

RICHMOND HILL COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, 9 June 2016 at 19:00

Centenary Methodist Church Hall, Edward Street, Richmond Hill

Minutes

1 Welcome

The chairman, Scott Rollo, welcomed all to the meeting.

2 Attendees

As per the attendance register

3 Apologies

Rochelle and Jacques Jordaan, Margo Bastos, Michelle Berrington, Dan Crosby, Chris Parkin, Kevin Slattery, Hanna Kotze, Nellie Rosemeier

4 Confirmation of previous minutes

The minutes of the Community meeting held on 14 April 2016 were accepted as a true record. This was proposed by Alan Mounter and seconded by Margie Miller.

5 Introduction of the new Patrollers

Peter Obermeyer and Morne Geere, as well as Community Liaison and Environmental Officer, Alan Mounter, were introduced to the Community.

6 Hope Jones Foundation

Gary Jones from the Hope Jones Foundation requested donations of resalable old books as part of the Nelson Mandela Bay 67 Minute initiative. The Foundation supports children with mental and physical disabilities. Donations can be dropped off at 15 Stanley Street.

7 **Crime update**

Description	April 16	May 16
Robbery with Fire Arm	5	1
Robbery with Weapon, not Fire Arm	4	3
Robbery Common	3	3
House Robberies	0	1
Assault Grievous Bodily Harm	0	2
Housebreaking Residential	10	1
Housebreaking Business	5	3
Theft OF Motor Vehicle	4	0
Theft OUT of Motor Vehicle	7	6
Theft FROM Motor Vehicle	6	7
Drugs	2	3
Stolen Vehicle Found	1	0
Search No Problem	24	8
Search Weapon Removed	1	0
Search Drugs Removed	1	0
Illegal Goods Handed to SAPS	1	0
Vagrants Removed	6	2
Arrests Made	3	1
OTHER	130	78
MONTHLY TOTALS	213	119
	98	45
	115	74
Garbage bags removed	2312	2661

8 Municipal Matters

8.1 New Ward Councillor

Ward Councillor Morne Steyn introduced Sandile Rwexwana, the new candidate for Ward 5. He lives in Lansdowne Place and will, therefore, have a personal interest in Richmond Hill

8.2 Illegal businesses

Kevin recently had a meeting with Morne Steyn and Athol Trollip. Legal action by the SRA against some of these businesses is possible. For example: 5 St Phillips Street was the first one to be brought up, 2 years ago and it is still not even on the Human Settlements agenda. The upcoming elections will mean that no decisions are expected until after 3 August.

Jan: Isn't there an alternative for the illegal business problem that probably won't take place well after the elections. Morne Steyn: the committee is not sitting from now until the election.

8.3 Road works

Many trenches and pot holes were fixed, albeit temporarily.

8.4 Street lights

Street lights appear to be getting fixed.

8.5 Illegal dumping and garbage bags

Illegal dumping is a huge problem in the whole metro. The SRA is a great help in Richmond Hill.

Alan Mounter explained the need to put out garbage bags early on the allocated days. Missing the truck means the SRA vehicle must collect the bags. Culprits are warned and even fined by the town rangers for putting out garbage on non-collection days. A leaflet explaining the rules and applicable fines has been distributed and there has been a noticeable improvement. If perpetrators can be identified, Alan will talk to them about getting fined. If the truck is missed, Alan can be contacted - but not habitually.

8.6 Wild Park

The Wild Park is used as a dumping spot for suitable garden refuse only. This will form compost, improving the soil quality for future expansion.

9 SRA Matters

9.1 Rodent problem

Yvonne indicated a major rat problem in Dollery Street - especially those houses facing Russell Road. She proposed that owls be accommodated instead of using poison. It was explained that the municipality no longer sprays the drains against infestations. It is, therefore, an ongoing problem in the metro. Simon Clark suggested using chicken soup mixed with Polyfilla as a reasonably safe "poison".

9.2 Water leaks

The SRA cannot do infrastructural work, such as tarring roads and fixing water leaks. These must be reported to the municipality and we then hope it will be attended to.

9.3 Weeds

Most of the suburb has been sprayed for weeds, but if someone is aware that an area has not been treated, please contact SRA office.

9.4 Water charge increase

The reason for recent increases in water charges was questioned? It appears to be caused by the averaging policy of the municipality. Residents were advised to compare physical meter reading with the municipality billing. Liana Janse Van Vuuren advised that residents can register to submit water readings online.

9.2 Finances

Janine Uderstadt gave details of the current finances.

9.3 Updates

a Music Festival

Confusion reigns. Soul Good is planning an event for 18 June. The Alliance Francaise has not yet received municipal permission for their festival on 25 June. Residents will be informed of developments.

b Khumbulani High School

The SRA Directors had a successful meeting with the principal of the Khumbulani High School. Once the new fence has been secured and the gates locked during the day, effective rules will be implemented and executed. The principal is very positive about the changes, such as gates being closed and late arrivals having to pass through the office. Developments will be monitored.

c Vagrants, Albany Road

The SAPS has indicated they can do nothing about it. It was noted that the vagrants are not in our area and that we are not mandated to deal with them.

Simon Clark asked what we could do about the vagrants in Westbourne Road. The SRA patrollers will attend to this issue.

d Neighbourhood patrols

If residents are interested, it must be formalized. Own vehicle is essential. Patrollers will have access to radios. Simon Clark volunteered to drive this project. Interested people can contact Elaine Looss.

10 General

10.1 Meeting date clash

It is unacceptable that the planned SRA meeting suddenly coincides with an impromptu meeting of the MBDA i.r.o. parking in Stanley Street. This issue must be taken up with the MBDA.

10.2 Small steps

Scott Rollo mentioned New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani's "broken window" concept - attending to the small detail will take care of the bigger picture.

11 Date of next meeting

The next Richmond Hill Community Meeting will be held on 18 August at 19h00

12 Close

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:05