

***FRIENDS OF PILANESBERG SOCIETY***

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 15 October 2022 commencing at 10h00 and held at Robin Hills Scout Hall, Oorbietjie Street, Robin Hills, Randburg.

1. PRESENT

32 members present, including committee.

2. APOLOGIES

Morag Glunz

Stephen Sweetman

Ruth De Villiers

Alan Samuels

Fern van Der Pol

Rosemary Wildsmith

Keith Young

Robbie Young

Bruce Allen

Samantha & Roy Limbeek

Wim van Schie

Bill & Lucy Beer

David Smith

3. NOTICE OF THE MEETING

The notice of the meeting having been given in the prescribed manner and there being a quorum present, the meeting was declared duly constituted.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the previous AGM, held on 23 October 2021 were confirmed as a correct representation of the proceedings. A motion to confirm the minutes was proposed by Carol Ferguson and seconded by Johan Kleynhans.

5. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Warren Best tabled chairman’s report.

* Despite the difficult year economically, attendance at work parties is good, membership is steady and growing which speaks to the dedication of our members and perhaps the therapeutic role a weekend in the bush has. Thanks to each and every member for their commitment, dedication and time given to FOPS and the NWP.
* We are all aware of the constraints and challenges faced by the Pilanesberg for services and maintenance. Due to this this year the Pilanesberg Revival group was formed; this consists of Parks Board members, the PWT, Makanyanes, Wilderness Leadership, Black Rhino Lodges, guides, and FOPS. The idea is to have a more coordinated effort in addressing critical issues raised. Communication has improved and our efforts are often decided on the requirements of the group, the most visible being the pothole filling. The park has also secured sponsorship of 2 graders so there will hopefully be an improvement to the dirt roads.
* As the number of work party attendees grows, so does the need for suitably qualified firearm ~~are~~ bearers. Thanks to Roland, Lampies, Paddy & Bruce our stalwarts, as well as our newest recruit Johan Kleynhans.
* Thanks to our members who go the extra mile above and beyond normal WP weekends. Nigel for the prep work on the bridge, Willie for doing tent work, Ken for looking after our equipment and many more.
* I am sure that you are aware of many snake sightings in camp, please be vigilant and do not try move a snake if you have not had the training and can do it safely. We will be placing suitable equipment in camp.
* There have been instances where activities or projects are discussed or arranged directly with parks board staff, please remember that such discussions need to go via the committee, we cannot have commitments of which we are unaware.
* The park has a new manager and some of the people we have built relationships with over the past have moved on. We need to establish new relationships and build trust.
* Fire season is in full swing, if FOPS are involved in fire-fighting efforts safety remains priority no. 1. Special thanks to Steve Dell for fighting off a fire that came very close to destroying Bathlako
* A lot of work has been done over the past year and the list of projects going forward will keep us going for a while. Thanks to Paddy and Roland for the planning and organizing of our projects as well as the various team leaders.
* Social media has played a big role in increasing the visibility and recognition FOPS receives both from the public and Parks Board. Thanks to Debbi for managing this and we all look forward to the picture fix after a WP weekend. This can be a double-edged sword and we encourage all members to be aware that we are recognized as FOPS, good and bad behavior will be highlighted, lets continue to set a good example.
* Thanks to Lauren for Sediba and the secretarial assistance.
* Well done to Lexie Bray for completing the Camino and for flagging FOPS in the social media posts with her hat that was in every post.
* As always thanks to the committee for all the hard work. This is the most dedicated and committed group I have seen and the time and effort put in behind the scenes if incredible.
* Thanks to all for your ongoing support and dedication to FOPS and the Pilanesberg.

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6. TREASURER’S REPORT

* Lampies Lamprecht tabled the finance report. There were no questions. An audit was conducted by Lloyd Viljoen and Associates
* Lloyd Viljoen and Associates were officially thanked for once again providing their services, almost paperless, and free of charge to FOPS
* Lloyd Viljoen and Associates were adopted unanimously as auditors for the coming year.
* Membership income decreased by about R 5 000 this year.
* Tent income increased dramatically by around R 23 000.
* We received about R 8 000 in donations.
* Camp costs were around R 28 959, which included general and tent maintenance.
* Function expenses of R 20 000 include those spent on Christmas and the AGM
* Income less expenses = approximately -R1,500
* Total assets: R 410 565

7. WORK PARTIES: PILANESBERG

* Paddy Coombe – Heath presented.
* Average attendance was 38 people.
* There were 9 new members at work parties this year.
* Lenong was a big project and special thanks to Randpark High School 1st Team Rugby for their assistance
* Direction cairns were all done and Trevor removed a hive from one. Ken and Pieter did a full repair on one.
* G-Sites was a special Lampies Project – all have been cleaned up.
* Bathlako – repairs are ongoing, up to standard now.
* Potholes are an ongoing project.
* Iron Age Site – sickle bush clearing ongoing, external fencing cleared, electric fence fixed.
* The rest of the year was dedicated to general maintenance.
* We are making a difference and are being recognized by Parks Board and the general public
* Thanks to all!

8. SPECIAL PROJECTS/ FUNDRAISING/ PUBLIC RELATIONS

* Roland presented on current and upcoming projects.
* The Selly Park School is making a noticeable contribution to the Iron Age Site under Trevor’s guidance. A huge thank you to them.
* Capital Projects
  + Malatse Bridge – High water prevented the start of this project. However, we have the material and Nigel Adcock is doing a large amount of off-site work on this.
  + Ruighoek and Rathlogo are still in need of attention- We will wait for water levels to subside.
* Thanks to all who have contributed. Looking forward to big projects in the new year.

9. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

* Address Clarification

10. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS & SECONDS FOR COMMITTEE POSITIONS

* Secretary – Kerry-Anne stepping down. Thanks for all the work done over the years. Lauren happy to take over. No opposition
* Treasurer – Lampies
* Work Party Leader – Paddy
* Fund Raising – Roland
* Social media – Debbi Adcock
* Chairperson – Warren

There was no opposition or alternative elections.

11. WEBSITE

* Debbi presented the plans for the new website
* We will now have control of all updates
* New Features – dedicated pages for the Iron Age Site and the G-sites.
* Blog Page for Work Parties and anyone who would like to do a feature
* Potential new social media pages – LinkedIn and You Tube
* Facebook – in 2019 we had 523 followers – now at 2000 and increasing

12. GENERAL

* Snake expert to come and do a feature on snakes – Corrie mentioned that his son in law, Andre may be able to assist
* Look at getting snake kits on hand
* Potential training to regular members on Snake Handling
* Mention of Mark Hosken in Hospital and wished him a speedy recovery

Certified a correct record of the proceedings:

CHAIRMAN DATE