

MINUTES

eThekwini Biodiversity Forum

February 24, 2011

9h00 – 12h00

Paradise Valley Nature Reserve



PRESENT

Allison Ruiters	ARU	Jabu Sithole	JST	Paula Osborn	PO
Basheshile Thusi	BT	Jean Lindsay	JL	Paulos Gwala	PG
Billie Prinsloo	BPS	Jeanne Tarrant	JT	Peron Amein	PA
Buh Nzimande	BN	Jo Boule	JBL	Rob Jamieson	RJ
Cameron McLean	CML	John Forbes	JF	R. Harrison	RHA
Cassandra Abboy	CAB	Karl Westphal	KW	R. Lundie	RLU
Chantal Motilall	CMO	Kate Richardson	KR	Rodney Bartholomew	RBA
Crystal Naidoo	CN	Kirstin Williams	KWM	Ryan Bowman	RBN
Crytelle Wilson	CW	Lesley Frescura	LF	Sabelo Nkosi	SN
Derrek Ruiters	DRU	Lilian Develing	LD	Sibusiso Mkhwanazi	SMZ
Fran Lewis	FL	Lungi Ndlovu	LN	Susan Shafto	SSH
Gcina Luthuli	GL	Manisha Maganlal	MM	Suvarna Parbhoo	SP
Geoff Pullan	GP	Natasha Govender	NG	T.N. Msweli	TNM
Gillian Noyce	GN	Ndabezinhle Mbambo	NMB	T eddy Govender	TG
Graham Cairns	GCA	Nkuli Hadebe	NH	Warren Botes	WB
Heather Cairns	HC	Paul Bartho	PBA		

APOLOGIES

Debra Roberts, Richard Boon, Errol Douwes, Alistair McInnes, Sue George, Duane Constance, Ed Granger, Helen Watson, Alison Young, Lynne Thompson, Bianca McElvey, Adrian Armstrong, Di Dold and Margaret Burger.

NO	DISCUSSIONS	ACTION
1.	OPENING AND WELCOME NG opened the meeting and welcomed everyone Apologies were noted as above.	

	<p>Branch of the Parks Department is involved in. RU requested that a staffing tree and a map of the zones (with responsible persons) be circulated with the minutes. SMZ indicated that Department is currently undergoing a major restructuring and while he would send out the organogram, this will not be the most up to date. One of the most interesting alterations to the structure of the NRD is the inclusion of three ecologist positions – SMZ said that this is crucial for them to operate to the best of their ability. GN asked for clarification about the NRD’s alien animal control. SMZ advised that they have an ongoing project aimed at eradicating the House Crow (<i>Corvus splendens</i>) and that when possible, they will assist with protecting indigenous species by, for example, erecting fences around conservation areas (e.g., Springside Nature Reserve). JL noted that it is important that the Tree Planting Policy be seriously investigated especially since the NRD have an indigenous nursery (Silverglen). It was asked whether rangers patrol all reserves and trails in Durban and SMZ replied that this is restricted to the nature reserves. If anyone is interested in a guided trail they have to call the ranger in charge of that particular reserve. SMZ also advised that with the new structure, duties of the Law Enforcement Officers will be spread. RJ requested a programme of where the officers of the NRD are working. SMZ indicated that he would provide such a schedule. LF asked which areas NRD are responsible for i.e., is it all open spaces in Durban or is it just the reserves? SMZ replied that they are responsible for all the fenced reserves and some other areas that are of conservation significance.</p> <p><u>Organogram and contact details for the NRD will be circulated before the end of March 2011. Not available at the time these minutes were sent.</u></p> <p>AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM</p> <p>2.3. ARU presented on the mandate of the Natural Science Museum and the diverse areas of work that the Museum is responsible for, which include several research and education programmes. AR also spoke about the lack of space at the current two premises and the plans for a new four-story NSM building. HC expressed interest in one of the programmes that the NSM are involved with – Friends of the Durban Natural Science Museum. HC indicated that something needed to be done to improve the programme. ARU replied that she is looking into this and that if anyone has suggestions they can contact her. JL queried where the site for the new building is going to be. AR replied that one option is the Centrum site, adjacent to the Workshop shopping centre. Other sites are being explored but at this stage it is too early to discuss these.</p> <p><u>Organogram and contact details for the NSM can be found below.</u></p>	<p>SMZ, NG</p> <p>ARU, NG</p>
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1.</p>	<p>UPDATES FROM EPCPD</p> <p>COP 17</p> <p>JBL informed the forum about COP 17 which is to be held in Durban from 28</p>	

