

TBRA AGM 2021

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Tanjong Bunga Residents' Association Sunday – 25 July 2021, 15.00 – 16:30 (by Zoom)

Present:

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| 1. Agnes James | 11. Rajeswary Raman |
| 2. Meenakshi Raman | 12. Cynthia Melton |
| 3. Shirin Chan | 13. Cecilia Ng |
| 4. Annelize van Elk | 14. Guna Selan Marien |
| 5. Jean-Pierre Allain | 15. Agatha Foo |
| 6. Zulfikar Abdul Aziz | 16. Kam Suan Pheng |
| 7. Rosita Ahmad | 17. Dato Leong |
| 8. Evelyn Teh | 18. John Turner |
| 9. Andrew Han | 19. Loh Cheng Kooi |
| 10. Chris Tewson | 20. David Yeoh Beng Tatt |

Agenda:

- a) Receive the Chair's address;
- b) Confirm and adopt the Minutes of the previous AGM;
- c) Receive the Annual Report 2020-2021;
- d) Receive and adopt the Audited Statement of Accounts;
- e) Election of office bearers of the Association
- f) Discuss matters of general interest.

Chairperson's Address

Meenakshi Raman (Meena), the TBRA Chair welcomed all members present online. She noted that the pandemic had caused lots of problems for many people, with movement restrictions. She commented that that we in Tanjong Bunga are lucky, because we still are able to enjoy our parks, we have access to beaches and can go for walks.

The Chair said that the TBRA Committee, had not been able to have many meetings or undertaken many activities due to COVID restrictions. The Committee however have been communicating via Whatsapp, and some members have participated in many online meetings.

Meena also announced her intention to step down as Chair due to her other responsibilities.

b. Adoption of the Agenda and Minutes of previous AGM

The Minutes had been sent out and were displayed on the Zoom screen. Meena quickly went through the main points. John proposed adoption of the minutes, while Shirin seconded the motion. The 2020 AGM Minutes were then adopted.

c. Annual Report 2020-2021

Meena asked Annelies, the Secretary, to present the Annual Report. It had been sent out as an attachment and was displayed on the Zoom screen.

TBRA has been very happy to see the **Friends of Sungai Kelian (FoSK)** very active in protecting and promoting the river. Urban gardening especially had attracted many volunteers. The leader, Dr Kam, does regular reports and sends them to various government departments, soliciting their help. There has been great cooperation among FoSK supporters.

Much construction had stopped because of the lock-downs, e.g. **Mount Erskine underpass** (under Bagan Jermal and Gottlieb Road, far into Jalan Burma). Several homes were already destroyed but for over past 6 months nothing more had happened. The same with possible clearance at the **old Caltex station site**. Members are worried about the status. There has also been silence also around **Copthorne** Hotel plans and the **Aspen development** high-rise application at Jalan Chee Seng.

Annelies thanked life member Andrew Han for a **video documentary**, showing us the recent floods in Tanjong Bunga & Batu Ferringhi on 16 July. It aims to remind us that our drainage system is not always adequate, made worse by cementing up sidewalks, parking lots, etc.

TBRA has joined Penang Forum and others in objecting to the **Penang South Reclamation** (PSR) project. We have signed petitions and written letters and on 2 June, and we sent out a Press Release in support of Y.B Nurul Izzah's call to cancel the PSR project.

Meena reported on a meeting with MBPP, along with Zulfikar, Dr. Kam and Remy on new guidelines for hillslope developments, following the recommendations from the Granito Commission of Inquiry. The new guidelines are an improvement over the old one.

Members of the **Penang Hills Watch**, including Dr. Kam, Remy, Zul, Rajes and Meena as well as other members of TBRA provided feedback to Plan-Malaysia on the **Penang Hill Special Area Plan**. We reflected our concerns in particular over the proposed cable-car, which could lead to more developments on Penang Hill, thus leading to its further destruction.

On the Court of Appeal case brought by the Sungei Ara Residents against **Sunway City**, TBRA has been supporting the residents. The Court of Appeal gave its decision against the residents in May 2021 and the residents have now filed an appeal to the Federal Court. The outcome will affect legal planning all over Malaysia.

Sore Thumb Park, this is a project very close to TBRA's heart and history. It started as an illegal dumping project. Our first protest was in 2007. After One Tanjong Condo was built, its manager obtained a lease of land stretching onto the Sore Thumb. That lease now blocks access to the rest of the Thumb. Yet, the former Chief Minister, Lim Guan Eng promised that it would become a park in 2018. We have a video of that promise. Zul has been following up on this blockage enigma and reported on his meeting with managers in the CMI (Chief Minister Incorporated), with Land Office, Planning Office, but nobody can say how and

where the blockage might be solved. They are stuck. Zul thinks the Sore Thumb must first be surveyed. Only then it will be an official lot and can get onto the map. Once the COVID movement restrictions are lifted we can organise a meeting with press, announce TBRA position. Meanwhile, former ADUN Teh and his colleague Chua made a rough path up to the top of Sore Thumb from the round-about. 4 of us went to try; It is a tough climb, which is alright for Hash but not for a public park.

