

Chairman's Report 2018/2019

We dealt with a few issues during our term and had some successes but we focused on 3 major issues.

1. Conradie Development
2. Informal Market
3. Public Facilities in Thornton

1. Conradie development was a major challenge to us as a community as we were all new to serve on committees as this but I think we fared well. We together with PRA and KenFac RP we took on the city with issues we felt went against what we as the community believed was for the good of the 3 communities. But in the end, it was a David vs Goliath battle and the city used its clout where they could. Currently the development was given the go ahead to begin but I think we won some battles as we will get a community officer who will be our eyes and ears on the development and we have made it known to the city that they won't be having it all their own way with this development.
2. The Informal Market issue we inherited and up until now nothing has technically changed as the city is still fighting red tape in removing the squatters. It's very disheartening to see that camp growing in numbers time after time. Refer to BW for more info.
3. Public Facilities in Thornton is a major issue as there is none for the Thornton community to use. We constantly see Facebook posts where community members are asking for any public spaces to use in Thornton. Currently we have 3 public spaces namely Bowling Club, Sports Club aka Mosque, Scouts Hall. The community doesn't have access to any of them for any private or social functions, the Sports Club is being used by a minority of the community for prayer purposes and other uses. There is a perception within Thornton among the Muslims that we the TRRA is anti-Muslim which we feel is an insult just because we are not supporting their claim to buy up land in Thornton, it's not our right to support or prescript the selling off of any public spaces in Thornton as Thornton doesn't have any to give up. We supported the idea of leasing out the BC to the TIS for a mosque on a short term and eventually long-term lease. We would have taken this stand regardless of who wanted to buy public land in Thornton being it a Christian, Jewish or any other religious or business group. Public spaces within Thornton are meant for the entire community and not for certain sections of the community and that is the stance we as the current TRRA are taking. Again, this issue is with the City and a decision is being decided by people not living in Thornton and not knowing our challenges.

Latest is that Facilities Management are currently getting the lease for the Scouts Hall sorted and will give the church operating there notice to vacate. The Zonewatch satellite station has also been removed as no permission was granted for them to be there.

This TRRA committee would like to believe we have made small changes for the betterment of the community but politics within the City's administration is causing many of our issues/complaints moving at snail's pace for any resolutions or solutions to be made. (example, Bowling Club) We would also like to ask members of the community to work through the TRRA on helping with issues being raised in Thornton, it's very disheartening when we read about community members mentioning issues they have taken up with the council and bypassing the TRRA trying to fight the city on certain issues where we feel we can be of assistance as we are an officially recognized body at the council.

During our term we managed to have a good working relationship with the TNHW and the TSC and we tried to meet often to discuss various issues related to the area. We assisted the TSC

with their ambition to get the sport ground under the control of and getting access to the ground by the community. Currently the issue is at the council for final decision making on who will control the precinct and who will have access to it and how access will be provided.

I would just like to call on the community to support the new TRRA committee for the new years ahead as they are there for the community and they doing it voluntary and in their own time which takes dedication and commitment.

I have been the chairman of the TRRA for the last 2 terms and I can honestly say the group of people who served with me deserve every respect for the work and time they have given for your benefit. I would like to mention 2 people of the committee who have gone above and beyond of what was expected from them, Randall (Ward Rep) and Venessa (Secretary), thanks for your commitment and all the other members thank you.

I would encourage that this group of people to be voted on the committee again for another term to keep fighting for this community.

Thank You.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Hopkins', written over the printed name.

Leon Hopkins

Chairman

TRRA 2018-2019