



GREENSPACE

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Windhoek

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

INTRODUCTION

The last year was marked by a number of new initiatives and developments.

The most positive of these is the tremendous increase in the number of visitors and users of the dam, especially after the dam filled up to nearly 100% of its capacity. The sluice gates were opened once by the City of Windhoek in cooperation with Greenspace to ensure that they were in good working order. A few days after that event the sluice gates opened automatically as the holding capacity of the dam had been reached. A special thanks to Mr. P. Müller for his help during this period and ongoing regarding any matters related to the sluice gates.

The security system at the dam has improved tremendously over the past year, but we have still had a few incidences of criminal activity.

A web site was developed (<http://www.avidam.org>) giving all sorts of useful information about the dam and its inhabitants and we are always on the look out for adverts, articles and photos to add to it. We would be grateful for your comments regarding its layout and content.

Since the end of last year Greenspace employs Mr. Jack Winkler to run the day-to-day activities, such as ensuring that the security guards are on their posts, organising the collection of any found dead animal, collection of entrance fees from the security guards, etc.

ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2005-2006

Membership and support

Category	2005	2006
Total membership numbers	96	189
Only members		29
Members who paid security fees		160

We thankfully recognise benevolent donations by private sponsors and contributors, whose contributions to our continued operations are warmly appreciated.

Fishing Regulations

Fishing remains a problem, as most anglers don't adhere to the regulations and have no valid licence from the Ministry of Fisheries. Greenspace held several meetings with the official inland angling clubs utilising Avis Dam who kindly promised us assistance in monitoring the situation. Greenspace is still trying to get the Ministry of Fisheries to issue us

with an official letter that would state the inland fishing regulations clearly and then representatives from the angling clubs would be happy to explain these regulations to other anglers using the dam.

At present Mr. Jack Winkler helps to control anglers by asking for their licences and confiscating illegal catches during his daily checks at the Avis Dam.

○ **Erosion Rehabilitation and upgrading of walk ways**

Erosion rehabilitation is ongoing, although this was not a priority during the past year. We thank Mr. Carow for his own initiative to keep the tracks around Avis Dam in good condition. The Avis Dam committee looked at possibilities with regard to upgrading the path between the sluice gates and the dam wall after we had been approached by visitors to Avis Dam regarding the construction of a wheelchair friendly path. So far Mrs. Nina Maritz provided a number of possibilities regarding the design which were taken further re design by Mr. E. Lowe. Thanks so much to both of them as well as Mr. Uli Frantz for driving the process and ensuring that we can discuss the quotation this evening. A final decision whether the construction of the wheelchair friendly path will be taken at this AGM.

○ **Student**

At present a student from Polytech Namibia is conducting his internship at Greenspace Friends of Avis as part of his studies. The overall studies look at the distribution and potential eradication of aliens at Avis Dam.

○ **Avis Dam Fun Day**

Although another Fun Day was to be organised for later in 2005 this could not materialise due to the poor rains we had received, and there was insufficient water in the dam at that time to go ahead with this activity. A poor response from members with regard to assisting with the Fun Day also plays a large factor in whether or not this activity can go ahead.

○ **Security**

As mentioned above the security system improved over the past year. However, a new entrance fee structure has to be discussed to ensure that this can be kept up in future.

• **(Proposed) Security costs and parking levies 2006/2007**

The agreement with NPS was terminated after 20 months with effect 30 April 2006. The reason being that their services were not in accordance with our mutual agreement i.e. our daily personal inspections were required in order to ensure a minimum presence of the guards. The improved situation after the change-over proved that we were on the right track.

The main objective for changing to Proforce/G4S (Group 4 Securicor) is the expectation of a higher quality of service and that since the beginning of 2006, G4S also administers projects. This in effect means that emergency calls and security are controlled by one body and can therefore react much faster. At the same time this firm has accepted all responsibility without any control to be provided from Green Space. We have entered into a 6 months agreement with a premium of N\$ 10 000 per month which consists of a group of 7 persons; these are rotated daily - 5 persons will be on duty daily (2 @ parking place, 3 for security). Just for comparison: NPS provided 5 persons, who were rotated on 20 day basis and only 4 persons were on duty – this at a cost of N\$ 6 500 per month.

These expenses are unfortunately only partly covered by our membership fees and parking levies. Therefore it is suggested that we revise our contributions and levies for 2006/2007 as follows:

Annual parking per vehicle	N\$ 400,00
10 visits per vehicle (plus 2 visitors)	N\$ 40,00
Daily visits per vehicle (plus 2 visitors)	N\$ 5,00
Visitors without vehicle (per person)	N\$ 1,00
Person fishing (per person)	N\$ 5,00
Small busses (plus 2 persons)	N\$ 20,00
Big busses (plus 2 persons)	N\$ 50,00
Bakkie without trailer (plus 2 Persons)	N\$ 10,00

○ **Advertising Policy**

As promised at the last AGM the final Advertisement Policy has been circulated to all members. The Neo Paint advertisement board was removed to the security gate area to minimise the visual impact walking across the sluice gates to the Dam wall.

○ **Avis Dam Development Committee**

The Avis development committee was established to provide recommendations to the CoW and to compile guidelines regarding establishment for the wider Avis Dam Area. Greenspace is proud of the outstanding work done by Mrs. Nina Maritz and all other members who served and are serving on the committee – Mrs. Auriol Ashby, Mr. John Pallett, Mrs. Charlotte Rusch, Mrs. Ulla von Holtz – thanks so much. Mrs. Nina Maritz will provide an overview of the activities at a later stage tonight.

○ **Committee**

As with any private and voluntary initiative, the success of Greenspace Friends of Avis depends on the dedication and enthusiasm of its committee members. At present the committee holds 5 members and we have an ongoing shortage of manpower to organise activities and urgent matters at Avis Dam.

We would therefore like to invite and wholeheartedly welcome any new volunteers who are willing to devote some time and energy to preserving our beautiful green respite that is Avis Dam.

THE YEAR AHEAD

The main issues to be addressed in the year ahead will be:

- Funding for the on going security programme for the year 2006 has to be secured.
- A date and preparation of the Avis Dam Fun-Day has to be set and then organised.
- The continued rehabilitation of the paths at the dam.
- General promotion of the dam area, particularly now its so full
- A membership drive
- The current development of town houses taking place near the dam, i.a. 100 townhouses St Michael's are followed with mixed feelings and GSP should be vigilant that the developers ensure proper environmental control, so that no trees get felled, no littering, no poaching