Noise along TB Road – We have done some reporting and alerting. Need to do more. Now when you drive up toward Diamond Villa entrance there is a yellow 40 Km/hr sign, does not look official, and is badly placed. Most drivers will not even see it. What we need is speed reduction on the downhill side and ask the Department of Environment to place noise detectors and issue fines on illegally modified exhausts.

Organic recycling and e-waste recycling. Govt was going to push for “separation at source” in 2021 but nothing has been done. The 3 colour bins for different materials are mis-used and insufficient. Need to educate public. Also fine for not applying rules. TBRA has asked for joint meeting with MBPP.

The Annual Report was duly received by members.

Audited Accounts

Zulfikar, the Treasurer, presented the accounts for the year 2020. Figures changed little from the year before. We appreciate Cheah Kah Seng’s voluntary contributions in maintaining the TBRA blogsite and FaceBook. The Committee was glad to give him some books to thank him for his efforts. This was the main expense in 2020.

The accounts balance was 6.317.84 RM, as at 31 Dec 2020.

Signatories at bank have finally been legally registered. Also TBRA’s address is now official.

On our income, apart from membership fees, there is no other source. We must think of other ways of generating income, e.g. T-shirt or souvenir sales.

The accounts were proposed for adoption by Cecilia and Agnes seconded that. The accounts were duly adopted.

Election of office bearers 2021

Meena explains reasons for stepping down as Chair. She will gladly carry on as a Committee member if needed.

Meena nominated **Zulfikar Abdul Aziz as new Chair**. He has done great work for TBRA. Suan Pheng seconds the nomination. There being no further nominations, Zulfikar is elected as the new TBRA Chair.

Jean Pierre nominated **Agnes James** as the **Vice-Chair** and this was seconded by Shirin Chan. It was recognised that Agnes is doing a wonderful job. With no further nominations, Agnes James is elected as the Vice-Chair.

For the post of **Secretary**, it was acknowledged that **Annelize van Elk** has been doing good job. Agnes proposed that she continues in that post, and Meena seconded the nomination. With no further nominations, Annelize van Elk is elected as Secretary.

For the post of **Treasurer**, Agnes James proposed **Dr. Rajeswary Raman** for the post, which was seconded by Jean Pierre. With no further nominations, Dr. Rajes is elected as Treasurer.

Other Committee members who were elected were **Rosita Ahmad, Shirin Chan, John Turner** and **Meenakshi Raman**.

Meena thanks the old committee members for all their work and support and welcomed the new committee members.

General matters

Under general matters, the following issues were raised.

Dr. Kam Suan Pheng told us that Penang Hills Watch has initiated a Chee Seng Garden Watch following the heavy rainstorm of 29 June 2021 that resulted in spontaneous waterfalls and flash floods occurring in the neighbourhood. A WhatsApp chat group has been formed involving a few key concerned residents and an officer from the Engineering Department of MBPP for prompt communication and follow-up actions for future incidents relating to slope stability and flash floods.

On **E-waste collection** at TB Market. We can pursue with DOE, rather than MBPP.

The FoSK chat group now has 66 members. Urban Farm Group has 77 members. TBRA can hitch on and invite some of these members to join TBRA. Many are from condo residents associations.

Meena said that members must be residents of TB, postcode 11200. Need to find a way to distribute the TBRA membership form. Applications can be online, also payment of membership dues. We might make a new online form.

Members were informed that TBRA now has 175 members, 73 life members.

Guna Selan reported on the **Aspen development** at Jalan Chee Seng. There was an online meeting 4-5 months ago with the MBPP but nothing further was heard.

As the new Chairman, **Zulfikar** was asked to give a brief statement.

Zul said that TBRA has stood out in the past and will in continue to do so in future and must play its role responsibly. He said he will continue to work on ensuring the Coastal Park (Sore Thumb). On the North-Coastal Paired Road, he said no-one really wants it but we have to acknowledge that old road not enough for all the traffic from Tanjung Bunga to Teluk Bahang. There are places where road can be widened. He proposed to check this out. He also stressed the importance of pushing water taxis, which could also be something viable to help traffic. Road from Weld Quay to Teluk Bahang has the highest Rapid BUS ridership.

Cecelia Ng noted that Zul could also serve once again as MBPP Councillor as in the past.

The meeting ended with an expression of thanks to everyone who participated by Meena, with the hope that they will remain active and informed.