



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Richmond Hill Special Rates Area Non-Profit Company held on Thursday 7 December 2023 at 18:00 at the Anchor of Hope Church Hall, Edward Street, Richmond Hill, Nelson Mandela Bay.

Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to consider matters as set out in Section 61(8) of the Companies Act and to consider and, if deemed fit, to pass, with or without modification, the resolutions set out in the notice of the meeting.

The notice convening the meeting was issued with the proper authority and for the requisite period prior to the meeting. Everyone has received a copy of the notice of the Annual General Meeting, by e-mail or delivered or collected from the SRA office. The meeting was also advertised in both the English and Afrikaans versions of The PE Express newspaper.

Quorum

The quorum required for the holding of this meeting, as well as for the passing of the resolutions set out in the circular (in terms of the company's Memorandum of Incorporation and the Companies Act), is present as indicated above and the Chairman declared the meeting properly constituted.

Business Plan and Budget

The Business Plan and Budget have been uploaded on the Richmond Hill SRA website and are open for viewing. These are valid until 30 June 2024.

1 Welcome

The Chairman, Scott Rollo, welcomed all present to the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Richmond Hill SRA NPC.

2 Attendance

Elizabeth Anderssen, Tania Bras, John Bryce, Peter Domoney, Kobus du Plessis, Michael Eddy, Charmaine Frew, Sharon Ann Friedemann, Marthinus Grobler, Claerwen Hart, Hayden Hillmer, Desmond Houston, Sonya Immelman, Jacques Jordaan, Cindy Kickhofel, Deborah Kingsley-Hall, Alex Lubega, Malcolm MacLean, Khanya Mangxaba, Terence Mc Dermid, Mike Mc Cormack, Bongiwé Momoti, Tembu Mpambani, Rory Owen Norton, Emma O'Brien, Chris Parkin, Ganta Pumla, Edward Richardson, Frances Richardson, Scott Rollo, Allyson Shone, Marianne Terblanche, Samantha Underhill, Elmarie van der Vyver, Claire Warneke, Dave Whinney, Margie Whinney, C I & Tarryn Wild

3 Apologies

Arvind Amtha, Trudie Wegner, Hendrik Smuts, Eli Konstant, Vivienne Lisher, Johanthan Mercer, Mariska Spoormaker, Hanna Kotze, Mark Rudd.

4 Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Chairman stated that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 December 2022 had been mailed out to everyone. In addition, they had been posted on the RHSRA website, so everyone interested would have had a chance to peruse them.

The Chairman then proposed that Minutes of the Previous Meeting be accepted as a true record of proceedings. This was seconded by Ed Richardson and adopted by Jacques Jordaan.

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Scott Rollo, presented his report (see attached).

6 Financial Reports

The Annual Financial Statements have been uploaded onto the RHSRA website for viewing.

The Chairman proposed that the Annual Financial Statements be accepted. This was seconded by Chris Parkin and adopted by Jacques Jordaan.

No questions were raised.

Under financials, the Chairperson reported that the SRA is currently in year 10.

The contract with the municipality runs for a five-year period which will end June 2024.

The SRA needs to submit a five-year business plan and budget to the municipality by January 2024 so that they can start the process so that the new business plan can come into effect on the 1st of July 2024.

This will run for a period of 5 years.

The Chairperson mentioned just now we are currently running slightly over budget and have been able to survive. The reason being that there was some money in a reserve.

The reserve would run out within the next year.

This would mean that one of the SRA Teams would have to be retrenched.

A new vehicle would have to be replaced soon but as an SRA no hire purchases may be made.

The SRA has certain constraints.

There has been a tremendous push for the camera system which the SRA fully endorses.

This will take an extra budget to cover the suburb with cameras. The camera system at present is for individual households.

We plan to cover the suburb with cameras as the SRA, budget permitting.

Ed mentioned that there were around 30 cameras installed or in the process of installation.

If the new budget is approved for the next financial year, the households that have already installed Magnum Cameras can apply for a rebate.

This would be taking the cost off the individual. SRA would carry the costs.

Question raised: What happens to people not paying rates?

Chairperson: The SRA has made enquiries at the Municipality and due to the Popi Act the information cannot be provided.

The budget has been looked at.

For the SRA to install 50 cameras, you are looking at a 50% increase in the current SRA rates. This would then assist the SRA with doing more projects for the community, e.g., putting up some solar lights.

The Chairperson put forward a Proposal for the Budget Increase, SRA Rates Increase effective 1 July 2024 for the New 5 Year Business Plan.

Proposed by Chairperson and seconded by Jacques Jordaan.

Voting for – Show of hands including Proxies for the Proposal – Total 38 plus 28 = 66 votes

Voting against – Show of hands – 1 vote

Proposed by Ed Richardson and seconded by Jacques Jordaan.

7 **Election of Directors**

Rory Norton, Scott Rollo, Claerwen Hart, Rochelle Jordaan and Ed Richardson, Mike Eddy are all retiring as Directors in accordance with the Memorandum of Incorporation.

Rory Norton – Not available for re-election

Malcolm MacLean- Not available for re-election

Nominations from the floor - Hayden Hillmer made himself available. Seconded by Terry Eddy.

