

# Princess Vlei Forum Co Design Workshop

**21 October 2017**

## LOFOB

### 1. Attendance

32 People attended – please see the attached list.

### 2. Introduction

The group met at Princess Vlei.

PVF Chairperson Gary Stewart welcomed the group

He explained that the 2016 workshop provided an overview of what people wanted, with some general ideas about where they should go

These ideas were communicated to the City, and have been further developed in various ways

The focus this year is to look critically at some of these ideas; and to give concrete guidance as some (eg the braai areas) could be implemented very soon.

Gary thanked Cllr Southgate who has made money available from his ward budget – he has been instrumental in leveraging funds for the work done so far, e.g the wooden observation deck, the improved entrance etc.

This work so far has come to just over a million.

Cllr Southgate has again allocated funds, which will probably be used for the braais and walkways.

The workshop will focus on

1. the walkway and the possibility of a bridge across the canal
2. the braai areas
3. the interpretation centre, a centre to house meetings of community groups, students from CPUT will be presenting on this
4. Space for KhoiSan rituals (note: this group did not materialise as all the participants present chose to be part of the other groups)

The group then performed an imagining exercise, to visualise some of what they would like to see at Princess Vlei

Participants divided into three groups, according to their interest. Each group considered the possible location of these developments in the context of the site

Participants then returned to LOFOB for further discussion.

### **3. Report back on focus groups**

#### **3.1. The Interpretation Centre**

- **Discussion on this was led by the presentation of 8 CPUT students, who had designed an interpretation centre at Princess Vlei**
- The students had come up with a range of interesting solutions to the challenge
- They also devised a number of different possible locations for the centre around the existing ablution block
- The Centres were multipurpose, incorporating a space for meetings, education, museums and exhibitions, kitchen/ catering/ cafeteria; ablutions
- The structures were small, with efforts to minimise the visual and environmental impact
- There were different efforts to find different ways to unify the structures
- Eg. two had roofing structures over the entire precinct, one had an organic roofing structure that could be vegetated and blend in with the surroundings
- Another had a wall which wound through it, also bringing in the concept of a timeline
- When at the site, it was noted that any positioning too close to the road would make traffic noise an issue.

In Discussion it was noted that

- There is a need to balance using the Interpretation Centre as a portal with blocking off access with structures
- There are various potential sites, but it was important to determine this before making other developments, even though the interpretation centre might not be built in the short term.
- If it is too near the road, traffic noise becomes an issue
- Ways should be found to make it income generating – eg useful as a venue for meetings and social gatherings;
- A potential for income generation would be using it as a photographic venue
- (Note: visual references for these will be made available)

#### **3.2. The Walkway, trail path and bridge**

(see attached map)

- Currently there are various paths that have been created – blue follows natural routes
- Studies of the biology indicate which zones are no go, these are avoided by the natural path

- The existing fishing facilities should be incorporated into the walkway development and upgrade. There were two prominent fishing locations that appeared to be popular with the locals and the routes to these should be well established.
- Should have a 5km route that integrates the various communities with Princess Vlei. The connecting links from the public streets/walkways should form part of the route.
- Portions of the walkway could be used for access eg to get from Sassmeer side through to the De Waal industria; from Southfield to grassy Park;
- Making it 5km would enable it to be used as a Park Run etc and would increase its use.
- There should also be a 3km route, which can be used by more casual walkers
- There should be a portion of the walkway that is more formally surfaced, and useable by parents with small kids and prams, possibly wheelchair friendly (indicated by the red portions)
- Two types of lighting would be preferred:
  - Street lighting (higher luminance) for the path ways further away from the water body (i.e areas closer to public roads and housing)
  - Closer to the water body: - Low lighting levels on a timer to switch off automatically between certain hours of the night (Only on for when the track is in use between 6 -8pm???)
- Solar lighting can be used, but attention must be given to the “visual pollution” of large solar panels
- The trail path to be of natural gravel, with a well defined edged (logs, stone) in the beginning and the remove at the later stage as the foot traffic increase to keep the natural appearance.
- The group were largely in favour of the route indicated on the layout , except for the possible crossing at the south end (existing concrete bridge to remain with upgrades for safety purposes) and to be adjusted or re-aligned to accommodate the future Khoi San facility/kraal.
- It was also felt that the crossing on the northern end should be on the northern side of the “bulge” in the river, as this transverses a very scenic part of the vlei.
- In the interim a bridge should be constructed over the canal as soon as possible. There is a big demand for people to do casual walks, already weekly walks are being organised
- There is no need for this to be lockable or in other ways able to be blocked off.
- Security concerns would be best met by high usage of the trail, and making the bridge “bockable” or retractable would add make this difficult, and would add unnecessary expense.
- It was proposed that Gazebos be incorporated at points to provide shade
- It should be wide enough for cyclists and walkers
- It needs to be integrated with interpretation centre, play parks etc. From the path there should be paths leading to bird hides and jetties for fishing