November 2011 to 9 December 2011.

It was noted that quite a few people were not completely aware of the significance of COP. For general info (e.g. logistics, greening), JB suggested people visit the Durban COP 17 website (www.cop17durban.co.za) and for information about registration, visit the UNFCCC website (www.unfccc.int). In addition if any individuals/organisations are planning communication/climate change awareness activities in the build-up to COP 17, then they can contact Jo Boule on 031 – 311 7697 or BouleJ@durban.gov.za. We would like to know about what is happening in Durban in the build up to COP17.

JL asked that if we are showcasing Durban and Climate, what are doing about the fact that Marianhill Landfill Materials Recycling Facility has been closed down. JB replied that we are aware of this issue and that there will be programmes/projects dealing with waste etc., during the course of this year.

TOWN PLANNING INITIATIVES

3.2.

JF presented on the 5 town planning initiatives that the EPCPD are involved with. These are as follows:

- a) Acquired sites – rezoning properties acquired by council to either Conservation Zone (CZ) or Environmental Conservation Reserve (ECR). This was adopted by council in October 2010. The differences between and ECR and a CZ are outline below:

ECR	CZ
Public ownership	Private ownership
Conservation of Natural Areas, Environmental Goods & Services & Biodiversity	Conservation of Natural Areas, Environmental Goods & Services & Biodiversity
No earthworks or development	No earthworks or development
No landscaping, planting or harvesting	No landscaping, planting or harvesting
No pets	No pets
No vehicles	Vehicles limited
	Environmental authorisation required prior to rezoing

- b) Split zoning of the Kloof Waterfall Plateau: Adopted by council in October 2010.

- c) Integration of D'MOSS into Town Planning schemes: Approximately 18000 properties affected. Adopted by council in December 2010 and scheme map updated with D'MOSS overlay. D'MOSS is not a zone but a layer that would serve as a trigger of the potentially environmentally sensitive nature of a site should a development application be received.

