



Minutes of the Community Meeting of the Richmond Hill Special Rates Area held on Thursday 8 October 2020 at 19:00 at the Edward Street Methodist Church Hall

1 Welcome

The Chairman, Scott Rollo, welcomed all present.

2 Present

Liz Anderson, Nicky Botha, Tania Bras, Paddy Brunner, Peter Bulbring, Colin Carmody, Jan de Klerk, Mike du Preez, Hennie Etzebeth, Sharon Friedman, Nick Gxoyita, Mathilda Hornsveld, Kim Houwer, Rochelle Jordaan, Hanna Kotze, Nicole Law, Bennie Liebenbery, Brian Logie, Malcolm Maclean, Michelle Maclean, Duncan Macrae, Margaret Matthews, Mandisa Mesaryla, Jackie Monaghan, Alan Mounter, Rory Norton, Odessa Perelson, Sharon Pretorius, Jean Prinsloo, Terius Prinsloo, Lara Probert, Ivan Rensburg, Scott Rollo, Nele Rosemeier, Mark Rudd, Yvonne Saunders, Kevin Slattery, Deon Small, Debbie Soper, Marianne Terblanche, Sbongile Tsiu, Elmarie van der Vyver, Jacky Varty, Norman Visser.

Lt Col. Houwland (SAPS Humewood), Colonel Frank (SAPS Humewood), Captain Sweetland (SAPS Humewood), Sgt Njokweni (SAPS Humewood), Dries van der Westhuizen (Ward 5), Desmond (Algoa Security (GRPS), Lt Colonel Masinela (Metro Police), Konrad Faltein – Waste Department.

3 Apologies

Arvind Amtha, Toni Bastos, Liz de Doncker, Alan Grobler, Claerwen Hart, Jacques Jordaan, David Lindsey, Jonathan Mercer, Liz Nickhain, Shawn Opsahl, Chris Parkin, Mariska Spoomaker, Rowena van Eck, Eva Wagner, Trudie Wegner.

4 Minutes Of The Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting of 13 February 2020 had been circulated and were taken as read. The minutes were approved by the meeting. This was proposed by Alan Mounter and seconded by Mathilda Hornsveld.

5 Matters Arising From The Previous Minutes

Nil.

6 Reports

6.1 SAPS (Lt Colonel Houwland)

a Theft out of motor vehicle

Hotspot Crime takes place from 12:00 to 18:00. Prominent streets are Bain, Campbell, Edward, Mackay, St Phillips and Westbourne. Prominent days are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

b Business burglary

The prominent days are Fridays and Saturdays. Prominent hours are 12:00 to 15:00 on Fridays and 15:00 to 18:00 on Saturdays. No explanation can be given for these times.

c Robberies

Govan Mbeki will always be a problem. The Post Office, with many taxis, has become a problem area. People are advised to avoid Govan Mbeki altogether. Prominent days are Wednesday, Fridays and Saturdays. Prominent hours are from 12:00 to 06:00 and early morning on Saturdays. No cameras are working in the area.

d General crime

General crime is picking up lately, caused mainly by unemployment and homelessness.

e New officers

Colonel Frank, Captain Sweetland (statistics) and Sgt Njokweni (new sector manager in place of Captain Ackerman) were introduced to the meeting.

f WhatsApp complaints

Lt Colonel Houwland asked that residents send him complaints via WhatsApp and he would refer them to the relevant channels. Any case that anyone is unhappy with can also be reported to him in this manner. Every morning at 09:00 a Station Meeting is held to discuss these issues.

g 10111

The lack of response from 10111 was raised. If this happens, alternative numbers are 041 504 5018, 504 5019, 504 5020. If you feel they take too long, you may call him directly and report it.

h Opening dockets

Nele Rosemeier reported that they had their 19th incident the previous day. She had reported all incidents, but was told by SAPS that a case would only be opened for insurance purposes. A case in July had still not been followed up by the SAPS for fingerprints. All case numbers must be sent to the SRA Office and then forwarded to Lt Col Houwland. If the policeman on the scene refuses to open a docket, details must be forwarded as well.

i Securing property:

If owners/residents fail to properly secure their property, in terms of walls, fences, burglar bars, electric fences, gates, etc, then they cannot expect to be safe within their premises and they cannot expect others to sort out their problems.

j 27 Hartman Street and 22/24 Smith Street

These houses are full of vagrants. Captain Ackerman attends to this on a regular basis.

k Vagrants and drug addicts

Not much can be done, except take them in and check fingerprints on the system.

l Reporting

Residents must send all details of crime to the SRA Office for collating and forwarding. This will prevent crossing lines of communication.

m Opening cases

A large number of people do not open cases where crimes have been committed to their property or themselves. This confuses the stats and results in lower patrolling levels by SAPS and Metro. Every case must be reported and a case opened. The chances of anyone being caught and you having to go to court is minimal. In the case of a car break-in, the car must be taken to Mount Road SAPS for fingerprints. This is important, so that suspects can be linked to other cases.

