

# LIRA - LEISURE ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF THE DELAYED 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2021 VIA ZOOM LINK.

### 1. Present

Deputy Chair, Craig Carter, welcomed member participants to this Covid-delayed meeting, and the first attempt at a Zoom AGM. There were 39 participants and so with a quorum present, he declared the meeting duly constituted.

He emphasised that due to this Zoom forum, the meeting would focus on member's questions around the various portfolios – and would assume that all had read the details provided in the Chairman's 2020 report.

**Apologies noted from:** Penny McClure, Campbell & Ursula Blamey, the Bohlmann's, Jenny Shields.

### 2. Welcome

The Chair, Mary-Anne Beviss-Challinor, extended a warm welcome to all attendees to this unusual meeting format.

She noted two resignations from the Committee for personal reasons – Dennis Boyd and Kerry Evans – and thanked them for their input.

She reported the good news that after talks with KM and SANParks, the Steenbok Reserve agreement renewal was on track; that a ten-year extension had been granted and would be ratified by Council within 60 days.

Craig Carter then introduced the portfolio question sessions:

**3. Membership Portfolio:** Committee member Barbara Mills noted the membership percentage remained excellent at over 70%, but that Covid and lockdowns had created issues of affordability and payment commitment. There had been many house sales, and thus she was working on recruiting many new potential members.

There were no questions.

**Steenbok Reserve Portfolio:** Craig Carter noted all the year's happenings were in the report.

There were no questions.

**Security Portfolio:** Member Kenneth Maciver questioned whether there was adequate security on LI, as he felt there were increasing incident reports and thus an apparent escalation of crime.

Committee member Declan Nurse advised that Allsound currently provides enough security, but it will always be difficult for private security operation be fully effective in a public suburb.

He said as crime is likely to be a bigger problem in future, there were other options to consider and discuss with KM such as Special Rating Areas.

Committee member Mark Sofianos emphasised that security is LIRA's first consideration; that we are aware of increasing crime, and the increasing numbers of people visiting LI for all sorts of reasons.

There were no other questions.

**Ward 9 and Festive Season Preparation:** Chairman Mary-Anne Beviss-Challinor noted her disappointment that Dawie Adonis had resigned as Acting Municipal Manager as he offered excellent support and channels of communication, but that LIRA would never lessen its efforts to work with KM to provide proper services and infrastructure.

She noted that the political nature of Knysna would likely see high-rate suburbs, such as LI, getting little share of KM spend. She said the new Ward 9 councillor, Sharon Sabbagh, was a great help and a resolute worker and totally committed to doing her best for the ward.

She reported successful meetings and co-operation from the relevant KM depts in planning for the Festive Season, with a comprehensive document drawn up, and excellent plans in place. Alas, this became null and void with hard lockdown, but would be built upon for 2021.

Member, Alastair Gibb, asked if the Ward Councillor could give more briefings to residents on that state of play in the town and in KM.

The Chairman responded that Sharon has expressed willingness to attend meetings of any sort, large or small; to generously give of her time engaging with Ward residents. However, she noted the disappointing low turnout at an open meeting just held by Sharon at Kings Park, albeit in poor weather. LIRA and Sharon can set up such engagements, but it was up to residents to support these events, she stressed.

The Chairman here interjected to ask Comm member Brenda Neall to share an important aspect of Sharon's recent meeting, ie voter apathy for the upcoming local elections in November.

Brenda noted that we must be aware of that ten of eleven Council seats are won via proportional representation; that to win as many of these seats every vote counts.

There were no further questions.

#### **Maintenance & Infrastructure Portfolio**

Comm member, Mark Sofianos, urged all members and residents to act as a community; that everyone can contribute to make LI a more beautiful place.

There were no questions.

**Finance Portfolio:** Craig Carter welcomed Rob Hellings, co-opted to the Committee to handle this big portfolio, and ultimately become LIRA treasurer, and thanked him for taking it on.

There were no questions.

**Communications Portfolio:** Brenda Neall reported excellent response to the new LIRA Committee WhatsApp broadcast group; that this would be a very useful means of communication and would complement the social WhatsApp group.

She noted that LIRA email letters and notices are very well read but certainly not by everyone. People could not complain about 'being in the dark' if they don't tap into the various media that LIRA uses to keep members and residents informed.

**Environmental Matters Portfolio:** There is no Comm member attached to it, but Mark Sofianos reported that LIRA is well connected with SANParks' officials, that the latter has upped its game to challenge KM on its responsibilities; that the business community is

financing new channel markers. SANParks is doing its best, and LIRA will continue its support, he said.

There were no questions.

### **The LIRA Committee**

All Committee members nominated and voted at for at the 2019 AGM continued to serve through 2020 and into 2021, except for the two who had resigned, mentioned earlier.

### **Nominations for Committee 2021 were the following:**

Mary-Anne Beviss-Challinor

Craig Carter

Barbara Mills

Brenda Neall

Declan Nurse

Peter Surgey

Mark Sofianos

There were two new nominations: Dave Stromberg, nominated by Ingrid Meter; and Colin Dittmer, nominated by Craig Clarke.

Three members questioned the return of Dave Stromberg who had resigned at end of 2019, especially in the wake some contentious issues surrounding this.

Dave responded, saying he missed being on the Committee, enjoyed the involvement, and believed he had a contribution to make, especially in environmental and infrastructure aspects, and was happy to accept nomination.

Five members then endorsed Dave's nomination, as a person who had LI's best interests at heart and was an enthusiastic, skilled and committed person.

The Chairman commented that the Committee was always grateful for all help offered; that it was a diverse group with multiple skills and abilities, was prepared to engage in heated debate, but that all had the best interests of LI and the rate payers as priority. There was no self-interest on anyone's agenda.

Craig Carter called for votes in favour/against all nominees: there were no votes against.

### **General Matters**

The meeting was then opened for general questions.

Craig Clarke: Asked if any serious thought been given to Special Ratings Area?

Mark Sofianos responded that SRAs are now KM policy, that LIRA is taking legal advice on their operation, successes and challenges, and believes LI is a perfect candidate for an SRA. If agreed by a majority of ratepayers, it would be a compulsory contribution, unlike LIRA where only ±70% voluntary contribute.

Alastair Gibb: Questioned KM's efficacy and reliability in paying over SRA revenue?

Mark responded that we didn't believe this would be a likelihood, but it was a consideration.

Member Bruce Wilson thanked Craig for handling a tricky, novel AGM, and expressed appreciation for the dedicated work undertaken by the LIRA Committee.

There were no further questions or comments.

Craig Carter then thanked member Peter Dieterich for his ongoing assistance in keeping the LIRA database up to date.

**Ratifying other agenda items:**

Craig asked the meeting to confirm the other agenda items ie the previous AGM minutes, the 2021 levy, and 2020 financial statements, all distributed with the AGM meeting notices.

**2010 AGM Minutes:** No comments and accepted

**Financial Statements:** No comments and accepted

**Levy for 2021 – remains as per 2020:** No comments and accepted.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked people for their support, for attending the AGM from far and wide, and assured all that LIRA will continue to do its best in serving members' and LI's interests.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Confirmed as correct at the LIRA AGM 2021 held on 6 January 2022:

*Mary-Anne Beviss-Challinor*

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**Mary-Anne Beviss-Challinor - Chairman**