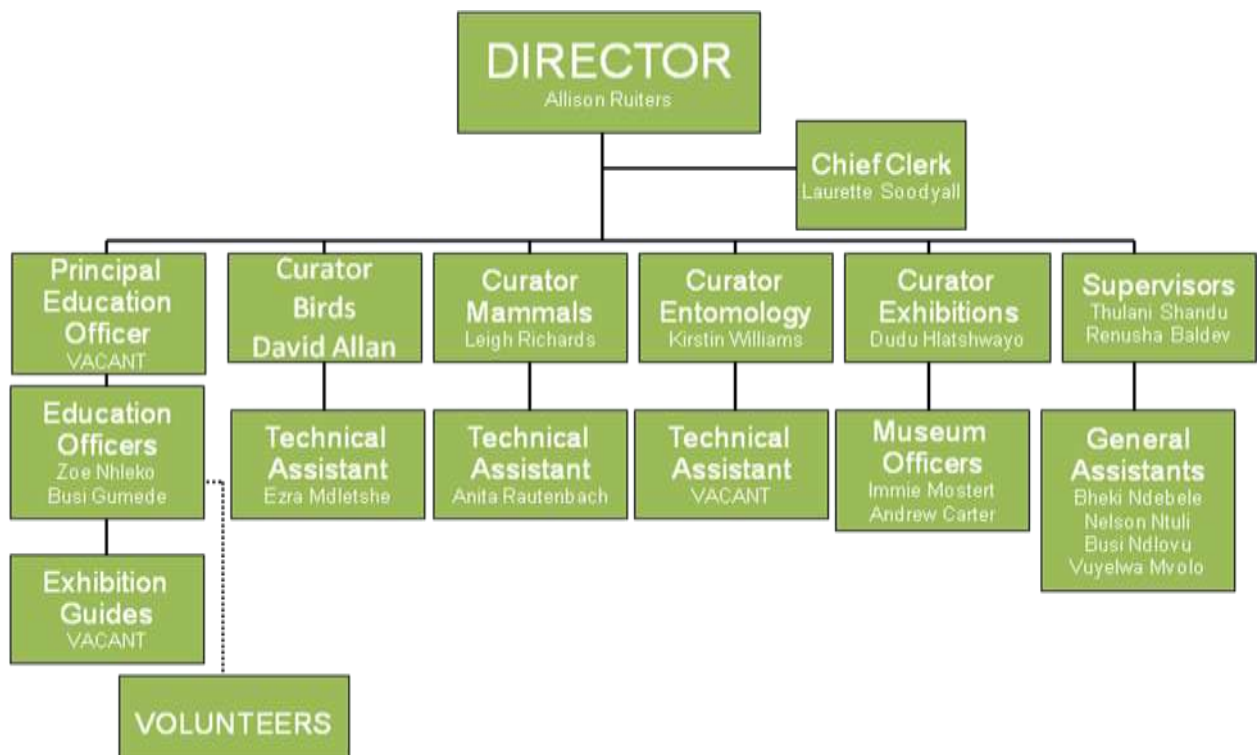
For noting

<p>3.3.</p>	<p>d) Roosefontein Nature Reserve: Adopted by Council in August 2010.</p> <p>e) Fosaville Nature Reserve: Rezoning of the Fosaville property (approximately 170 ha for conservation) was advertised in March 2010.</p> <p>RJ congratulated JF and the EPCPD for the progress made with these very difficult tasks. LD queried about the rates on D'MOSS areas or conservation zones. JF replied that If the development potential of a property is affected by D'MOSS, one can get the property re-valued by the Real Estate Department. On the other hand, if the property is affected by D'MOSS and one wants to manage the property for conservation, one can apply for an Environmental Rates Certificate from the EPCPD. This requires that the owner prepares an Environmental Management Plan with respect to that property (with assistance from EPCPD) and the owner is then entitled to some form of rates rebate. JT asked JF if there are any similar plans envisioned for the old airport site. She indicated that there is high biodiversity south of the old runway and it is worrying that the site has been proposed as a petro-chemical port. JF responded that at this stage we do not know what the plans for the area are, however, because of the potential for the area being environmentally sensitive, it would have to go through the normal processes of authorisation before any development is approved for the site. JF added that the South Durban Basin has always been extremely controversial.</p> <p>MAYORAL BIODIVERSITY AWARDS</p> <p>LN informed the forum that we will be taking nominations for the Mayoral Awards – Biodiversity Category for 2011.</p> <p>The nomination form together with all the details you need is attached to this email.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>GENERAL</p> <p>Offsets</p> <p>JL was interested in knowing how the monies that are received for environmental offsets or fines pertaining to environmental contraventions are used. NG replied that the recent R1 million fine that Toyota had to pay for destroying a patch of coastal forest in Ezimbokodweni (south of Durban) will be used by the EPCPD to acquire environmentally sensitive land in the city.</p> <p>EIA course</p> <p>JL informed the attendees of an EIA workshop that is designed for conservancies and other NGO's who are currently dealing with processes that they may not be entirely au fait with. NG to provide details of workshop.</p> <p>Details of the workshop are as follows: Date: 18 March 2011 Place: Queen Elizabeth Park Auditorium</p>	<p>NG</p>

<p>Facilitator: Chris Galliers from WESSA will be the main facilitator Cost: R100 to cover lunch and workshop material.</p> <p>Promoting indigenous gardens – signs available Signs promoting indigenous gardens e.g., “My Garden Welcomes Our Wildlife” can be ordered by contacting Jean Lindsay at lindsayjd@mweb.co.za.</p> <p>The signs are an initiative of the The KZN Conservancies Association (KZNCA), supported by WESSA, Botsoc, BirdLife South Africa and Lepsoc. Proceeds will go towards the publication of KZNCA's conservancy handbooks: <i>How to start a Conservancy & Conservancy Guidelines</i>.</p> <p>Herbicide assistance JL thanked the EPCPD for assistance with herbicides.</p> <p>Green Landscaping guide JL indicated that the Green Landscaping Guidelines (an EPCPD departmental brochure) is a very good publication and suggested that all horticulturists (Municipal and private) should be in possession of one of these. The hardcopies of these booklets are almost depleted but if you would like this publication, you can download it at: http://www.durban.gov.za/durban/services/epcpd/documents.</p> <p>Alternatively, CDs are available with all four books in this series: Green Landscaping, Energy Efficiency, Water Conservation and Sustainable Waste Management. If you would like a copy of the CD, please email Natasha Govender: govendernatasha@durban.gov.za.</p> <p>Cutting of Yellowwoods LD raised the issue of a property owner in Kassier Road (Assagay) who felled Yellowwood trees on his property. LD asked what the recourse was if someone cut down Yellow Wood trees which are protected according to the Forestry Act. RU replied that one must refer to the Forestry Act which speaks to protected trees. The law states that any person wishing to cut, destroy or prune a protected tree, or to transport or sell its products, has to apply for a license to do so. Not only are licenses required for the harvesting of any of the listed 47 species of protected trees, but also for any trees that occur in a natural forest. Any person wishing to fell a protected tree must apply for a licence. This Kassier Road property is currently being handled by Trafford Petterson from the EPCPD who has referred the issue to the Green Scorpions and to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)</p> <p><u>Some contact details with respect to protected trees:</u> Regional Forestry officer for KZN: Kim Weir: 033 392 7706/kimw@nda.agric.za</p>	<p>ALL</p>
---	------------

	For queries on protected trees: M.W Rozani: 033 392 7700/ WisemanR@nda.agric.za	
5.	CLOSE OF MEETING NG thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 12h00. The next Biodiversity Forum meeting will be held on May 19, 2011 at the Paradise Valley Nature Reserve from 9h00 to 12h00.	ALL

Organogram of the Natural Science Museum (provided by Allison Ruiters)



Contact details

City Hall: 031-311 2256

Research Centre: 031-322 4210

Allison Ruiters: 031-311 2240 / ruitersa@durban.gov.za

David Allan: 031-322 4214 / alland@durban.gov.za

Kirstin Williams: 031- 322 4213 / williamsk@durban.gov.za

Leigh Richards: 031-322 4215 / richardsl@durban.gov.za

Dudu Hlatshwayo: 031-311 2252 / hlatshwayod@durban.gov.za

Renusha Baldev: 031-322 4210 / baldevrd@durban.gov.za

Thulani Shandu: 031-311 2256

Ezra Mdletshe: 031-322 4219 / mdletshee@durban.gov.za

Anita Rautenbach: 031-322 4216 / rautenbacha@durban.gov.za

Zoe Nhleko: 031-322 4211 / nhlekoz@durban.gov.za

Busi Gumede: 031-311 2249 / gumedebusi@durban.gov.za

Andrew Carter: 031-311 2253 / carterca@durban.gov.za

Immie Mostert: 031-311 2259 / mosterti@durban.gov.za

Busi Ndlovu / Nelson Ntuli: 031-322 4210

Vuyelwa Mvolo / Bheki Ndebele: 031-3112256