Be considerate towards others in the community. Let's keep our pavements clean and presentable, but make sure to leave a flat path for pedestrians and for people pushing prams. Use our local clinic, library, swimming pool, and whilst doing so get to meet other people in the community.

I also urge everyone to consider how Parkhurst needs to change. The city is densifying and the shape of the city is changing as a result. More people will be living more closely together, transport patterns are changing and there are demands for land to be put to the best possible use for the greatest number of people. I would like to see an innovative approach to our future, one which incorporates more than the resident / business owner / visitor profile of person. Parkhurst is much more than that. Workers in our suburb have been invaluable in highlighting issues that homeowners seldom recognise, and better understanding the plight of the homeless has enhanced our understanding of that community too. We need actively to build a more diverse community, one which acknowledges youth and old age, poverty and wealth, professionals and unskilled workers – all of whom are already part of this community.

To meet the challenges that the future will present we need a wider range of volunteers. Step up. Be part of defining the future. Please join us.

c) Wish List

Through the efforts of residents, Parkhurst has seen a number of projects successfully concluded in the past. Our Village Fairs were a great success and Halloween walkabouts are loved by participating families. Parkhurst, however, also needs recurring initiatives with a specialist focus.

- Efforts to make Parkhurst a safer place require greater buy-in and active participation by everyone in Parkhurst. Whataboutism is not helpful – rolling up your sleeves and getting involved is. Please join us.
- As we experience a densifying city there is increasing demand for land uses to be expanded. We need to ensure that the overall residential amenity of Parkhurst is protected but is also made more inclusive. We need to keep putting pressure on the City to upgrade services that support densification. We need to encourage that development happening on one site does not happen without due consideration of its impact on surrounding properties. We need to speak up when residents compromise public spaces for their own convenience. Please join us.
- We need to keep up efforts to make Parkhurst an environmentally healthy suburb. Our clean-up days are attended by the same people every time. Please make the effort to contribute, even if only for 10 or 15 minutes. Speak to your neighbours about participating in the City's separation-at-source programme. Our Green initiative has been put on the back burner since the project head moved from the suburb. It needs to be resuscitated. Please join us.

- Although the responsibility of the *Provincial* Education Department, Parkhurst Primary is a key part of this community. Whilst ad hoc projects and donations have been well received until now, a more sustainable and consistent relationship is starting to emerge. Is education your passion? Please join us.
- PRABOA needs to reinvigorate its communications programme. Are you prepared to take on a newsletter or website content? This is not a full time job, and it also pays nothing, but it would be of immense value to this community. Please join us.
- There are so many 'necessary' things we need to do, but there are also a number of qualitative interventions that could be made with the right (people) resources driving them. Upgrades to furniture and play equipment at Verity Park have been successful, but there is so much more we could do. Do you have ideas? Please join us.

In closing, I again thank the committee for their incredible contributions over the past year. It is all of you to whom the community of Parkhurst owes an immense debt of gratitude.

Cheryl Labuschagne
Chair: PRABOA