



Good day, Park Islanders!

We have had our second of four board meetings for 2024. It was a productive meeting with each portfolio representative making a report back to the committee on work done in the first quarter and any plans in the works for the upcoming months. There is a lot in the pipeline and we are excited about ...

A reminder of your PICID Committee Portfolios holders for 2024:

1. Boudje Giljam: Chairperson ; Administration Portfolio
2. Lara Röttcher: Deputy-Chairperson ; Communications Portfolio
3. Patrick Tuckwell: Treasurer ; Contacts & Street Representatives Portfolio
4. Gregory Meierhans: Security Surveillance Cameras Portfolio
5. Colin Reeves: Security Guarding Portfolio
6. Rob MacLean: Water Quality Portfolio
7. Lynne Weight: Environmental Portfolio (Open Spaces)
8. Euvrard Loubser: Environmental Portfolio (Open Spaces)

Please read on for the updates on each portfolio.



Photo credit: Cherry Giljam

The next Board Meeting is provisionally scheduled for the 4th July. The board meeting dates will be published to the website for your information. Please note that any of our members can attend the Quarterly Board Meetings to raise concerns or discuss issues of interest. However, this attendance is by appointment only. Please send us an email if you are interested and be sure to outline the topic you wish to discuss.

An Update on the Waterways Portfolio

The water quality in Zandvlei and the Marina canals has been and is good. This is shown by a number of features such as the previously diminishing weed grass has shown signs of regrowth in many areas, the fish (fingerlings as well as larger varieties) are teeming, the otters are seen on a regular basis; the increasing number of Coots and the return of the Flamingos to Zandvlei. Furthermore, the amount of algae has diminished, albeit the main reason for this is the cooler water temperatures and shorter daylight hours as the seasons change.



Photo credit: Cherry Giljam

After the initial problems experienced by the new weed harvester, The Cape Shoveller, it is now operating well. The older machine, The Kingfisher, continues to limp around the waterways although it continues to be more 'out of commission' than 'in commission' (something that we have had to put up with for many years). Notwithstanding, it could be that both machines may well reduce the number of complaints about excessive weed and algae growth during the summer months in the future.

The 'No Fishing off Bridges' signs exercise driven by the Peninsula Canoe Club is ongoing. It has been slightly held up by the incorrect COCT logo being sent by a Council official to be used. A mock-up of the sign is currently with said official to be sorted out. Note that the MdG Association is likewise working on new 'No Jumping or Diving from Bridges' signs for installation on the high pedestrian bridges. These will replace the old signs that are deemed no longer sufficient. Unfortunately, MdGA is also waiting on the correct logo from the Council.

Currently Nick Bode, a former Waterways rep on the MdGA Exco, is working on getting more (Marina) folk to help in re-establishing litter catch-fences on the 'floodplain' between Coniston Park

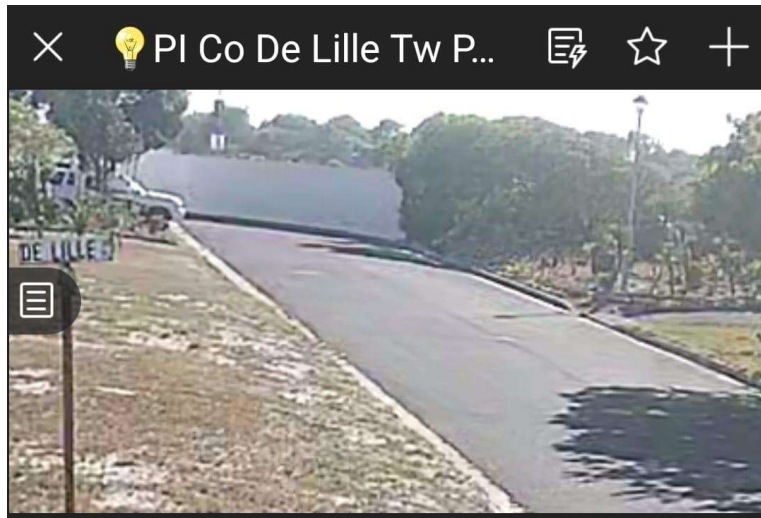
and Uitsig/Zandvlei. This initiative is to help stop excessive amounts of litter brought down by the Sand and Keyzers Rivers from entering Zandvlei and the Marina canals. Please send an email to PICID if you are interested in helping with this project.

Feedback on Our Security Program

Generally, Ithuba and Deep Blue, our security service providers, have provided a reliable service and we have seen significant improvement from the state of our security 18 months ago. This is not to say there haven't been a couple of glitches. The guard has been found sleeping at night at the entrance to our Island. This is a huge problem in the security industry and we have taken steps to minimise the chance of this happening again. **Please, if you are unhappy with anything to do with security, contact Colin directly** on 0836254845 or combatforcehome@gmail.com, rather than going the route of social media or the WhatsApp groups.

Our network of 9 security cameras is operating 24/7 and remains operational during load-shedding. Our Security Portfolio holders, Greg and Colin, both have access through a cell phone app to view live footage. There is a 10th camera in the works, but the installation of this is delayed by the ever-elusive replacement street lamp at the entrance of Park Island Nature Reserve. We are dependent on the City Council and are following up with them regarding this whenever possible.