6.2 Algoa Security (Desmond standing in for Rufus)

- a** Algoa are currently in the process of changing their name to GRPS and rebranding their vehicles. The SRA will continue to report back on any changes with Algoa.
- b** The SRA tracks the patrol vehicle and checks daily coverage. Anyone can contact the office and Sharon will be able to supply this info.
- c** A word of thanks was passed on to Algoa for their service and prompt response.

6.3 Metro Police (Lt Colonel Masinela)

- a** The 24-hour Control Room number is 041 508 5501. If no response, contact Ward 5. Dries van der Westhuizen or John Best will assist and get on to the Metro Police.
- b** Metro must attend to any social or domestic complaint and Metro is the force-multiplier for SAPS. The Metro and SAPS have joint operations with Humewood SAPS and are aware of all complaints in the Central and Richmond Hill area.

6.4 Council (Councillor Dries van der Westhuizen)

a Central SRA

The Central SRA has been established. Dries had asked them to attend our meeting so that the two SRA's can start working together.

b Municipality

The Municipality is totally broken at the moment, a very sad state of affairs. Half the staff are not back from leave and are still working from home.

c Street lights

Most contracts have not yet been renewed. There has been no street light contract for at least a year and there are no bulbs available.

d Water leaks

Very little progress on the ground.

e Potholes

No progress.

f Treasury holdback

More than R1.5bn is being kept back by Treasury - equivalent to the capital budget. This means no projects are going to happen. The operating budget will go over to capital as certain things have to be done.

g SAPS co-operation

Captain Frank and Kevin Slattery (CPF) were thanked for promoting greater co-operation.

h Crime stats

These are definitely on the increase, mainly because of the Covid effect and the increase in vagrants.

6.5 Waste Department (Konrad Faltein)

a Various areas were mentioned as rubbish hotspots where illegal dumping takes place. Evidence is needed before a fine can be issued.

b Alan has a good relationship with Elton, the Town Ranger. He will pass on any evidence collected..

c Wheelie bins were suggested, but Konrad said they had been tried and did not work.

7 RHSRA Matters

7.1 SRA Financials

Our income has dropped by approximately 40%, caused by the Covid effect and some residents not paying rates. However, the SRA has worked within its current budget and we don't have any financial worries.

7.2 Marketing and Branding

Due to Covid 19, no progress has been made.

7.3 Block Watch (Kevin Slattery)

- a CPF Humewood Chairman, Kevin Slattery, wishes to form a sub-structure in the form of block watches or a neighbourhood watch. However, response had been poor. If residents wanted it to happen, they need to get involved. Address and contact details must be sent to the SRA office to add to the database.
- b The duties of the neighbourhood watch and/or block watch would see people driving their own vehicles for a period of time (coordinated) and report suspicious activities to Algoa. Every pair of eyes adds to the general security of the area.

7.4 Zoning

Stevie Nix appears to be putting in a shop in the rear of their building. The building is zoned for business and had a shop in it before. We can only act if the law is contravened.

7.5 Conservation Stats

YTD Jan to June 2020: bags taken to the tip - 14918 plus boxes, branches and other.
kilometres travelled - 10294
trips to the tips – 240

September 2020: bags taken to the tip - 2669 plus boxes, branches and other
kilometres travelled - 1900
trips to the tips – 43

7.6 Projects

The SRA is currently working on some projects, including the possible security fencing of our parks, which will give us access control. The SRA also undertook the cutting of the parks and surrounding areas during lockdown.

7.7 Change of Directors

Shortly into the hard lockdown, we unfortunately lost one of our valuable directors, Jan de Klerk, who had to leave us to attend to his business. His admin skills are sorely missed. Thank you, Jan, for your dedication and hard work.

7.8 Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Thursday 10 December 2020 at 19:00. This meeting is only open to Property Owners. The SRA office will issue all details regarding the AGM in due course.

8 General

Nil.

9 Date Of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 10 December 2020 at 19:00.

10 Close

The Chairman thanked all present for attending. The meeting adjourned at 20:08

Approval of Minutes

Chairman

Secretary

Date