



Minutes of the Community Meeting of the Richmond Hill Special Rates Area held on Thursday 20 April 2023 at 18:00 at The Anchor of Hope Church, corner of Edward and Campbell Street, Richmond Hill

1 Welcome

The acting chairman, Ed Richardson, welcomed all present.

2 Present

Arvind Amtha, Heidi Botha, Megan Bradfield, Peter Domoney, Mike du Preez, Mike Eddy, Konrad Faltein (Waste Management), Rochelle Jordaan, Nicole Laws, Peter Mandla, Saki Marais, Yve Nicholson, Emma O'Brian, Chris Parking, Frances Richardson, Scott Rollo, Danie Roos, Marianne Terblanche, Sgt Njokweni (Humewood SAPS Sector Manager)

3 Apologies

John Bryce, Gareth Foster, Paul Hammett, Claerwen Hart, Jacques Jordaan, Malcolm MacLean, Jonathan Mercer, Rory Norton, Elaine Parkin, Debbie Soper, Terri Stander (Ward Councillor), Clinton Swartz (HRG Security), Colonel Frank (Humewood SAPS).

4 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2023 were accepted as a true record of proceedings. This was proposed by Chris Parkin and seconded by Rochelle Jordaan.

5 Reports

5.1 SAPS

Sergeant Njokweni (Humewood SAPS Sector Manager)

Gave a brief indication of what Crime incidents have taken place from 1 April 2023 up until now.

Contact crimes:

A total of 8 incidents took place. Richmond Hill, Sector 1 has had the least numbers in comparison to Sector 2 which had 45 incidents and the Summerstrand, Sector 3, with approximately 30 incidents.

- 2 hijackings in the Richmond Hill area. These hijacking were where Uber drivers were requested. The 1 incident took place in Sherlock Street where an Uber was called and the was taken to New

Brighton where he was robbed.

- 2 (two) carjacking,
- 2 (two) robberies with a firearm, 2 robberies aggravated, 1 robbery common and one sexual assault. For these types of crimes we had 8 for Sector 1 where Sector 2(Central) had 34 and Sector 3 (Summerstrand) had 30.
- Property related crimes in Richmond Hill is currently 10 compared to the 35 in Sector 2 and 37 which has occurred in Sector 3.
- 1 Business Burglary and 3 Residential Burglaries 6 Theft out of Motor vehicle. The largest number was last month where most cases were in front of the Main Post Office and not in Richmond Hill.
- Drug related incidents where 3 people were arrested in possession of drugs.
- Two (2) Drunken Driving incidents in Richmond Hill.
- This brings it to a total of 5 arrests made in the area compared to Sector 2 where 27 arrests were made and Sector 3, 18 arrests made.
- 2 Incidents of Theft
- 1 Incident of Fraud

Discussion

Any complaints can be forwarded to Sharon from the Office to be forwarded to Sgt Njokweni.

Hotspots in the area : Bottom of Campbell/Smith Street, Westbourne Road. (Govan Mbeki – Post Office), TVET College.

Resident mentioned that there were 5 house break-ins in Moffat Street/Somerset Street since end of March. No cases were opened. Residents are asked to open cases so that SAPS can investigate. This will ensure correct stats.

Requested for more visible SAPS and Security in the area.

The Chairperson mentioned that if anyone is interest in starting a neighbourhood watch, then are welcome to do so.

It was raised that the car guards in Stanley Street are a problem as they are the informants for the crime in the area. Sergeant Njokweni confirmed that no incidents have been received by SAPS with regards to the car guards.

5.2 Metro SAPS

No member of the Metro Police attended the meeting. Apology was not received.

5.3 HRG Security

Apology was received.

Stats for the month of March 2023 :

Vagrants Removed - Average Of 12 Per Day/Night

Drug Related Incidents - 6 Reported And Attended

Vehicle Parked Illegally - Report Of Heavy Motor Vehicle In Suffolk. Requested To Be Moved And Authorities Involved

Gates/garage doors left open - 16

Accident supporting role - 1

Fires supporting role - 3

Water leak/s reported- 3

Drunken people removed - 2 parties

Trolleys confiscated - 14

Stop & search with permission - 17

Assault / stabbing incidents responded - 3

Vagrant clearout with authorities - 3

Cars broken into - 4

5.4 Ward Councillor

Apology was received. Attended an urgent Caucus Meeting.