During the first quarter of 2024 we unfortunately experienced two incidents of crime. There was an intrusion in Eastlake Drive where the perpetrators broke through the electric fence and entered Park Island over the perimeter wall north of the Park Island Way vehicle entrance. The resident had regrettably left a bicycle outside on his driveway and an outside room was left unlocked. The bicycle, a suitcase and an aluminium table were stolen. We are awaiting footage from the De Lille camera facing up Eastlake Drive which could have captured the intruders who broke the fence either on the way in or out (or both) and burgled our Eastlake Drive resident.



The live view from one of our security cameras as viewed in the cell phone application.

In the second incident a motor vehicle, parked on T'Wagen Road, was side-swiped at night by a hit-and-run culprit. These incidents should be taken as a warning. **Please do not think that we are totally safe from crime. We recommend doing all the necessary lockups and the use of a home alarm system** (additional to the community security program that we run).

Regarding the perimeter, unfortunately the electric fence has been problematic of late with many false alarms being reported by Deep Blue. An investigation attributed the false alarms to 'foreign' objects interfering with the fence and the general poor state that the fence is in. Unfortunately, it appears the fence will need extensive work to restore it to full potential. There are multiple stanchions where the current from the energiser is leaking to earth. Deep Blue have been asked to patrol the area of regular breaks. Furthermore, your committee members have cleared branches twice from the corner of PGD and PIW and had some help here and there from a resident or two on private properties. However, **we require a concerted effort from the owners with perimeter properties to please keep any vegetation or objects clear of the electric fencing.** Our fence is only as good as it is at every point.



Photo credit: Unknown

Regarding Our Open Spaces

The Local Gardens Crew are (happily) idle in summer and so are presently involved (in conjunction with Cherry & Pam) with general maintenance, beautifying the entrance to Park Island and planning for the winter growth & expansion season.

Maintenance has mainly consisted of identifying, on-boarding & resourcing (supplying hoses and/or water connections, etc.) to the local volunteer-corps to assist with watering of our garden beds in the public open spaces within their proximity. **If you know of anyone who is happy to become involved and take care of a/their corner of our public open space to assist with beautifying the PI-Precinct please let us know.**

Phase 1 of beautifying the entrance to Park Island Way (off Prince George Drive) is underway and hopefully you will have noticed that some serious pruning has already taken place to clear space for an off-street pedestrian walkway from Prince George Drive to T-Wagen. Please see the before, during and after pictures below of the pruning work done at our entrance. This pathway will be strewn with woodchips as a temporary measure (as found on the island nature reserve walkways) until the Council upgrade the pathway to a hardened service suitable for shopping carts, prams, etc. It is intended to contribute to making walking along there safer and more pleasant for all.

Furthermore, the team has been preparing for the 'Winter Growth Season' by partnering with the FYNBOS LIFE NURSERY (on the Zandvlei) to beautify our Park Island Way road entrance with appropriate fynbos plants. We will hold a community planting day in July some time, date to be confirmed in a supplementary newsletter, and it would be wonderful to get everyone involved.

NOTE: We all live here so any comment and suggestions on beautifying our speck in paradise will be most welcome.



The Park Island Way entrance prior to pruning.



The Park Island Way – East Lake Drive corner prior to pruning.



The pruning of the trees.



The Park Island Way entrance after to pruning.



The Park Island Way – East Lake Drive corner after to pruning.

Our Street Representatives

The Park Island CID Street Reps continue to function well. The huge plus is that everybody has been a Street Rep at some time or another so the actual 'day-to-day' mechanics are well known. A get-together of the Street Reps was held in the first quarter.

The contacts database for all residents of Park Island continues to be updated. The contacts database includes tenants and family members living here. We are continuously surprised by how often people seem to change their email addresses, so please do let your street rep know if your contact details change. Similarly, if you notice a new neighbour, please do spread the news of our CID and encourage them to send us their contact details to our email parkislandcid@gmail.com. And if you're too shy, then pass the news on to your street rep or to Patrick Tuckwell. It is important for us to keep our database as up-to-date as possible!

General

Our Website is currently being updated with the latest newsletters and the dates of our board meetings for 2024. In the past 3 months, the Home Page was cleaned up by removing links and documents relating to the CID Approval process that are no longer relevant. Keeping the website up-to-date is an important part of being compliant with the COCT's CID Policies. Our website was recently audited by the COCT CID Department and, although there are a few tweaks to make, we are satisfied with the results of our first audit. You can access previous correspondence and all the PICID documentation on the Website: <https://parkislandcid.co.za>.

You may have noticed that WhatsApp guidelines were drafted, approved and implemented for both WhatsApp groups, PI General and PI Security. A summary of these guidelines were added to each group's description and are actioned when residents step out of line with regards to WhatsApp content. Additionally, the full WhatsApp Guidelines have been added to the website for your reference. On this note, the committee are looking into the concept of 'Communities' and starting fresh PICID WhatsApp groups to be able to better control membership and usage. More to come on this in future.

If you have any photo's to share of our beautiful Marina and Park Island that we can use in our newsletters and on the website, please do share with us! Drop us an email and we will share the Google Drive Folder with you.

And finally, please feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments at our email address: parkislandcid@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support!

Kind regards,

Your PICID Committee