



Parkhurst Residents and Friends,

Good evening and thank you to all of you who have made the effort to attend this the 2025 PRABOA AGM, online or in person.

2025 has been another tough but also productive year in what seems to have become the frustrating holding pattern for our beloved suburb.

Notwithstanding the very recent flurry of service delivery on major routes in Johannesburg-no doubt linked to the G20, there still has been a marginal improvement in the responses from some city departments. This is due, in part, to our renewed strategy of near constant engagement with the likes of JRA, Johannesburg Water and City Power. With the sharing of real-time Google sheets detailing issues, addresses and reference numbers and then regular calls to follow these up- we have seen a slightly more responsive City this year. This is sadly in the face of continually shrinking budgets and a seeming merry-go-round of new appointees or acting appointees at the various departments.

As described at last year's AGM, reporting and escalation priority is being given to paying signed-up members of PRABOA and we are extremely grateful for the near 120 paying members that we have been able to garner since November 2024. This is still somewhat off our 2025 target but we believe that as the model proves its utility to residents, there will be an increased rate of sign-ups in 2026.

So we remain under no illusions that the intermediary role PRABOA is playing between dysfunctional City departments and beleaguered residents is increasingly important.

Our roads remain in generally poor repair though the resurfacing of 1st avenue west has been a huge relief to residents of Parkhurst and Parktown North alike. Sadly there are still major reinstatements outstanding across the suburb and we continue to engage with Joburg Water and the JRA in this regard... with very varied rates of success. Lights and electricity remain ancient and unreliable too.

The major win this year was the successful relaunch of the Parkhurst Village Fair. Though the weather was not entirely conducive, and a soggy summer appears on the cards, we still managed to get more than 2000 people to Verity Park for a day of fun and community. A number of valuable lessons were learned (and possibly re-learned from the previous last fair in 2016) and next year's event should see us really start to hit our stride and achieve the more ambitious fundraising goals we will be setting.



We hosted nearly 1400 children and parents at our ever-popular Parkhurst Trick or Treat and the 4th avenue traders committee hosted their best yet Wine Walk.

All of these events continue to underpin the popularity of Parkhurst with not just our own residents but also those surrounding the suburb.

The Parkhurst Bowling Club remains an issue insofar as the development of the site has yet to get underway but working with the city and the appointed developer, we have been able to keep the cleared areas under control whilst the old clubhouse itself remains partially occupied but mostly controlled. PRABOA, alongside a number of other RA's and stakeholders is also busy engaging with the developers to try and ensure that the eventual development of the site does not unduly impact traffic, the Spruit or the green nature of the area. We do anticipate that development is likely to start mid-2026.

We need better support and more widespread financial assistance from our community- all 2000 households and 200 plus businesses of them. The more that support us, the more we can do.

Operations

The launch of the PRABOA paid membership scheme has been satisfactory but we do need more growth in 2026. We have a number of ongoing discussions with traders o 4th and other stakeholder to see how we can improve the offering to our members.

On top of the new members scheme PRABOA has also launched its Preferred Estate Agents scheme which saw 6 initial agencies chosen to work with PRABOA to increase membership sign-ups from new tenants and residents as well as provide exclusive access to those agencies for marketing and branding opportunities at PRABOA events. This initiative has had mixed success in 2025 and we will be looking for much improvement in 2026.

We have re-designed our website and brand identity and changed bank accounts and QR codes to ensure better control of donations and funds incoming from our various events.

We are in the process of formally adopting Verity Park – which has taken far longer than we thought possible but it seems we are nearing the end of this journey. In the meantime we “manage” the park under an MOU with JCPZ.

PRABOA has also recently established the 5th avenue park care group with immediate surrounding neighbours and hope to expand this to the point it gets the same love and attention as Verity Park.

SafeParks



Whilst member numbers remain stable at roughly 25% suburb subscription rate and we are effectively at breakeven in terms of the costs of the scheme – we could be doing so much more with better support from our Suburb. Extra patrols, extra vehicles , more LPR cameras or reduced scheme costs are all benefits we would love to be able to explore with added support.

Ironically with our suburb now a relatively safer place than it was just a few years ago and the absence of some of the major incidents of the past- there is less impetus to get new members signed up!

