

# **RICHMOND HILL COMMUNITY MEETING**

**Minutes of the Richmond Hill Community Meeting held on Wednesday 8 July 2015 at 17:30 at the Centenary Methodist Church Hall, Edward Street, Richmond Hill**

## **1 Welcome**

Kevin Slattery welcomed all to the meeting and extended a special welcome to Mcebisi Ncalu from the MBDA.

## **2 Attendance**

39 people were in attendance, as per the attendance register.

## **3 Apologies**

Sue Hoppe, Arno Janse van Vuuren, Warren Myburgh, Eddie Nell, Rachel Nell, Ed Richardson, Martin van Vuuren, Nadine van Vuuren.

## **4 Confirmation of previous minutes**

The minutes of previous meeting, held on 3 June 2015, were accepted as correct. This was proposed by George Beckley and seconded by Rory Norton.

## **5 Crime Update**

### **5.1 SAPS representative, Captain Deon Ackerman:**

a Thursday 9 July is a big protest march down Cape Road, via Rink Street to City Hall. Please avoid area if possible.

b The following crimes occurred in our sector during the past month:

- Business Robberies (0),
- House Robberies (0);
- Theft out of Motor Vehicles (56),
- Theft of Motor Vehicle (1),
- Housebreaking Residential (5).

These figures include Govan Mbeki. Please be cautious in this area as many thefts out of motor vehicle occur there, especially in the area around the Post Office.

Hotspots for theft out of motor vehicles in Richmond Hill remain Campbell Street, Irvine Street, Mackay Street.

c Robberies from person currently a concern. Many of these occur between 3-6 am.

- d An increase in crime is occurring in the Russell Road, Evatt Street, Govan Mbeki Avenue area. Please be aware of criminals doing smash and grabs at the robot at the bottom of Russell Road. Do not leave items on your seats when you travel!
- e Drunk pedestrians are also targeted as they are heading home from pubs.
- f Residents raised the concern that Clarendon Crescent, especially the empty buildings, is being targeted by drug dealers, with deals happening regularly in the open. Captain Ackerman assured the residents that the SAPS is aware of this and will be doing further work in this regard.

**5.2** The following crime statistics were compiled by the SRA:

- Robbery With Firearm (2),
- Robbery With Weapon Other Than Firearm (3),
- Robbery Common (2),
- Assault GBH (1),
- Assault Common (2),
- Housebreaking Residential (3),
- Housebreakings Business (2),
- Theft Of Motor Vehicle (1),
- Theft Out Of Motor Vehicle (10),
- Illegal Possession Of Firearm (2),
- Drugs (1),
- Drunk Driving (2),
- Search No Problem (161),
- Search Weapon Removed (32),
- Search Drugs Removed (19),
- Public Indecency (6),
- Illegal Goods Handed To Saps (8),
- Vagrants Removed (13),
- Arrests Made/Assisted with (8),
- Other (101).

## **6 Municipal Matters**

### **6.1** Ward 5 Councillor Morne Steyn:

- a Stanley Street graffiti building - feedback from land planning, outdoor advertising and heritage regarding the graffiti on this building is still awaited.
- b 28 Campbell Street - does have permission to trade as a shop, but not for sale of liquor. This issue has been reported to the SAPS.
- c 26 Lutman Street - does not have permissions to operate a shop and the SRA will

raise the matter with the relevant authorities.

- d 5 St Philip's Street - the shop application still needs to go to committee and objections have been forwarded. Council has been in recess and the appointment of the new mayoral committee has caused some delays.
- e Refuse from bar at Stanley and Irvine - this issue has been raised before and a meeting was held with the director of refuse removal. Compliance notices will be issued as well as fines if necessary and it will be ensured that a contract for their refuse removal is put in place. Most businesses don't have special contract with municipality or outside contractor. Town rangers are operating regularly at this stage and the Ward 5 office is pushing to get contracts in place for all business in the area.
- f Sherlock Street - the owner of the derelict building has been served a compliance notice.
- g Tulla Street - a petition has been received from surrounding residents. The responsibility still remains that of the owner and we are trying to deal with any problems on an ad hoc basis.
- h Zorbas - a compliance notice has been issued. On Friday evening, Warrant Officer Merrick was intending to do an inspection.

## 6.2 Kevin Slattery:

- a Cleaning: 28 loads of rubbish (995 bags) have been taken to the tip. 3 loads have been cleaned (by the SRA) and removed by the municipal refuse truck.
- b Other:
  - 3 Broken street lights have been added to the list;
  - 1 Petition was received from residents given to Ward Councillor;
  - 1 Missing drain cover was found and replaced;
  - 3 Fires were extinguished;
  - 8 Cases of general assistance given;
  - 2 Cases of medical assistance given;
  - 1 Car was jump-started;
  - 2 Cases where an ambulance was summoned;
  - 1 Motor vehicle accident was reported to the SAPS.
- c The SRA is compiling letters of objection regarding 28 Campbell Street, The Beer Yard and 5 St Phillips Street.
- d The SRA is working with the SAPS and the Asset Forfeiture Unit to clean up Overport. The SAPS's Captain Eberson and Warren Myburgh (Management team and lawyer) are liaising on this matter. One of the owners has been found and

details of crimes committed at Overport have been sent to him. He has been informed that if the building is not cleaned up it may be seized by the Asset Forfeiture Unit.

