

RICHMOND HILL COMMUNITY MEETING

Minutes of the Richmond Hill Community Meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2015 at 17:30 at the Centenary Methodist Church Hall, Edward Street, Richmond Hill

1 Welcome

The Chairman, Kevin Slattery, welcomed everyone at the meeting and extended a special welcome to all new residents and first-time meeting attendees.

2 Attendees

39 people in attendance as per the attendance register.

3 Apologies

Norah Beukes, Simon Clarke, Elize Mercer, Jonathan Mercer, Margie Miller, Warren Myburgh, Nele Rosemeier, Bruce Wiggs.

4 Confirmation of previous minutes

The minutes of previous meeting, held on 6 May 2015, were accepted. This was proposed by Chris Westran and seconded by Jackie Maritz.

5 Crime Update

5.1 For 1 - 15 May, when only one patroller was employed, the following occurred - 1 body discovered (Clarendon Crescent), 1 drunkard removed, 2 housebreakings residential, 2 housebreakings business, 3 robbery from person, 1 attempted theft of motor vehicle, 1 theft from motor vehicle, 5 theft out of motor vehicles. 6 arrests were made - 2 attempted theft of motor vehicle, 1 dagga, 1 carrying housebreaking equipment, 2 possession of stolen goods.

5.2 For 18 - 31 May, when 24/7 patrols started and a new incident log system was implemented, the following occurred - 4 housebreaking, 2 stolen cars found, 3 mugging with weapon, 5 theft from vehicle, 1 vehicle stolen, 25 persons searched and weapons removed, 13 vagrants removed from premises, 3 medical assistance, 1 notify fire brigade, 6 attempted robbery, 1 kidnap attempt, 1 hijack report, 2 vehicle accidents.

6 Municipal Matters

Ward Councillor Morne Steyn gave feedback regarding the following matters:

6.1 Tulla Street derelict property

The SAPS cannot enter private property without being invited in by the owner or unless the owner lays a complaint regarding the vagrant. Problem Building by-laws have been submitted over 5 years ago, but have not been accepted by municipality.

6.2 Illegal shop at 5 St Philip's Street

A large number of complaints have already been received from residents as per the request at the previous community meeting. Any further complaints in writing regarding this matter are still welcomed. The matter will be tabled at a Human Settlements committee meeting and the letters will be submitted at this meeting.

6.3 Stanley Street road works

The municipality will continue working on a sewerage pipe in Stanley Street, which will involve digging up the road to repair the fault.

6.4 Municipal meter on geysers

Morne informed the residents that they can choose whether or not to have the meter installed on their geysers.

6.5 Derelict property - 10 Sherlock Street

Morne Steyn will follow up on this matter.

6.6 Zorbas' noise and business rights

A report has been made to Land Planning regarding the business rights and a compliance notice was to be issued in this regard. Residents were encouraged to report all noise disturbances to SAPS so that a record is created. If a problem is ongoing, this record will be used to motivate the suspension of the liquor licence of the business. As per municipal law, no consent can be given to a business to create a disturbance for the neighbouring residents. A business licence or liquor licence does not give a business the right to make a noise within certain hours. Residents felt that the restaurant has become a sports bar and that is the cause of the problem. The yellow line was painted on the pavement to allow for some outside dining by the restaurants as a 'gentleman's agreement', with tables only placed behind the line to leave space for pedestrians. If the gentlemen's agreement is not complied with this issue will have to be taken up with the land-planning department and all the Stanley Street restaurants could lose their outside dining spaces. The owner of the property used by Zorbas informed the meeting that she was unaware of the problem. She promised to follow up with the tenant regarding all the matters raised.

6.7 Ramp at the Doxa Deo Church

Morne is following up on the matter. The plan is to engage with the church first before a compliance notice is issued.

6.8 Parking

The problem with lack of parking due to the restaurants and other businesses was discussed. Residents were reminded that if a vehicle has parked them in illegally or is blocking their driveway, they can phone the 24 hour traffic department number (041 508 5547) to request that the vehicle be towed away.