6 RHSRA Matters

6.1 Problem Buildings

There are 4 problem properties in our area with Illegal Occupants. Evictions were done. This remains a problem as some owners are not taking proper responsibility for their properties. With the one owner, an offer of purchase was made to her which she refused. Now the illegal squatters are trying to enter the building again. Gangsters operated from the said property.

6.2 Illegal Construction Ed Richardson

44 Mackay Street, the owner received Heritage Approval after continuous enquires/investigations. Building Plans have been resubmitted and not approved as yet. There are additions which we have been advised are illegal in the alterations already done, which may cause that the plans are not approved.

The residents are requested to object to any Liquor License for which the owner may apply. It seems as if we managed to delay or stop the liquor license for the She Lounge in Westbourne Road.

6.3 Little Library

We have a cabinet, books and will be putting the cabinet on a pavement in Richmond Hill. A decision is still to be made where.

6.4 Cameras and Block Watch

Still in process and experimenting different options. ADT, Citywide and Atlas have agreed to carry out a trial. A further trial period with Citywide is currently in place.

6.5 Wild Park

Still ongoing project. At the IDP a proposal was put in to have this zoned as an Official Park. If it gets approved, then the Municipality can start doing maintenance themselves. EPWP has been brought into the area to assist with cleaning of the area as well. The Project Team are doing well in keeping the Wild Park clean.

6.6 Homeless – MES (Mould Empower Serve)

This stays a huge problem. The building in Russell Road which the Ward Councillor tried to get for the homeless, nothing has come of this as yet. No solution has been found. This was under discussion at the CPF Meeting where a suggestion was made that Churches, SAPS, and all relevant departments come to some decision. MES is still doing well assisting the homeless but too far from our area.

6.7 Oval Wall
Emma O'Brian

Wears 2 hats, is a resident and works for the arts, culture sports and recreation. They did a mural at Newton Park swimming pool and the sports side is excited to do the oval. It will be a blend of what the oval is and Richmond H. The sports side and our suburb. Next month the sub committee will be formed to decide what exactly they want and then a tender in a competition format will go out to the bays mural artists to submit.

The Chairman mentioned that it is bonding liquid.

8. Matters arising

8.1 Squatters/Illegal shacks

Rochelle raised a question as to why the Illegal Shacks/squatters can only be removed in a Joint Operation with Metro SAPS, SAPS, and the other departments.

Sergeant Njokweni mentioned that all Department are needed to assist. Social Development must be present together with Metro SAPS, SAPS, Land Invasion and Human Settlements The homeless should be removed to a place of safety.

8.2 Car Guards

It was raised that the car guards in Stanley Street are a problem as they are the informants for the crime in the area. Sergeant Njokweni confirmed that no incidents have been received by SAPS with regards to the car guards.

Do not feed the car guards.

Suggestion made that the businesses are contacted to encourage the guests not to pay the car guards.

Put up posters : 'Stop paying car guards' or wording to that effect.

8.3 Lighting – street light

Still remains a problem. The contractors are told to work 2 weeks in one Ward but as soon as they start working, they get called to another area. The Councillor is addressing this problem.

Rochelle mentioned that the residents should start putting up their own lighting for safety purposes.

8.4 Tree cutting

Trees in the area are needed to be trimmed especially those blocking the lights out.

The Chairman mentioned that the Parks Department have started trimming trees.

Trees needed to be trimmed must be escalated to the SRA Office.

8.5 Road Markings and Speed Bumps

It was raised that the stop signs and street markings need to be painted.

The Chairman mentioned that they will be looking into the budget to purchase paint. The Municipality were going to supply some paint, but not anymore.

Speed bumps are need in certain spots.

The Chairman mentioned that a petition must be handed in to The Councillor and a IDP should be completed.

9. Conservation Stats:

February 2023 : 2254 bags taken to the tip – plus boxes, branches and other
Kilometres travelled – 2409
Trips to the tips – 39

March 2023 : 2569 bags taken to the tip – plus boxes, branches and other
Kilometres travelled – 2065
Trips to the tips – 36

10. Next Meeting

15 June 2023

10 Close

The Chairman thanked all present for attending. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 19:00.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman

Secretary

Date