



Klipriviersberg Sustainability Association

KLIPSA (KLIPRIVIERSBERG SUSTAINABILITY ASSOCIATION)

SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 06 AUGUST 2015

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2014/2015

INTRODUCTION

It gives me great pleasure to present the Chairman's Report for the period of 2014 to 2015 at the Sixth Annual General Meeting of KlipSA (Klipriviersberg Sustainability Association). It should be noted that this report includes progress and achievements through to the date of the AGM to provide the latest and most up-to-date information to members.

As with previous years, we are happy to share with you that the recognition of the importance of the Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve and the value of the biodiversity in the southern areas of Johannesburg continues to gain greater attention and interest. However, while the process continues slowly and is frustrating on a number of fronts the progress has been positive as we continue to receive affirmations and recognition of what KlipSA is endeavouring to achieve.

OVER VIEW OF THE PAST YEAR

The Executive Committee members have worked hard through the year and despite the limited resources have been able to focus on a number of key projects and initiatives. It is unfortunate that we have limited resources as there are so many other opportunities which could be of value and benefit to what we are trying to achieve.

The primary focus has continued to be the development and promotion of Klipriviersberg Economic and Ecosystem Development Zone (KEEDZ) to guide and realise appropriate economic and social development to protect, promote and enhance the value of the natural biodiversity and resources. The Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve, the "Jewel of the South", is the prime focus of all the initiatives that have been developed for the surrounding areas.

Interaction with local, provincial and national authorities and agencies, business representatives, community organisations and residents has continued through the year. This has led to strengthening the support for what we are trying to achieve through this proactive approach to attracting the appropriate sustainable development.

Despite the positive feedback that we receive from politicians and officials in the authorities, we continue to be frustrated by the lack of delivery and action with many months passing before we see tangible progress being made. However, KlipSA will continue to work closely with the authorities and their agencies as they are fundamental to the partnership and creating an enabling environment for the delivery of the projects and initiatives needed to address basic economic and social needs relating to food security, poverty and unemployment in the southern areas of Johannesburg.

We have received increased interest and support from the business sector with a growing interest for participation and involvement. As a result the Executive Committee has been working towards securing funding and resources to be able to implement the projects and initiatives. The growth in business recognising the importance of environmental, economic and social sustainability should see greater investment and participation by business in the KlipSA projects and initiatives.

The Executive Committee is undertaking an analysis of the top 100 companies in the Johannesburg Stock Exchange to identify those companies which could be approached to assist with resources. The Executive Committee would be very happy to incorporate any business investment, donation and participation into the Association's activities and operations wherever possible with a view to ensuring appropriate and sustainable triple bottom line returns from corporate social, economic and entrepreneurial development and investment.

In essence, the Executive Committee believes that the developmental philosophy and approach for the southern areas of Johannesburg should be driven by business in close collaboration with the authorities for the benefit of the communities in the area.

The local communities and residents in the area continue to approach KlipSA to address a variety of environmental issues and concerns. Where possible we provide support and guidance to address the issues that have been raised. If we are not able to assist we provide suggestions as to who may be able to assist.

KlipSA will continue to be a catalyst for effective and productive collaboration between the community, business and authority stakeholders with the focus on realising sustainable social and economic development led by environmental and biodiversity value adding opportunities.

PORTFOLIOS AND ACTIVITIES

While the resources of the Executive Committee have been limited, we have been ably assisted by representatives from local business and community members. We wish to place on record our appreciation for the time, energy and sponsorship that people have invested in the projects and initiatives and assistance in the various portfolios and activities through the year.

The main portfolios and activities:

- **Sustainable Business**

The strategic partnership with SOJO Business and Tourism continues to grow and develop with SOJO focusing on ensuring an appropriate environment for "business to do business" while KlipSA focuses on the sustainability dimension of business and its environment.

The Executive Committee would like to recognise and thank the SOJO executives and directors, chaired by Richard Bennet of iProp, for their continued support and interest in KlipSA and its activities. We would also like to acknowledge ongoing energy and effort of SOJO CEO Nicky Vakaloudis and her assistants Nicole Rodway and Jeannine du Toit.

The key projects which have been developed and initiated in partnership with SOJO include:

- Formulation of the "Klipriviersberg Agritropolis"

Through the year the two organisations have continued to work together to promote economic growth and development in the southern areas of Johannesburg.

