Hamerkop Mountain Trust Annual General Meeting 2022

Held on Thursday 13 October 2021 at 7.30 pm
by virtual Zoom Meeting

1. **Welcome** – Gary welcomed all present.
2. **Attendance and apologies:**
   Present: Gary Cundill, Magdeleen Enslin, Margie Owen-Smith, Steve and Karin Spottiswoode, Jarrod Ball, Judith and Oliver Oppler, Roy Kendall, Alan Irvin (initially), Mark Epstein, Oliver Barker, Serv Venter, Paul Rainier-Pope, Justine Limpitlaw, Jane Luck, Peter Irvin (initially), Duncan Barker, Annabe Pretorius, Humphrey Farrer
   Apologies: Claudine Bennetts, Ray & Jen Basson, Lawrence Mallen, Kirsten Venter, Eppie Epstein, Merv & Jean Prior, Jill Rainier-Pope
3. **Confirmation of minutes of 2021 meeting**
   Minutes had been circulated within 10 days of the 2021 AGM and re-circulated with documents for the present meeting and were therefore taken as read. Minutes acceptance: Proposed by Oliver Barker and seconded by Serv Venter.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes**
   Point 11 – Annexe bathroom/shower and en-suite suggestions: A shower head has been installed in the bath of the annexe bathroom. A shower curtain still needs to be fitted and a non-slip bathmat purchased. **Claudine and Judith** to follow up.
5. **Maintenance report**
   Serv presented the Maintenance report:
   Fire-breaks: As usual our north-eastern boundary bordering the Cilliers' property was cleared right up to the tar road. Our northern and western boundaries were left uncut in line with discussions with adjacent property owners. **Tree clearing:** Some trees were removed around the house, annex, staff quarters and access road either for safety reasons or to allow better access for large vehicles (e.g. the septic-tank truck). **Plumbing:** The septic tanks were again cleaned out and repaired. The house/annexe tanks should now be good for a couple of years. Various other plumbing maintenance tasks were also completed. **Buildings:** Huge improvements were made to the staff quarters to make it a better living space. A new ceiling was put in and the place was painted. **Electrical:** The electrical supply to the annexe was improved with more circuit breakers and earth leakage. The house electricals were also given a check over.
   Serv especially thanked Andre Toich for all his efforts, but also everybody else who chipped in to help over the year. He made a plea to all beneficiaries to help with on-hand maintenance when at Hamerkop and mentioned that the hardware shop at Karani's is excellently stocked. The need to replace the combination lock at the gate was raised. Serv was thanked for all his work.

6. Annual Report by Convenor of Trustees

Herewith Gary's Convenor's report:

"It's been a year, almost to the day, since our last AGM, a year in which I have again served as convenor of the Trustees of the Hamerkop Mountain Trust. It's the last year, however, that I'll be in the role, as Sandy and I are no longer beneficiaries of the Trust, and as you know I have tendered my resignation as a trustee, effective as of tomorrow morning.

Now is not the time to give a blow-by-blow account of what has transpired during the past year - much of that you will already be aware of from reading the excellent newsletters put out by Karin, for which I thank her. Some pertinent points are worth noting, however:

- Very substantial work, as mentioned in Serv's report, has been carried out on the property buildings. My thanks to Serv for his sterling efforts in this regard, as well as sincere appreciation for all that Andre Toich has contributed in the past year, together at times with William Tyson.
- As well as handling our usual fire-management measures, our new fire-management team of Roy, Serv, Steve and Margie have worked on improving our monitoring of fuel-load across the property, ensuring the maintenance of our fire-protection zone around the house and communicating to our employees, beneficiaries and neighbours the action to be taken in case of wildfire.
- Legal issues have been communicated to beneficiaries during the year, under the indefatigable driving of Margie.
- We are fortunate to still have the presence of Pretty and Aleck on site, despite the usual ZEP-related issues playing out in the country.

It's my pleasure to be able to thank the members of the NMC for their interest and efforts over the past year. Some I have already referred to, but I've enjoyed Kirsten's inputs to our meetings during the year; Mark has ably picked up the secretarial role, and continues to work with Judith on the important occupancy scheme; Peter's in the financial seat, and Steve with Karin's help has continued the immigration battle; it's great to have Roy representing the MCSA on the Trust, and Claudine's input on household matters is valued; and Magdeleen's efficiency and effectiveness has again made my convenor duties very much easier than they would have been otherwise.

This brings my direct involvement with the Hamerkop property to a close. As best as I can recall, the first time I visited was in 1994, as a guest of the lady who would become my wife. After we were married her parents, Peter and Edna Scott, transferred the ownership of their week to us. Our two girls holidayed there every year with us, sometimes using it as a base to explore other parts of the Magaliesberg that they so enjoyed wild camping in.

Over the past quarter of a century and more I've enjoyed getting to know many members of the Hamerkop community, whether socially on site or through their involvement in structures such as the Management Committee on which I have served. Some, such as Sinclair, are no longer with us. Many others, happily, are. There are many great memories: sipping Richard Asman's excellent wine at Jane Luck's house as we churn through a Mancomm agenda; a hilarious 'meet-the-neighbours' braai sabotaged by a downpour that blocked some of the roads leading to the property; Eppie's wise words and deep concern for Hamerkop (and Margie Epstein sharing her wine with my six-year old daughter . . . she's a nurse, I think, so I'm sure that was fine!); arguing with Margie (often fun, except when she's right . . .) - I could go on for a long time, but I'll save the rest for when we meet up around a campfire in the hills. Which I hope we will."

7. **Reviewed Financial Statements 1922**

   Financial Statements and Budget were pre-circulated with AGM documentation. New treasurer Peter Irvin was not present at the meeting due to loadshedding. Andre Dalais, our previous treasurer, was thanked for supporting Peter with the handover. Questions were invited and some clarification sought regarding maintenance expenses that seemed low against what was spent. It was explained that some expenses were carried over beyond the end of the 2022 financial year (e.g. the work on the staff quarters) and were capitalized into the new financial year.

8. **Adoption of financial statements**

   Reports and financial statements were proposed by Mark Epstein and seconded by Roy Kendall.

9. **Voting on proposed 2023 budget and levy**

   An increase of 3% in the levy was proposed and discussed, taking it to R4 050 per week, (discounted to R3850 for early payment). It was unanimously agreed after a discussion around concerns that it might be too tight. It was pointed out that increases in our two major expense items - staff and electricity - had been allowed for and that our reserves were sufficient to cover most other unexpected increases in the short term. An invitation was extended to Paul Rainier-Pope to contribute to the pre-budget discussions for the next financial year. Proposal for acceptance by Serv Venter and seconded by Magdeleen Enslin.

10. **New Trustee**

    The result of the invitation to beneficiaries to nominate and then elect a new Trustee to replace Gary, was the re-appointment of Jarrod Ball who previously served us as a Trustee for 10 years (resigning in 2012 when he relocated to the Cape). Before that he served as chairman of our management committee for a number of years. Margie

congratulated Jarrod on his election and thanked him for agreeing to serve again. Jarrod thanked the beneficiaries for their faith in him.

11. Closure

Margie thanked Gary on behalf of everyone for his service and dedication to Hamerkop. Gary thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was officially closed at 20h24.