- The route may be influenced by proposals from Kevin winter on filtering system
- Possibly have ablution facilities along the way
- Propose a screen to reduce traffic noise, - either a hard barrier or a soft barrier to protect from traffic noise.
- **Security**
  - The greater the use, the less the opportunity for security
  - Us taking back public spaces is one way to deal with security
  - Nuntis park is a good example of how you can improved security through changing usage
  - The Park Rangers are working well, need to encourage City to keep funding this
  - Need to have a programme of activities, have regular events

### **3.3. Braais and Play park**

- Small group of three people
- Noticed a lot of littering, need to look into having bins as people wont take their litter home
- Thought that the people would want to braai under trees,
- Need seating
- Braai areas should not be too distant from kids play areas
- Found that existing braai areas were inadequate ito numbers
- There may be those who would want to braai away from car park
- Thought the circular proposals were a good possibility, but did not like the bank of braais; although conceded there may be occasions when people would want to braai communally, but this design did not seem to fit into a natural area.
- After you've cooked your meat you need to go somewhere to eat it, so need to do some landscaping with picnic areas

### **Jetty**

A suggestion for a floating/ temporary jetty whivh could help with baptisms and help with cleaning the vlei

### **Amphitheatre**

There was strong support for the creation of an amphitheatre/ a space for performances; for evening concerts

### **Additional points**

- The Ablution block is not an attractive feature - there is scope to relook at it, semi submerge it and put a light structure on top which could be used as a cafeteria. Might be easier to get funding for this than for an IT which is much more extensive
- What is becoming critical is a masterplan so we can see where everything should go
- The CDF is too broad
- Either we appeal to the city to make consultants available or we take it on ourselves to create a master plan

Thanks to our fabulous design team for all the hard work in developing these ideas: Malcolm Campbell, Terrence Smith, Stanton Brown, Bharat Bhikha, John Prince, Andrea Couvert; to Caron Von Zeil, Lloyd and Mizat for organising the CPUT project, and to all the CPUT students for their wonderful ideas. These will be made available once we have sorted out permissions.

## **Attendance**

1. Melvin De Wee
2. Fay Nagia
3. Lloyd Pretorius
4. Jan Burger
5. Jerome Lewin
6. Patrick Melly
7. Angela Niehaus
8. Donovan Dowman
9. Yomelela Saliwa
10. Cedric Schnell
11. Raabeah Floris
12. Jureen Maletzky
13. Courtneigh Felix
14. Christelle Louw
15. Nerine Joubert
16. Nikki Youmer
17. Madeleine Van Der Berg
18. Adrian Williams
19. John Jansen
20. Tony Jantjies
21. Frank Molteno
22. Andre Manuel
23. Grahaeme Kemp
24. Thanokuhle Xulu
25. Chantel Manuel
26. Wayne Van der Vent
27. Bharat Bikha
28. Terrence Smith
29. Stanton Brown
30. Malcolm Campbell
31. Gary Stewart
32. Bridget Pitt