The primary focus has been to grow and develop the ideas for the establishment of future natural and organic based agricultural activities. This would aim to serve the needs of local communities by providing business opportunities for small, medium and large corporate entities.

This has been the basis for the formulation of the "Klipriviersberg Agritropolis" where agriculture will be the core economic activity with its associated value chain providing opportunities for local economic growth and development to surrounding communities. The prime focus is to address food security, unemployment, poverty and inequality by providing economic opportunities close to where people are living.

Associated with this developmental approach is also the promotion and support for the planning and development of associated industries and services and to invest in infrastructure to attract labour oriented industrial and commercial development servicing the agricultural and tourism activities. This would include related agricultural goods and services, agro-processing and packaging, logistics for transportation, storage and warehousing.

The promotion of the concepts and ideas has continued with presentations and discussions with representatives from business, authorities and communities.

In addition, investigations and discussions are being undertaken regarding possible funding and investment and the development of smart technology which will form a foundation for communication and operational linkages between the growers, logistics and pack house and the consumers. Testing of the use of the smart technology is being initiated.

KlipSA is promoting an initiative of the Jacksons Drift Khoisan Development Association to establish a Khoisan cultural centre and agricultural project on land owned by the City of Johannesburg as a prototype of the agricultural model being developed.

- Tourism promotion

In line with the recognition of the tourism opportunities in the region, KlipSA has incorporated and integrated the tourism value chain as an important component of the "Klipriviersberg Agritropolis". Opportunities exist to develop responsible tourism and hospitality products and services through agritourism and ecotourism.

KlipSA continues to support SOJO in promoting economic and social development through the advancement of the existing hospitality, tourism, conferencing, sports and recreation opportunities. Partnerships continue to be established with national, provincial and local tourism agencies to develop projects and initiatives for the area based on the environmental and biodiversity opportunities.

An important opportunity is the N12 Treasure Route which is promoting the N12 as a destination from Middleburg through Johannesburg and Kimberley down to George. The KlipSA/SOJO area is seen as a key hub in Gauteng for this initiative.

- Green Business Platform

In a partnership with SOJO, Thaba Eco-Hotel and Water Wise of Rand Water the Green Business Platform has continued successfully through the year.

The range of topics has been focused on improving the profitability of business by addressing sustainability initiatives relating to energy, water and waste management, strategy, responsible tourism, social investment and human resource management.

The breakfast events are held the first Friday of the month and are hosted by Thaba Eco-Hotel. KlipSA is very grateful for their support and sponsorship in hosting these events and also notes its appreciation to the other partners for their role in the promotion and development of these events.

The number of attendees has improved as a result of efforts being made in promotion and distribution of invitations using electronic and social media. Details of the events and copies of presentations are available on the KlipSA website.

- Urban management

The establishment of the Regional Interface for focused and effective delivery of services and facilities in all parts of Joburg's Region F outside the Inner City has unfortunately still not progressed any further. Despite efforts that KlipSA and SOJO have been making, the Joburg Council representatives have not responded.

This is a major concern as urban management issues relating to illegal occupation of buildings, dumping, waste disposal and management, management and maintenance of the urban environment are ongoing problems which are impacting on the business, urban and natural environments.

Our submission to the City of Johannesburg 2015/16 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Review proposed the establishment of regional development forums. The submission was acknowledged in the final approved IDP and is currently being considered for implementation through our participation in the Johannesburg Business Forum.

It is hoped that the Regional Interface, through a regional development forum, will be able to address current problems regarding urban management and service delivery and address developmental priorities and needs.

- University of the Witwatersrand Rosettenville Embedded Urban Design Project

The partnership established with the School of Architecture and Planning of the University of the Witwatersrand to embed students in a city studio has continued with the students undertaking research and design projects through the year. The final research and reports are being prepared this year as part of the closure of this project.

The outcomes of the research and design projects will continue to be fed into the Turffontein Strategic Area Framework, which is one of the Joburg Corridors of Freedom, and the key projects that have been initiated for the Wemmer Pan Precinct and the Rotunda Park/De Villiers Street urban development frameworks.

- **Sustainable Urban Living**

I would like to thank the Sustainable Urban Living Team, under the leadership of Samantha Derham, who arranged for monthly talks relating to sustainability in the home through to the October 2014. The talks that were held were well attended and a number of interesting topics were covered.