We encourage everyone who can, to contribute to join up.

Parks & Environment

Pauline Bolton has done s sterling job handling this portfolio after Paul Booths exit but we need a more permanent solution as Pauline is our PRABOA admin guru as well as Village Fair project manager.

Bi- Weekly Clean ups in collaboration with Bubele Africa which focus on Verity Park, and its surrounds as a priority but do move around the neighbourhood to Hamilton Park, pavements surrounding Parkhurst Primary School, 6th Street bridge and 5th Avenue Park.

- A productive Service Level Agreement with The Jolly Dog Walker who have successfully helped us maintain Verity Park.
- Implementation of informational signage
- Ablution Block Clean – up in collaboration with Parkhurst Recreation Centre, The Jolly Dog Walker and Bubele Africa
- The clearing of the 10th Street Servitude following major storms.
- World Clean Up Day
- 4 x Parkhurst Park Clean Up Days focussing on: 12th Street Park and 5th Avenue Park in collaboration with Being a River
- Intentionally working with Grow Parkhurst to maintain compost and close the loop with organic waste from our clean ups
- The activation of Verity Park with community led events, activities and fundraisers such as workshops with The Nanny Link, The Parkhurst Village Fair, Mindful Movement and Pilates in the Park.



- Networking with Being a River, has resulted in a connection made via creative conversations and a new awareness about the Braamfontein Spruit.
- Networking with Jozi Trails who have shared knowledge about indigenous biodiversity and added a layer of awareness to our Clean – Up days.
- Networking with like – minded volunteers who have taken ownership of the clean -ups and green spaces on their doorstep. We thank those who have dedicated their time, money and energy to this cause!

Comings and Goings

We bid a sad but fond farewell to Pat Sullivan who is taking a well-earned break and Laura Strydom who will be moving across the spruit to Linden. Both have been very valuable to PRABOA's efforts and Laura a specific thanks as the town planning and PHRAG applications have kept you busy, I know.

We have welcomed Robin Harper and Daniel Steyn in the course of the year. Daniel will be taking up where Laura has left off and will be working with Nathaniel on the Town Planning and Heritage team. Robin at this stage is a jack of all trades but you may recognise him from the bar at the Village Fair as well as the man running the recording and online access for this meeting. I am hoping to convince him to step into the vacant environment seat but suspect that will mean we need to add more team members as its getting to be a large portfolio.

This is now my 4th AGM as chairperson of PRABOA and probably my 6th as chair of SafeParks and whilst I have no immediate plans of leaving the Association, the time for succession planning is probably at hand. There should be fairly regular infusions of new blood on the PRABOA committee as well as an opportunity for others on the committee to step up and lead with fresh ideas and vigour. I strongly encourage anyone from our community with an interest in maintaining our relative comfort and community, to join PRABOA immediately.

2026 Projects and Targets

As always - PRABOA Memberships growth- our aim was 175 members for 2025 and we look to be finishing at 120- so a shortfall but encouraging nonetheless. By this time next year we want at least 220 paying PRABOA members.

PRABOA



And extra monthly deployment of the Bubele Clean team or The Jozi Trails team (or both if we can get the support!)

Investigating the feasibility of sponsored litter traps on the spruit at the 12th Avenue Park SafeParks - growth of full member base and aiming to add alternative resources or shield members from an annual increase in 2026.

Planning Permissions – far stricter enforcement and objections where needed- this is starting to become a problem again after a few years of relative peace.

Parkhurst FAIR- We want a far more successful and expanded fair in Spring 2026... but we need volunteers now to begin the work so that its not quite as hectic for the committee closer to the time.

Open Streets – following a very successful few years of the open Streets concept in Cape Town, PRABOA is looking at emulating this great event here in Parkhurst in 2026.

Other Fundraising: Halloween, Fair etc. but we are open to ideas

Community led upgrades, supported by sponsors

All of this takes time, effort and increasingly, money. PRABOA has real operating expenses, from our suburb clean up team, accountants and web hosting to town planners, lawyers and auditors - all necessary to support our ongoing efforts. PRABOA's monthly operating costs are currently R17,000 a month whilst SafeParks is many multiples of that. PLEASE SUPPORT US (We are volunteer residents after all)

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