

# Johannesburg Crisis Summit

Neal's personal "Initial Summary/Feedback/Report" of the 9a-1p; 7 Oct, 2023

Greetings Joburg Collective friends this is my/Neal's personal best shot at an initial, honest, & Initial Summary. See pics below with brief Facts and then Comments to follow... below each...

I may, later this week, aim to offer a bit more feedback, editorial, opinion once we hear from the Organizers. This below, is all sent with appreciation, love, humility, and service to you all for your consideration.

\*All also warmly sent with happy invite, inclusion and hope to hear from all others who attended, any additions, corrections, and to learn from each.



**There were approximately 140 people in attendance.**

The gathering was a reasonably and positively diverse representation of our City (including age, race, interests, etc) but NOT near a proportionate-representation. Disproportionately whiter and more Indian and older than the City demographics. Specifically, proportionately short of black and youth representation.

Time	Activity	Presenter
08h30	Get all participants seated	
09h00	Welcome and opening remarks	Ish
09h10	Johannesburg's place in the continent and country. Why Jozi cannot be allowed to collapse.	Ra
09h25	Uncovering Joburg: a reporter's notebook on a failed coalition model	Fer
09h55	Discussion	
10h15	Presentation of the solutions (options) and actions that will help attain them – examining the pro's and cons of all.	Lisa
10h45	Discussion	
11h45	Tea/coffee break	
12h15	Taking this forward – proposals	
12h30	Discussion	Nees
13h00	Adoption of proposals and establishment of a Save Joburg Action Council. (as amended from the discussions)	Yunu
	Closure	

The Program was the above (so sorry that I cut off the Presenters 😞 it was unintended, see more on most of them on the next page, slide) and was followed with good discipline, so we covered ALL. Professional, quality, and relevant presentations and a good flow of presentation and discussion, inclusion and order for participation and progress in my view.



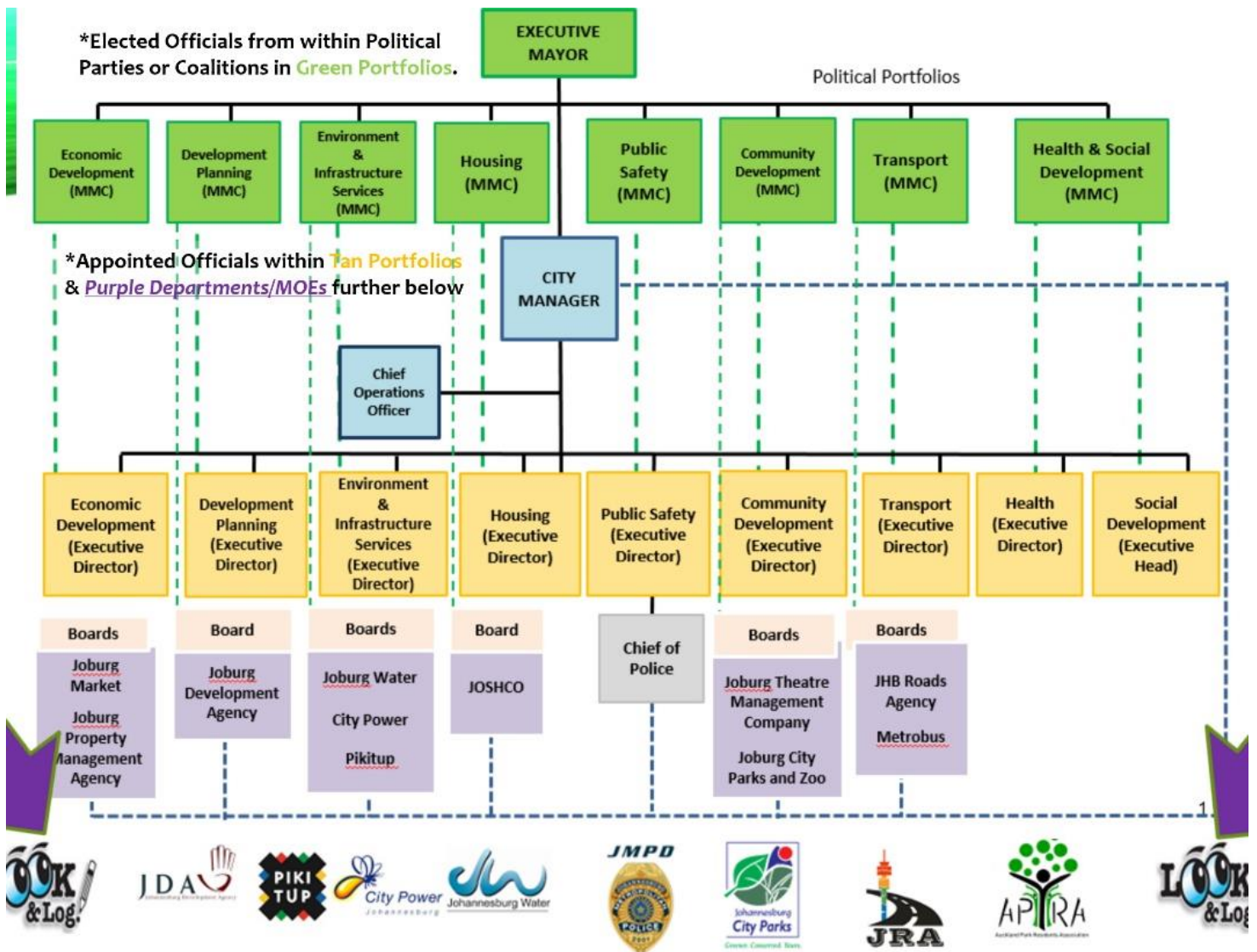
**The Panel of first round of Speakers from Left to Right:**

- 1-Neeshawn (with Ahmed Kathrada Foundation was Facilitator),
- 2- Ish (Senior freedom fighter, activist whose full name and org I did not get gave context & Introduction of the Day),
- 3- Ferial Haffajee (of Daily Maverick gave a presentation on Uncovering Joburgs failed Coalitions and state of City-under-micro-capture,
- 4-Rasha (from Gauteng City-Region Observatory/GCRO spoke about the Strategic Importance of Joburg).



**A solid balance of presentation, participant comment w Q&A, and broad range influencers present and commenting.**

Without pointing out anyone (except our very own 😊 Maurice Smithers on front right with the white hair and laptop) there were Ward Cllrs, Town Planners, Civic Leaders of many kinds, former Speakers and former City Managers and City Staff, (in their private capacities and concerns) Media agents, Engineers, students, many Res Assoc leaders and teams.



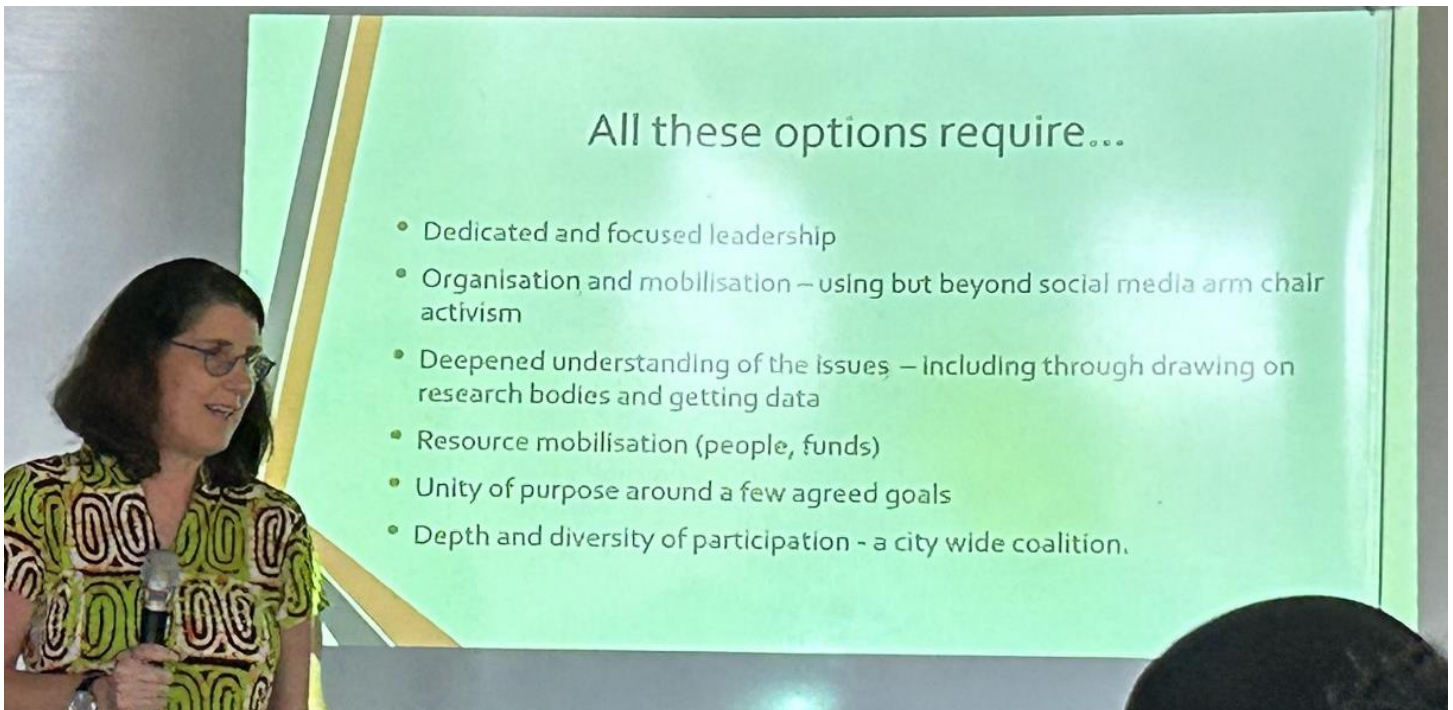
While this graphic was NOT used or shown, the subjects, portfolios, Boards and MOE/Departments were discussed at length across several different presentations & comments. In our orgs we use this to try to help ourselves and our constituents better understand City Government in a one page organigram & thought it might be helpful to us all here. Please note the top section of *\*Elected Officials from Political Parties and Coalitions in the green Portfolios* and then the generally very different *\*Appointed Officials within the Tan Portfolios and Purple Departments & Boards thereof*. Finally, the bottom row as we know them in our communities and Res Associations from a Service Delivery perspective.

## Options for Engagement representing all the Organizers:

\*These were presented as the main categories & clear items of the many possible Approaches or Action options.

\*I missed getting a photo of the slide(s) on these so these are my/Neal's notes on this... Not a word for word on each. I/Neal also **bolded what seemed to be those that were highlighted and put forward more towards the end** based on the feedback and such.

1. Dissolve the Council and hold new Elections in 90 Days
2. **Calling for the President to Intervene and place Joburg under administration w input**
3. Change the Mayoral Committee System from Mayoral executive system to a Collective System
4. Mass Action, Marches, Protests: Active-Citizenry: Keep attention on the issues.
5. **Law-fare, Legal Action: Constitutional Court, Can safeguard rot, Good for Rights, Good for Information,**
6. **Partner with the City and others to top up and improve as possible.**
7. **Co-Production of Service Delivery: Local Service Delivery Units, Local people make solutions.**
8. Individual-Only, Independent Actions: Going offgrid because you can, not paying rates, leaving the city or country. Discouraged as not helpful to the cause "options".



Lisa presented the **Options** above on behalf of the Organizers. Her presentation of these 8 Options was way more detailed w pros & cons & nuances, so we should see more about this from Organizers to come and will pass it along. Then she noted these **Requirements** for the implementation of all Options.

## To kickstart the process

- Volunteers from here should agree to play a co-ordinating role between now and the next meeting to:
  - Distribute the resolutions of this meeting to all attendees.
  - Tighten up the political call /demand/ with due regard to the current instability and possible calls to dissolve the Council
  - Reach out to other key stakeholders – business, labour, research etc
  - Map existing initiatives
  - Encourage sectoral initiatives e.g. all town planners and set up teams where necessary
  - Mobilise initial resources
  - Manage media relations
  - Encourage and share information about local activism
  - Identify quick wins
- Report back to meeting in November /possible launch of the Coalition

Yunus (From AKFoundation,, I think) presented the pictured **Keys/Plan for Kickstarting the Process** and noted that there will be another similar Gathering/Summit planned at this point for 23 Nov, 2023 with more details to follow.

For now, the name **Joburg Crisis Alliance** seemed to be adopted as the group name.

### **Disclaimers from Neal who compiled the above:**

1- AGAIN, the Organizers promise more information in the days ahead, the above is intended to give some feedback in the meantime, not knowing when the further info will come.

2- As stated at the beginning, this is a best-honest-effort Initial Summary of the Joburg Crises Summit held on Saturday, 7 Oct, 2023, from Neal Gooch only and humbly (not speaking for any other participants or the organizers).

3- I sincerely hope this is helpful to some in the meantime.

4- 🙄 😊 Shame, I initially thought this info would be less, easier to summarize and shorter. But this is the best I can do. Sent w love and humility and in service to you all.