Unfortunately Samantha moved on to other interests and no further talks have been held. Efforts are currently being made to resuscitate the Team to provide information for homeowners regarding sustainable living.

- **Sustainable Urban Development**

The Sustainable Urban Development Team, chaired by myself, has met on a monthly basis through the year at Thaba Eco-Hotel. The Team is working proactively to support appropriate economic and social development which will protect promote and enhance the natural assets and biodiversity value of the area. I would like to thank all the members of the Team who have regularly attended meetings and who have participated and contributed to the discussion and work that the Team has undertaken.

The focus of the work of the Team includes the following:

- Urban Development

The Team has continued to make submissions and participate in stakeholder discussions and meetings with iProp and SOJO on developmental strategies and policies for local municipalities and provincial authorities. This has included municipal integrated development plans, land-use and urban development, economic and spatial strategies, policies and frameworks.

The focus of the submissions and discussions has been to promote KEEDZ and the "Klipriviersberg Agritropolis" and the related projects and initiatives.

The Team has continued to review and comment on town planning and environmental authorisation applications. Discussions have also taken place with developers and professional teams to minimise impacts and find suitable mitigating measures for proposed developments. Residential, retail, mixed-use and other town planning, infrastructure and environmental applications have been reviewed and suitable comments and submissions have been made. The Team continues to encourage developers to adopt and participate in the Biodiversity Stewardship programme where possible.

Generally the inputs and comments from KlipSA have aimed to add value to the future development of the area and have been acknowledged, positively received and accommodated wherever possible.

To support the development approach being proposed the Team is eager to secure additional resources to expand its professional services and support base to prepare environmental, spatial and economic development frameworks and policies for the area and to provide additional professional services and support for developers and investors.

- Biodiversity Management

KlipSA's key focus continues to ensure the integrity of the Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve (KNRA) and the surrounding Klipriviersberg ridges and areas with their wide range of fauna and flora with a rich and valuable biodiversity and several "red data" species. In addition, the Klip River and its wetlands and the unique grasslands and open areas are of critical importance and value to the biodiversity richness.

We continue to recognise and acknowledge the achievements and growth in the activities, interest and visitors to the Reserve realised by the Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve Association (KNRA) under the leadership of its Chairman Morné Brits.

In the last month discussions have been held with Johannesburg City Parks & Zoo to promote improved participation and engagement with KNR stakeholders. The result has been the establishment of the KNR Forum which will address issues relating to the operations and management of the KNR, immediate surrounding and adjacent properties and longer term strategies and policies for the Reserve and surrounding areas.

Projects and initiatives regarding biodiversity and environmental management include:

- KUBiC - Kliprivier Urban Biodiversity Corridor

KUBiC was launched on 31 October 2012 as a "greenway" along 12 km of the Kliprivier Drive by designing, planting, managing and maintaining a biodiversity corridor of appropriate species of vegetation. In addition, the integration of public and non-motorised transport services and facilities will add further value for the many users.

SOJO organised a very successful event in November 2014 in conjunction with various departments and agencies of the City of Johannesburg to undertake a major clean-up of a portion of Kliprivier Drive.

A further event is currently being planned for September 2015 which will address illegal dumping and promote improved management of a selected area. It will include cleaning and repainting of boundary walls with suitable murals and involve local schools.

A management framework is being developed to coordinate the many public, private and community stakeholders in the development, management and maintenance of the corridor.

- Klip River Wetland Integrated Management Plan

A management plan is being prepared to address the water quality and quantity in the Klip River and the associated wetland areas. Following initial

workshops a project plan and proposal detailing issues, ideas and opportunities for further investigation and research has been prepared. During the year the team leader Vanessa Vermaak moved onto other interests and we thank her for her assistance and support in the initiation of the project. A new team leader is currently being sought.

A partnership is being established with the University of the Witwatersrand to undertake academic research. A project plan and framework proposal is being used to secure resources and financial support for the project.

- Klipriviersberg Sustainable Education Centre (KlipSEC)

The project for the design and establishment of the Klipriviersberg Sustainable Education Centre (KlipSEC) has expanded to include an environmental education facility, a tourism information centre linked to the N12 Treasure Route, a social and community services facility and church and mixed sports and recreation facilities.

