



COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Community Meeting of the Richmond Hill Special Rates Area held on Thursday, 13 February 2025 at 18:00 at The Anchor of Hope Church, corner Edward and Campbell Streets

1 Welcome

The Chairman, Ed Richardson, welcomed all present.

2 Present

G. Meyer	S. Barber	S. Roman	T. Wegner
M. MacLean	T. Wild	F Richardson	M. Bradfield
A. Mbowu	M. Qenge	J. Badenhorst	M. Terblanche
E. Richardson	L. de Vrye	S. Friedmann	P. Hammett
J. Bryce	S. Marais	Y. Nicholson	M. Eddy
J. Botha	N. Laws	A. Snyman	I. Jeacocks
N. Gxoyiya	D. Burton	R. Norton	L. George

Terri Stander (Ward Councillor)
Sgt Njokweni (Humewood SAPS)
Clinton Swartz (HRG Security)
Konrad Faltein (Waste Management)

3 Apologies

E. Wagner	T. Bastos	R. Jordaan	C. Parkin
P. van Niekerk	P. van Niekerk	J. van derWesthuizen	Esias Nell
S. Immelman	C. Hart	B. Els	C. Warneke

Colonel Mgeba (Humewood SAPS)

4 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2024 were accepted as a true record of proceedings. This was proposed by Frances Richardson and seconded by Tarryn Wild.

5 Matters arising from previous minutes

No matters arising.

6 Reports

6.1 SAPS -Sergeant Njokweni

Highlighted the following points:

- Mentioned that in Comparison to Sector 1 (RH), Sector 2 (Central) and Sector 3 (Humewood/Summerstrand), Richmond Hill has the least reported incidents.
- Stats – Incidents reported: Richmond Hill (15), Central (42) and Humewood (50)
- The Ward Councillor mentioned that she has obtained the Letter from the EC Liquor Board for 44 Mackay Street with regards to 'no liquor license'. She would like SAPS to assist on her visit to the premises to shut them down. Meeting will be set up.
- 85 Mackay -there is no simple solution dealing with this property. Out of SAPS Mandate to shut them down etc. This is a Legal Matter. Sgt Njokweni asked whether our Ward Councillor could assist.
- The Chairperson stated that all cases must be reported to SAPS Our stats are too low for the area. Inform Sharon at the Office so that this can be escalated.

6.2 HRG Security – Clinton

LATEST STATS AND/OR ACTIVITIES

- Homeless or displaced people - average of +- 20 per day
- Stop search - 40 per month
- Client requests and assistance- over 100 pe month
- Drug related - 20-25 per month
- Arrests - numerous including stolen property returned
- Water meter and pipes slowed down compared to last year
- Regular assistance with fire prevention and fighting
- Trolley's confiscation
- Visible guarding at St Philips church
- Respond and report accidents
- Check and verify
- Open gates
- Open doors
- Goods left unattended
- Windows open
- Cars left unattended
- 3 robbers arrested after robbing kids. Arrested at 85 Mackay. SAPS case
- Motor bike theft. Suspect arrested and bike returned

Very Important to Report all incidents.

Cameras – very efficient. The cameras are making a tremendous difference in the area.

6.3 Metro Police

Nil.

6.4 Ward Councillor (Terri Stander)

Terri proposed that she will address 85 Mackay Street matter. There is a Problem By Law where both Council and SAPS in terms of National Legislation have a shared responsibility to deal with buildings where there is suspected criminal activity and properties that pose a risk of Health and Safety to the Community.

If Council and SAPS were serious about 85 Mackay, there would have been a plan in place. The Metro is not enforcing the Problem Building By Law. Terri to follow up on having the electricity cut at 85 Mackay.

Terri has developed a 12page proposal on how to deal with the vagrants, unhoused street walkers, people living on the streets. Trying to put this into place, to give SAPS the mandate to move these people. A place is needed to where they can be moved to.

Lights – a Team, a Municipal Team, not contractors in Ward 5 working slowly to the outstanding street lights not working. An incident happened last week where they put up poles in Clampett Park. These cables were stripped. The electrician phoned Terri and reported the problem. He did do the repairs. There is only one jack hammer to be used and this gets taken away many times due to other complaints which have come in.

No cherry pickers at this stage. They were using a flatbed truck. All security companies, SAPS to keep their eyes on our electrical infrastructure.

Reinstatements – There has been movement. Terri said that she is maintaining the pressure on this.

Question raised about the new student accommodation at PWM - 24 Edward Street. There has been Noise Complaints etc.

Terri - even if your property was zoned as a Boarding House, you would still have to get consent for student accommodation. A new application must be submitted.

The Student Accommodation Policy must be abided by.

All suspected addresses must be forwarded to SRA Office or Terri so that this can be investigated. Complaints must be in writing.

Anything with Illegal Dumping, get the date, time and footage so that this can be dealt with.

Reminder: Do not support anyone on the street

Resident raised a question whether Clampett Park could be used as a ‘Doggie’ Park? Matter to be looked into.

7 RHSRA Matters

7.1 Problem Buildings

The Ward Councillor is attending to the Problem Buildings in our area.

All problem buildings should be reported to Sharon at the SRA Office who will escalate to the relevant departments. The SRA follows up on a regular basis.

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The SRA has assisted the owner of property 22 Smith to enclose the property as well as two properties in St Phillips Street.

7.2 Illegal construction

All Illegal building alternations please to be reported to Sharon at the SRA Office who will escalate to the relevant departments. These matters are followed up on regularly.

There is a new inspector in our area who has already issued “stop working” notices to a number of properties.

7.3 Cameras – John Bryce

Currently 47 cameras are being monitored in Richmond Hill. The first phase target is 60, thereafter evaluation and plan on the way forward. There are 13 cameras to still be installed before the first Phase has been reached.

Monitoring, reporting, communication and response is showing steady improvement, with all involved working better together as everyone has become more familiar with the system.

Improvements with the patrollers “in vehicle” monitoring equipment coupled with an additional night shift patroller is also making the neighbourhood safer.

Problems in the system are being dealt with as and when identified.

The SRA is in the process of paying out for the Pilot Phase Camera Installation costs. The monitoring fees are not included.

If you have uncapped internet and are interested in hosting a camera, please collect a letter of agreement after the meeting or the SRA Office. Your property will then be assessed.

Telegram members will in the future be vetted to be added to the group.

7.4 Project – Lighting up the Hood

At the present rate the streetlights will not all be fixed or remain operational. Many areas are also in darkness due to trees absorbing the light. The answer is low-level lights mounted on private properties.

The SRA has decided to supply residents with 100 / 60 watt spotlights, depending on the area to be covered. The lights are to be installed by the resident, who will also pick up the electricity costs, which should not be more than R10-00 a month.

A lit street is a safer street. The choice is up to the residents.

7.5 Water Meters – unsatisfactory reinstatements

Please report all such issues to Sharon at the SRA Office. All reinstatements.

7.6 Homeless – MES (Mould Empower Serve) / Homeless JOC

Malcolm mentioned do not hand out anything to street dwellers, rather donate to the organisations.

MES Vouchers are available at the SRA Office.

7.7 Noise Complaints

Call SAPS or Metro SAPS for all Noise Complaints. Obtain the OB number and forward all complaints to the SRA Office so that the reported matter can be followed up on.

8 Matters arising

8.1 Conservation Stats December 2024/January2025

Bags taken to the tip 2 917- plus boxes, branches, and junk

Kilometres travelled – 2 871

Trip to the tips – 59

8.2 Community engagement

It was noted that the meeting was relatively poorly attended, and that more should be done to encourage residents to participate in the running of the neighbourhood.

The chair responded that the meeting is advertised on the website, through social media and a banner. He encouraged those attending to speak to their neighbours and motivate them to attend.

The meeting is open to all Richmond Hill residents and input is welcomed.

9 Date and place of next meeting

Next Community Meeting on 10 April 2025 at the church.

10 Close

The Chairman thanked all present for attending. The meeting adjourned at 18:50

Approval of Minutes

Chairman

Secretary

Date