6.9 28 Campbell Street shop

Apparently, a business licence was granted for the shop a few years ago. If the shop is causing a problem to neighbours, they can report these problems to the municipality and the zoning/business licence of the property can be revisited or compliance with municipal by laws can be enforced.

6.10 Unlicensed crèche

An unlicensed crèche had been reported and a compliance notice had been issued.

6.11 Zareba Street - speed bumps and red line

The Ward 5 budget only allowed for two sets of speed bumps in the whole Ward. So far this year, more than 18 requests for speed bumps in the Ward 5 area have been received. In order to get more speed bumps, a petition must be submitted by residents in the street to motivate this. Studies of traffic flow, etc, is also needed for submission of requests for new speed bumps. The residents agreed to draw up the petition and collect signatures. Residents suggested that red traffic lines should be painted on the Oval side of Zareba Street. Morne will follow up on this with the traffic department.

7 SRA Matters

7.1 Finance

- a In this financial report, the full amounts are recorded as income and the retention by the NMBM is recorded as Bad Debt.

Opening Balance:	R377 151.94
Income	
NMBM	R 70 000.00
Expenses:	
Employee Related	R 35 054.27
Core Business	R 10 226.47
General Expenses	R149 990.59
Bad Debt	R 3 500.00
Current Account Balance:	R248 380.61
Market Link (Savings) Account Balance	R150 021.91

- b Two extra patroller were employed during the month of May and many days' worth of casual cleaners had been utilised.

- c We received our monthly payment from the NMBM which was R70,000.00 less the 5% retention which is R3,500.00, giving us a net monthly income of R66,500.00.

7.2 New Patrollers

Kevin introduced the two new patrollers, Valentino and Wensel, who join Robert. All 3 patrollers are accredited by PSIRA and have experience in the security industry. Chris Westran (management team member of the SRA) explained the patroller schedule to the meeting. As per the current schedule each patroller get at least one long weekend off per month.

The SRA needs to building up a database of reserve patrollers when the patroller is off sick or on leave.

Kevin thanked Chris for his help thus far and informed the meeting that Chris has experience in security industry that has been invaluable to the SRA.

7.3 10111

Informing the police (10111) of any crimes is still very necessary as the SRA does not aim to replace the police.

7.4 Crime line 084 953 5561

Residents were reminded that the Crime Number is available 24 hours a day.

7.5 General update

- a The new SRA office number is still being finalised.
- b No controllers are used at this stage. The SRA may use volunteers for the controller system again in future as a backup divert for when crime phone is not answered by the patrollers when they may be busy with on another call or responding to a situation.
- c Currently the SRA is doing a large amount of cleaning. This keeps patroller busy either with cleaning or driving to tip.
- d The SRA is working with the municipality on a SRA tip in the Richmond Hill area and this will be help greatly to reduce the number of times the patrol vehicle needs to leave the area. We need approval for use of the site for SRA exclusive tip. We might need to enclose with our own money. MBDA has offered a container to use for this project. Might need a few skips for the space - hopefully though the MBDA
- e The possibility of a designated cleaning vehicle and cleaning supervisor was discussed and will be looked into again in the future.
- f The SRA's responsibilities need to be defined.

