

## **Support for declaration of Green Point Common as a Provincial Heritage Site**

After an agonizing wait of seven years, the GPRRA received notice from Heritage Western Cape on Friday 26 July that its previous declaration of the Green Point Common is reconfirmed and will be promulgated in the Provincial Gazette.

In 1923 the Common was vested in perpetuity for sports and recreation for all the people of Cape Town, for all South Africans and for future generations. After 2010 public concerns mounted about the increasing loss of open space and public access for recreation and sport, and irreversible negative impacts of commercial interests on the historic landscape. In response, in 2015 two powerful and determined women on the Committee, Jenny McQueen and Antonia Malan, motivated for portions of the Common to be protected and declared a Provincial Heritage Site.

- The proposal was endorsed by civic and heritage groups including Heritage Western Cape (HWC).
- Cape Town City Council (CoCT) acknowledged that the Common must be protected and preserved.
- The boundaries were defined, and include the core historic precinct between Bay Road and Helen Suzman Boulevard.
- HWC approved the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), under which heritage management will vest with HWC, and CoCT will operate the Common.

Unfortunately, the final Proclamation of the Common as a Heritage Site was stalled by an appeal by a single lease-holder which insisted on their specific development agreements being written into the CMP. Their appeal went before a Provincial Tribunal which further delayed the process by questioning the basis of the heritage protection and returning the matter back to HWC for reconsideration.

But we are now back on track, with amendments to the Conservation Management Plan which now includes a clause stating that all buildings graded as non-conservation-worthy on the City's inventory be exempted from the need to obtain a permit in terms of S27 of the NHRA. However, any new building proposed cannot not exceed the footprint or envelope of the demolished building without prior consent from HWC.

The public has 30 days to appeal the decision. We ask that you support the GPRRA in agitating for the final declaration at the end of August 2024.

**I/we, the signatories below, hereby call on Heritage Western Cape (HWC) to expedite the declaration of the Common as a Provincial Heritage Site.**

Signed:

Name:

Address:

Erf No (where applicable):

Date: