



16 SUB 35/05/22

T: +27 21 444 1933 M: +27 71 087 5150  
E: Francine.higham@capetown.gov.za

Sub-Council 16 Manager  
Girshwin Fouldien  
44 Wale Street  
Cape Town  
8001

16 May 2022

## **Motion for Submission at Sub-Council Meeting on 16 May 2022**

### **Motion of Exigency for renaming of Van Riebeeck Park**

Van Riebeeck Park is a unique urban public open space, framed by Table Mountain with spectacular views of the city and Table Bay. It also serves as a natural gateway from the City to Table Mountain National Park, providing residents in Oranjezicht and greater Cape Town with opportunities to explore Table Mountain on foot or mountain bike.

Central to the park is the Platteklip Stream, the primary waterway of the area formerly known as Camissa or "Place of Sweet Water". These waters have made the site important throughout Cape Town's history, serving as a source of water for travellers and their animals, a wash place for slave women, and then a site of entrepreneurship following the abolishment of slavery, as local women made their living washing clothes in the stream.

Sadly, the park has suffered gradual degradation and declining use by the public over many years. The stream became polluted, as did the park as a whole, with alien vegetation out-competing indigenous species, and the important cultural heritage of the park became neglected and lost. This also impacted greatly on the safety of the area.

The Platteklip Trust was formed by residents in the community and other interested stakeholders to spearhead the revitalisation of the park for everyone.

Together with the Friends of Van Riebeeck Park, the Platteklip Trust has had much success since the launch of their initiative. The river and surrounding areas have been cleaned, a fence has been built around the park provide a safe environment for families to bring their children and dogs, with reduced risk of balls and dogs accidentally running into the streets, and a community market – "The Mountain Market" – has been launched in the summer months. The rough sleepers occupying the park were also provided with social assistance and alternative shelter accommodation.

With the successes achieved through the revitalisation of the Park, the Friends of Van Riebeeck Park have requested a renaming of the park to acknowledge the historical significance of the Platteklip Stream that runs through it. The renaming would also signify a fresh start for everyone for whom the park holds special significance - from the local

- 1) renamed to Platteklip Park, which is in recognition of the Platteklip Stream that flows through it; and
- 2) be recognised as a District Park and included on the City of Cape Town's website so that more people become aware of the park and are able to enjoy its beauty.

Seconded by

Higham.

  
Mr Yusuf Mohamed