- g The NMBMM needs to still perform the services they are responsible for. With regards to cleaning the SRA is currently focussing on the bad littering issues. We have bad areas like the Oval where the municipality cannot clean often enough. Half bins outside the oval have gone missing.
- h Possible more bins in the area through NMBMM.
- i Good relationship with NMBMM will contract with them regarding their issues we face with refuse and dumping.
- j Issues with refuse being put out on the wrong time - especially at the Barking Gecko flats - SRA will talk to the owner of the building. Morne will talk to Yusuf Cassim regarding that issue.
- k Our Web page has been registered and is being designed.
- l Uniforms have arrived and are being branded.
- m The SRA has signed a lease agreement for a office at 15 Stanley Street. The office space will also provide bathroom facilities for the patrollers and cleaners.
- n The SRA is busy designing a pamphlet for distribution to the community. The pamphlet will include the SRA details and important phone numbers, etc.
- o A resident has offered the use of his trailer to the SRA. This will aid with cleaning and optimise the trips taken to the tip.
- p The SRA may purchase a second bakkie for cleaning and as a back-up patrol vehicle.
- q A letter to the Municipality had been drafted, demanding that the SRA be informed of any requests for land usage changes in Richmond Hill.
- r The May municipal report included the following: 26 trips to tip, 6 bakkie loads cleaned and removed by refuse removal truck, 6 fines issued with help from Town Rangers (including one to a resident who moved out of their property and left all her refuse on the side walk on a non-collection day).
- s A 'Faulty street light' list has been compiled and all non-working lights have been reported to the municipality. Residents were asked to please report any faulty street lights to the SRA.
- t The SRA is liaising with the municipality regarding why municipal street cleaners are not doing their job in Richmond Hill.
- u The green space next to the grave yard could be cleaned as a special community project. Nurseries or landscaping companies could be approached to maintain some of our green spaces and use it as advertising for their business.

8 Feral Cat Project

Anyone interested in the Feral Cat Project were asked to stay after the meeting to discuss the matter. Megan Kelly will be heading up the group.

9 Matters arising

9.1 Derelict building in Tulla Street

The building in being occupied by vagrants and drug addicts and is believed to hold a direct correlation with the increase in crime in that area. A petition regarding this building has been submitted to the Ward Councillor's office for follow up. The SRA is working with Warren Myburgh on similar problems and this issue will be added to the list.

9.2 Stairs leading to Govan Mbeki

The possibility of having the stairs, including those leading down to Govan Mbeki from Tulla Street, locked was discussed. As the stairs are often used during the day, the possibility of locking them overnight was considered. This will be looked into further at a later stage.

9.3 Illegal advertising

Abortion stickers and illegal posters are put up in many parts of Richmond Hill. Bylaws for outdoor advertising must also be implemented in the area.

9.4 Alliance Francais Street Music Festival

This year's Street Music Festival is on Saturday 20 June 2015. It will be more family, art and culture-orientated and will include more French culture. Although it usually centred on Stanley Street, this year will see it move to Raleigh Street, with the main stage at the corner of Mackay and Raleigh.

The Alliance was trying to secure the Oval for the festival. Somerset Street may be an alternative if this is not possible.

The Alliance wants to give opportunities to artists in the area and keeps alcohol issues down at this year's festival.

Sponsorship has moved away from liquor companies. If such sponsorship does happen then the alcohol will be limited to a specific space.

The Festival will run from 08:00 to 18:00. If longer, the festival will be limited to a smaller space.

The Alliance will organise for cleaning of the festival area at the end of the festival.

Residents raise questions regarding having stalls at the festival. Kevin encouraged them to contact the Alliance in this regard, but informed residents that food or drink may not be sold without the necessary licences.

9.5 Beer Yard

Residents raised concerns regarding parking and noise problems caused by the Beer Yard. The SRA is looking into the amendment to the zoning for Beer Yard.

9.6 Traffic officers

The need for enforcement of traffic and municipal by laws was raised. Residents enquired about Robert's Peace Officer status. Some paperwork must still be completed by the municipality before Robert can receive his fine book and badge. Whether Robert will be able to issue traffic fines was questioned as the Traffic department have strict rules regarding the issuing of fines.

9.7 1AR Whatsapp group (082 228 0827)

Jan thanked everyone who joined the Whatsapp group and welcomed others who may be interested in joining.

9.8 Fire extinguishers

Land Marine was thanked for filling the fire extinguishers at no cost.

9.9 Meeting minutes

The draft minutes of the Community Meetings will only be distributed 10 -14 days after each community meeting.

10 Date of next meeting

The next Community Meeting will be held on 8 July 2015 at 17:30

11 Close

The meeting closed at 18:45

Approval of minutes

Chairperson

Secretary

Date