The project team headed by George Flack-Davison is preparing a project proposal which is being used to attract resources and investment and the intended centre will be an attractive opportunity for financial support and sponsorship.

- Wetland and catchment forums

KlipSA representatives have attended the regular meetings of the Gauteng Wetland Forum and Klip River Catchment Forum at which issues relating to the administration, management and protection of these vital resources is discussed by representatives of national, provincial and local authorities and agencies, business and community organisations.

- **Administration and Finance**

KlipSA is still searching for a suitable person to assist with the secretarial and administration activities of the Executive Committee. Anyone wishing to volunteer their services will be most welcome to join us.

The Executive Committee members elected last year included Andrew Barker as Chairman, Nicky Vakaloudis as Vice-Chairman, Sandra Andrew who has looked after the finances, Morné Brits and Reuben Louw who was on sabbatical leave and was represented Malcolm Vermeulen. Trevor Pettit resigned from the Executive Committee in November 2014 and Frank Diener was co-opted as a member in January 2015.

The number of members of the Association on our database has been reduced through careful review and management and now totals 287. Increasing the number of members requires greater attention as and when resources become available.

The establishment of a regular income and revenue stream and resources for KlipSA continues to be a priority. While donations and sponsorships will always be welcome it is the intention of the Executive Committee to ensure that projects and initiatives become self-funding.

The Association has maintained its registration as a Non-Profit Organisation. However, the application to be registered as a Public Benefit Organisation has been put on hold.

The establishment of the Advisory Board and the strategic relationship with the University of Johannesburg continues to be on hold until additional resources become available.

KlipSA continues to promote the use of a "network of networks" to work with other organisations to be able to share resources and information through their respective databases of members and interested people.

APPRECIATION

As the Chairman of KlipSA, I would like to note my appreciation and gratitude to all the members of the teams and committees and acknowledge their contribution to what has been achieved through this year. In particular, the members of the Executive Committee who have willingly contributed their time on a regular basis to provide their support, knowledge and expertise towards what has been accomplished this year.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to members of the community who continue to support KlipSA and show an interest in the projects and initiatives through their participation in the various teams and committees, attendance at events and interaction in correspondence and through social media.

We also receive tremendous support and exposure through the local press and would like to record our appreciation to the management and staff of *tameTimes* and *Caxton's Comaro Chronicle*, *Southern Courier* and *Alberton Record*. In addition, Karyn Richards, the editor of *Landscape SA*, is writing a series of articles on our initiatives and projects. Copies of the articles are available on the web site.

We are also very grateful to the venues and facilities who regularly host our meetings and events including *Thaba Eco-Hotel* and *Joburg City Parks and Zoo* for the *KNR Entrance Precinct*.

THE YEAR AHEAD

As a voluntary Association, KlipSA is totally dependent on the willingness of people with an interest in and passion for the area and its unique and special qualities to give of their time, energy, expertise and wisdom. We have a few but growing in number of loyal volunteers that participate actively in KlipSA and its activities at the moment. However they are under tremendous strain to be able to respond to everything that needs to be done and to the demands being placed on the Association.

KlipSA has established itself as a credible organisation which is being approached to contribute and become involved in a number of economic, social and environmental initiatives, developments and processes. Unfortunately we do not have the people and resources to respond and participate in all of these and will need to keep focused on the identified priority areas and build on the portfolios and activities noted above.

With additional volunteers, resources and sponsorship KlipSA has the potential to become a meaningful player and catalytic agent in realising sustainable economic and social development for the long-term future growth and development of Johannesburg and surrounding municipal areas. This growth and development will protect promote and enhance the natural assets and biodiversity

value of the area. Until such time, the existing volunteers involved in KlipSA will continue to participate to the best of their ability.

It is also the intention that the promotion of the "Klipriviersberg Agritropolis" initiative to the business and corporate sector will also realise funding and resources which will assist in the greater development of the Association and its work in the region.

What we have in the southern areas of Johannesburg continues to be acknowledged and recognised as being absolutely special and unique. It is for this reason that we all need to become more knowledgeable and understanding of our environment and its sensitivities and to be able to look after and enhance what we treasure.

KlipSA looks forward to your participation and working with everyone towards realising **SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH COLLABORATION.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Barker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Andrew Barker
Chairman
Thursday 6 August 2015