

Friends of Golden Harvest Park

Newsletter

Issue No 3

May 2006

Liaison with City Parks

The Committee had a meeting with Ms Gloria Kyzer, Manager Stakeholder Liaison at City Parks on 20th January 2006 and was able to raise several issues of concern, in particular security. We discussed the insecure boundaries, the question of people living in the Park illegally and the rise in the number of break-ins to complexes bordering the Park. Please would you let us know of any incidents of break-ins or attempted break-ins that have occurred in the past six months together with police case numbers as this information will help to strengthen our case. We also discussed the non-enforcement of by-laws and the list of outstanding maintenance. This meeting was followed up by a further meeting with City Parks personnel and the new DA Ward Councillor for the area Mr Ralf Bittkau on 10th May 2006 and we are hopeful that we will now see some action.

At our meeting with City Parks in January we also discussed our ideas for improvements to the Park and were advised that these should be presented in the form of a Business Plan and should follow the format of business plans for other parks which have already been submitted. Accordingly we drew up the attached Business Plan and sent it to Mrs. Kyzer on 24th March. The next step is for us to have a meeting with the appropriate City Park officials together with the Ward Councillors for the area. We will keep you advised of progress. In the meantime we would welcome suggestions and comments from our members on the business plan we have drafted.

Bookings of Events in the Park

There was a large party in the Park on 26th December 2005 which caused serious disturbance to those living nearby and the following morning the lawns were ankle deep in litter and broken bottles. We wrote a letter of complaint to City Parks but as yet have had no response. On 20th January 2006 a meeting was called by City Parks to discuss the booking procedures for events. Unfortunately we were unable to attend as we had scheduled to meet Gloria Kyzer on that day but we have sent our input on the booking procedures to the relevant City Park personnel. Essentially we want to see City Parks take responsibility for any bookings and make sure personnel are on hand to supervise and monitor the event to make sure the bylaws are upheld.

Pedestrian Gates

We continue to have problems with people removing padlocks from the gates used by our members. We have replaced the padlock at the old main gate and with the help of Mr Bent it has been welded onto the chain. Hopefully this will deter theft in future. Users of the old main gate will need to swap their old key for a new key, obtainable from Mrs Carol-Ann Schult on 792-1674.

We have also had to replace the padlock for Gate 4 opposite Greenacres which someone has also removed but fortunately the old keys will still fit.

FGHP Membership

The membership renewal in September last year was very successful. In addition to the 7 complexes that have joined FGHP en bloc we now have a total of 200 individual households as members.

Proposed Development

The Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Display Gardens Development has been carried out and a Draft Scoping document has been issued. If anyone would like to look at this please contact Heather Nice on 792-7921. The Committee wrote to City Parks to ask for their opinion on the proposed development and we received a reply from Luther Williamson, the Managing Director of City Parks confirming that "The Johannesburg Property Company has turned down the proposal to build the National Display Gardens. Johannesburg City Parks is not in support of the alienation of the land and has also rejected the proposal." However the project still seems to be live and the E.I.A. process is continuing.

Drysdale Road Fencing

We are aware of the damage to the palisade fencing along Dysdale Rd. and have given City Parks the registration number of the car involved. City Parks is arranging to have the fencing repaired.

Maple Road Fencing

We are also aware of several holes in the Maple Road fencing. City Parks are proposing to replace this wire fencing with more robust palisade fencing but in the meantime we have asked them to make temporary repairs.

Committee of the Friends of Golden Harvest Park

Committee: Mrs I Morgan, Chairperson; Mrs S Zimmer, Locks & Keys; Ms H Nice, Finances;
Mrs S Salmon, Secretary, Mr & Mrs D Christie