- e Business right applications have been received for 7 Bain Street and 30 Edward Street. Anyone who wishes to object to the applications or receive more information in this regard is welcome to contact the office.

## 7 SRA Matters

### 7.1 Finance

- a The full amounts are recorded as income and the retention by the NMBM is recorded as Bad Debt.

Opening balance:	R 248 380.61	
Income:		
NMBM	R 70 000.00	
Company donation	R 2 000.00	
Expenses:		
Employee-related	R 30 581.90	
Core business	R 11 059.41	
General expenses	R 21 461.81	
Capital expenses	R 4 794.39	N1
Bad debt	<u>R 3 500.00</u>	
Current account balance:	<u>R 248 983.10</u>	
Market link (savings) account balance	R 150 076.07	N2

Notes:

- N1 Capital Expenses include the purchase of a laptop and storage cabinet which become assets of the company
  - N2 Interest of R 54.16 was earned on this account during June
- b George Beckley informed the meeting that this was his final report as treasurer as he has resigned from the position. Kevin Slattery thanked him for all his hard work.
  - c Kevin Slattery called for a volunteer from the community to be the new treasurer. Anyone willing is asked to please contact the office.

### 7.2 General Update

- a Alliance Music Festival
  - i. A feedback meeting is planned - please send in your views.
  - ii. There were issues with too few toilets.
  - iii. Next year SRA must get more involved with planning.

- iv. More control during the festival will result in a bigger success.
  - v. A team of volunteers will be formed in early January to approach Alliance regarding planning.
- b Annual General Meeting
- i. Only members will be allowed to vote at the AGM. Please contact the office if you need an application form.
  - ii. The AGM date will be determined by how long the Audit of the Financial Statements will take.
- c The website should be up in 1 - 2 months.
- d Street cleaning
- i. We are not using the trailer yet as we need special permission from the Waste Department to take the bakkie with a trailer to the tip. A meeting has been schedule in this regard.
  - ii. We are working with MBDA and the municipality to get the paperwork for Robert's Peace officer qualification.
  - iii. We are working on getting the use of the land at the bottom of Richmond Hill Street. This will be an enclosed and manned site for the use of the SRA.
  - iv. We are applying to get a letter from NMBM to allow us to go to utilise the tip free of charge if obtaining the use of the space in Richmond Hill Street takes too long.
  - v. A cage is being built for bakkie to help with cleaning.
- e A second vehicle is being looked at for patrols
- f We have 3 patrollers and one additional patroller. Please remember the SRA is not trying to replace the SAPS.

## **8 Matters arising**

- 8.1** Soccer matches are being played in the park on Sundays. Concerns were raised regarding this possible killing the grass and whether the ball may injure small children trying to play in the park. It was suggested that the space next to park could be offered as an alternative. An enquiry regarding this must be made at the land management department.
- 8.2** A resident informed the meeting that they are looking to enclose a space in St Patrick's Roads for the children of a local school to play. Kevin Slattery suggested that they send a letter in this regard to the SRA as the SRA may be able to assist on the council side.
- 8.3** Clarendon Crescent road surface dug up. This matter will be reported to our Ward Councillor.

#### **8.4 Zorba's noise disturbance complaints**

- a The matter was discussed and management representatives from Zorba's were present to answer questions. It was agreed that open honest conversation needed regarding this noise issues is needed.
- b Zorba's management raised the following points:
  - i. The business model of Zorba's has not changed, just the signage.
  - ii. Live performance were only held on Wednesday and Friday nights.
  - iii. The seating at the back of a property was only occasionally used.
- c Residents raised the following points:
  - i. In a residential area a business model for restaurants should not be one that includes loud music and jol.
  - ii. Behaviour and respect for others is very important.
  - iii. Some nights music can be heard on the street a block away.
  - iv. The doors leading to the back yard of Zorba's must be kept closed to reduce noise.
  - v. Zorba's need to look at sound proofing.
- d A sit-down with concerned parties to facilitate necessary change must be arranged. It was agreed that compromise and open dialogue will be needed to resolve the issues.

**8.5** A long-time resident, Johan, is moving from area. He wished the residents all the best for the future.

#### **9 Date of next meeting**

The date for the next meeting was set for 12 August 2015 at 17:30.

#### **10 Close**

The meeting closed at 18:31.

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#### **Approval of minutes**

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Chairperson

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Secretary

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Date