

**REPORT of the GENERAL MEETING**  
**of the PINELANDS RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**held at PINELANDS LIBRARY on WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2015**

**1. GUEST SPEAKER:**  
**Sheryl Ozinsky from the Oranjezicht City Urban Farm**



A positive response to an attack in her home in Oranjezicht has been the springboard to many community building projects in Oranjezicht. Residents got to know their local policemen, formed a Neighbourhood Watch, helped patrol and cleaned the SAPS station. Residents were questioned as to what they wanted for their neighbourhood. They cleaned up and took back their public open spaces, hosted events and got the community back into the parks.

Historically, one of these parks, Homestead Park, was on the site of the original Oranjezicht farm owned by the Van Breda's. It was called Oranjezicht as it had a view of the Orange bastion of the Castle. The Field of Springs – 35 springs from the mountain - is below the current OZCF.

The farm was sold to developers in 1901. In 1955 the Van Breda homestead was demolished to build a bowling green. Over 50 years later when these bowling greens lay unused and neglected the community stepped in to cut the grass. The idea came to return the green back to its original use as a farm. A team was formed. Ariel photos from 1926 showed the layout of the farm and this together with elements from other Dutch gardens gave the concept of the layout of the OZCF. Plans were taken to the City. Models of the proposed farm were built to show the community. Facebook was used, volunteers were canvassed, other gardens such as Babylon's Toring were visited. Workers were co-opted from Straatwerk. After a few months of paperwork, they got the "go" from Heritage Western Cape and entered into a memorandum of agreement with City Parks.

Madame Zingara gave them a R100 000 donation. Straatwerk workers began to remove the grass and the dead soil. After a R20 000 expense for the first few weeks, a local Civil Engineer came to their help with staff and equipment and helped clear the rest of the site and dug the pond. Reliance compost donated them vast quantities of compost. Volunteers came. They developed Bokashi buckets for locals to bring their kitchen waste to help improve the soil. As people came, relationships developed. The team were educated about permaculture. An educational component was developed with schools visiting the farm.

Benches were designed and made and people gave donations to put plaques on them to commemorate friends and family. An earthworm farm was started to improve the health of the soil to produce healthy plants.

The garden needed to become self-sustaining. They began a Saturday market to sell their organic produce each. They included kids markets. The market initially was held from Homestead Park adjacent to the garden. Currently they sell from Leeuwenhof. On the first Wednesday of every month people can pick their own harvest at OZCF.

They networked. They worked with restaurants. They started working with micro farmers in the Phillipi area such as Skye Fehlmann and this helps to guarantee him sales. They connected with Abalimbi Harvest of Hope. They worked with developers to “bank land” for agriculture. They developed a Food Dialogue programme and published a Food Dialogue Report that is available. They have plans and a vision for more such as to work with farmers to grow organically, mentor, find markets, create pop up markets, have a 6 days a week trading, develop an on line portal for organic produce and form a Pty Ltd!

“We pay the doctor to make us better but we should be paying the farmer to make us healthy”

## 2. COUNCILLOR’S REPORT :

1. The “*Take back the Canal Walk*” on 7 March that was organised by Pinelands Neighbourhood Watch was a great success
2. The *Garden of Remembrance*: Funding wasn’t sufficient to maintain it but this has been sorted out and it will receive more attention
3. *Pinelands Street Camera Project*: Peter to give feedback
4. *Protea Close*: Residents have raised objection to a school that is interested in buying the land owned by Garden Cities. A meeting will be held tomorrow evening at the Congregational Church.
5. A reminder that *water restrictions* are still in place e.g. no watering between 10am and 4pm; handheld hoses used for watering must be fitted with an automatic self-closing device; water may not be used for washing down hard surfaced or paved areas
6. *Oude Molen*: development will take place. There are ongoing discussions with TRUP
7. *Athlone Power Station*: there is a Proposal call by June.2015
8. *Pinelands Urban Garden*. The City will develop the old Howard Bowling Club and greens into a training facility for its Sport and Recreation staff. As the future of after- hours use at the Pinelands Library is in question, the City has agreed to allow limited use for the community. They have agreed to allocate one green for an urban garden. A steering committee has been formed to form an organisation to deal with the Council and to develop a business plan
9. The *Library closing times* have reverted back to the original times

## 3. PINELANDS STREET CAMERA PROJECT: Feedback by Peter Anders

We have purchased 70% off the hardware and materials that are required to begin the installation. We are busy finalising the costing for the Old Mutual corridor (Sunrise Circle, Jan Smuts Drive and Forest Drive Extension). We are waiting for the Section 21 Company registration (This has subsequently come through and our registration number is NPC 2015/091736/08). There has been a good response from all the schools in the area with regards to donations. Contact has also been made with all the medical practitioners, preschools and B&B owners with regards to making a donation. Our collected total stands at R1 200 000.00. The original budget for the phase one was R1 500 000.00, the revised budget is now R1 279 000.00. We now only need another R79 000 for the first phase - that

equates to another 53 residents making contributions. LPR cameras will be erected at Vincent Palloti, the end of Forest Drive, Old Mutual and Morningside. PSCP Committee is John Berry (PPRA); Peter Anders (PNW); Riad Davids (PRRA), Brian Watkyns (Ward Councillor) and Patrick Pillay (Pinewatch) We will be giving feedback on the PSCP project at the Pinelands Neighbourhood Watch AGM on 23.04.2015 at Oude Molen.

#### 4. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PNW now has 701 members. The radio repeater project is completed. It has new battery backup so it can be used during load shedding. PNW donated a 1.8 by 2.8m map to SAPS. The Cake Campaign, sponsored by a resident is successful. The Shift and Member of the Quarter is also sponsored by a resident. One thing on the SAPS wish list is to replace the old halogen globes in torches for LEDs. This is at a cost of R280 each and there are 20 torches. Another was a new wall clock. The software on the PNW has been upgraded by Trevor Robertson and Roland Franklin. Patrollers can log in and select a shift. The AGM is on April 23 at Oude Molen. The "Take back the Canal" walk drew 200 people as well as kids and dogs. .The Committee has a new project to try and build community spirit as this can help to lessen crime. They encourage everyone to be involved in some form of social responsibility such as patrolling, helping the elderly or youth at risk.

#### 5. GENERAL

1. A *Gumtree in Parkchester Road* is being cut down. Residents say this is a historic 80 year tree where horses used to be tied. Brian will investigate this.
2. *Cycling on the canal*. Is it allowed?: Brian responded that initially the canal wasn't for cycling as elderly folk and cyclist didn't mix so well. Cycling is allowed on one side of the canal
3. What happened to the *litter/street clean up project*? Unfortunately Charmaine who started this has moved out of Pinelands. Is anybody else keen to take this up?
4. Some people walk their dogs on Clyde Pinelands fields. Brian said that the City has legislation for a *place for dogs to run free*. It needs a public participation process as to where and how it is done.
5. Residents of *Glen Roy raised a traffic problem* in their street. The idea was proposed the Glen Roy be changed to a one way with traffic flow only in the direction towards Forest Drive (in the opposite direction to the Logan Way one way).
6. The *bridge across the Nightingale Way* is looking worn and broken with rust showing.
7. *Council vehicles parking on Howard Drive*. Brian will look into this
8. The *verges outside Tarragona* on the Ringwood Drive need are an eyesore and a litter trap. They need trimming and tidying.