



The PICID Newsletter: An Appeal for PICID Board Nominees

November 2024

Good day, Park Islanders!

In May 2022, a dedicated group of Park Island residents formed a steering committee with a clear goal: to transform the longstanding voluntary guarding program, Park Island Guarding, into an official City Improvement District (CID). After extensive public meetings and consultations, we successfully launched Park Island CID NPC on July 1, 2023, and we are now preparing for our second annual general meeting (AGM). The existing volunteers have put in significant effort to establish our non-profit organisation, which is now fully operational.

As we get ready for the upcoming AGM in December, we are actively seeking new volunteers to strengthen our board. It is essential to introduce fresh perspectives, youthful energy and to drive innovative ideas forward. (Editor's note: and to lower our board members' average age). Your involvement is vital to our ongoing success and growth.

We need to fill two portfolios at the AGM in December:

1. ****Environmental Portfolio****: Euvrard and Lynne have requested to be replaced for personal reasons as they step away from this role, which focuses on upgrading the public open spaces (POS).
2. ****Treasurer – Administration****: Boudje will pass on administration knowledge before stepping down at the end of 2025. This will be a joint portfolio for 2025.

The workload of an operational CID is significantly reduced after the setup phase. The City of Cape Town (CoCT) provides guidance and processes to facilitate operations, allowing the board to concentrate on improvement projects.

Environmental Portfolio Background

The management of public open spaces (POS) by the CoCT changed dramatically during the Day Zero drought of 2018. Grass areas in POS may no longer be watered, acknowledging the unsustainability of maintaining these areas during our long, dry summers. Instead, the Council is now encouraging rewilding by reestablishing indigenous fynbos to promote biodiversity and sustainable planting.

In collaboration with CoCT Recreation & Parks and Fynbos Life, we have embraced this new vision. Many knowledgeable volunteers are engaged in transforming our POS. We have established working groups of residents for the larger parks and plan to extend this initiative to all areas.

Our first project was the transformation of the verge at the Park Island Way entrance and the corner of T'Wagen. In Thibault Park, we have marked natural paths and identified no-mow areas. We intend to develop the no-mow zones into fynbos pastures by adding local indigenous plants while eliminating weeds and unsuitable grasses. Next autumn, we will extend the planted areas with suitable fynbos plants.

We have also begun creating a stumpery, an evolving piece of art that serves as a climbing obstacle for children.

Rewilding the POS is a long-term project, driven by residents but facilitated by the portfolio holder.

The Role of the Environmental Portfolio Holder

The main function of the portfolio holder is coordination—essentially "herding cats." This involves liaising between various stakeholders, including CoCT Recreation & Parks, Fynbos Life, the POS working groups, and residents while representing these groups on the PICID board. An important aspect of this role is allocating resources, as PICID has a budget for plants and labour, and guiding the working groups.

While knowledge of gardening and fynbos rehabilitation is beneficial, this is not a traditional gardening job; it is primarily about facilitation. This is considered the most rewarding PICID portfolio, as the results are visible and long-lasting, significantly transforming our island.

Administration Portfolio Background

Cape Town has 51 City Improvement Districts (CIDs), some of which date back 20 years. All CIDs are closely regulated by the City of Cape Town (CoCT), which enforces strict reporting and management processes. As a result, there is no need for CIDs to establish their own management and control systems.

Our administration function is primarily outsourced to a bookkeeper and an auditor who serve approximately ten CIDs.

The Role of the Administration Portfolio Holder

The portfolio holder is responsible for managing the finances, banking, and management reporting of the PICID. A general understanding of financial management—whether for an organisation or a department—is sufficient for this role.

Key responsibilities include:

- Review monthly financial reports prepared by the bookkeeper for the CoCT.

- Making supplier payments and VAT payments (less than 10 transactions per month).
- Managing a single debtor, CoCT, which makes electronic payments once a month - thus, debtor management is not necessary.
- Monitoring and forecasting cash flow.
- Organising board meetings (four per year) and the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Reviewing the audit process
- Managing correspondence

Conclusion

PICID is a successful project that is making Park Island a better place. We need to continually renew the energy and vision by introducing new volunteers - we welcome your applications. Please drop a note to parkislandcid@gmail.com to indicate your willingness or for more information.

Thank you for your continued support!

Kind regards,

Your PICID Committee