Congratulations to 6 Directors :

- Scott Rollo
- Ed Richardson
- Michael Eddy
- Rochelle Jordaan
- Claerwen Hart
- Hayden Hillmer

Malcolm MacLean to be on the Board only for a couple of months.

The Chairperson – thanked Rory for his dedication for at least 10 years. Thank you to Jackie his wife, for all their assistance.

8 **Election of Auditors for 2023**

The Board proposed that Bradley Van Der Merwe & Associates be appointed as Auditors until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. No questions were raised.

Proposed by Chris Parkin and Marianne Terblanche.

9 **General**

9.1 **Christmas Carols in Clampett Park**

Friday 15th Christmas Carols in Clampett Park

9.2 **Boot Sale**

1st Saturday 10:00 to 13:00. Hoping it will approve. Has not been well supported.

9.3 Little Book Library

Going well, being utilized. The 2nd one will be going up soon.

9.4 Family Fun Day in the Park

Will be advertised soon.

9.5 Alcoholics Anonymous Group - Nadine

Information will be forward to the Office

10 Close

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting at 19:12.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman

Secretary

Date



Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Richmond Hill Special Rates Area Non-Profit Company held on Thursday 7 December 2023 at 18:00 at the Anchor of Hope Church Hall, Edward Street, Richmond Hill, Nelson Mandela Bay.

Welcome, everybody. We have successfully worked our way through another year of service to our community.

Careful planning and certain budget cuts have been necessary, but we have continued to provide Richmond Hill with good quality service within our means.

This does not mean to say that we are absolutely perfect, but we are working currently slightly over our budget. We will discuss a few things about that.

Our function is to prevent the degeneration and decay of the suburb to facilitate improvements and to encourage investment in the area.

We do this according to our MOI and in broad terms supplementing municipal services. You see Alan and his team and Willem and his team working tirelessly around the suburb.

We also provide certain levels of security. We do other projects that are not currently being undertaken by the municipality to the best of our ability there are certain areas that we cannot touch.

For example, we are not allowed to bring in a private contractor to fix a light pole. We cannot touch that sort of infrastructure, but certainly, trimming of trees which we were complimented on the other day, and in such like, we undertake.

During the year, our director's group has increased to seven with the addition of Mike Eddy.

He is the former headmaster of Dale College in King William's Town for 14 years.

He brings his people skills and management experience to the table.

He is a very quiet director but gives us some really valuable input. So welcome, Mike, nice to have you with us.

Our group of directors continues to provide a balanced outlook on issues. It's quite interesting to sit at a meeting and to have all the different points of view that are tabled, not everybody is simply a yes person.

We hold a formal director meeting every month, but the reality is that each of us is involved in numerous meetings on a variety of issues on a regular basis and with various stakeholders.

I'd like to thank each and every one of the directors for the job and the time and the effort that they put into this often-unforgiving task.

Our office is still operating from 2A St Phillips Street from Monday to Friday.

It says 09:00 to 16:00, Sharon actually manages the office for longer than that. She is in very early before 07:00. The office isn't at that point open to the public.

Thanks, Sharon, for all that extra effort.

Sharon is our link to the Municipality, not only in submitting complaints, but following up and it's an endless task. I can tell you especially with a lack of a systems that we get from the municipality.

So, it's an ongoing thing. Sharon is also our general connection to the Ward Councillors office.

She has a flat-out job, every hour of the day.

Our cleaning and projects team remains strong, and we thank Alan and Willem. Also, Anton, Ivan, Thandabanthu for their continuing efforts.

As mentioned, their job is really to supplement the municipal services.

Our outsourced security patrolling remains with HRG Security. We thank them for their efforts. Some security issues will be discussed a little later.

John Bryce and Malcolm McLean, along with the Security Subcommittee, which swelled to 28 people at one stage and continued to work in sorting out viable camera and security system for suburb.

Thank you for the efforts that you're putting in there.

Unfortunately, with a deteriorating economy comes an increase in vagrancy and homelessness and drug addicts, which combine to increase the incidence of crime at all levels.

People do get more desperate. This is not just in Richmond Hill. I think people who live here often think that we are a crime centre, and we are not.

Obviously, we have crime, but we talk to people all the time outside of the suburbs, and it's just as bad out there as well.

Without proper full scale government intervention, we will never be able to be rid of these issues, but we do what we can.

We certainly, as an SRA, do make a difference. Anybody who doesn't believe that should try this Richmond Hill without an SRA for a month, see what happens.

Malcolm continues to work closely with Mould Empower Serve (MES), which is a homeless shelter organization and other organizations are seeking solutions to the vagrancy problems and the drug issues that we have in the suburb.

Thanks, Malcolm for putting a tremendous amount of effort into this.

Malcolm's actually stepping slowly back from the SRA to provide a greater service in that regard, in working with MES and the other organizations, but he will still keep a very close relationship with us.

We have a number of other community volunteers who have stepped up whenever called upon and guys, you know who you are, there are far too many to name individually.

We thank every single one of you for the time and effort that you put in. Our Councillor, Terri Stander, recently held a meeting in the park.

It worries me that it turned into a bit of a complaints driven rather than solutions driven meeting.

I mentioned this at the last meeting that we had here.

We all know that crime is up, we all know that the municipality doesn't do its job properly.

We all know that vagrancy is on the increase, but complaining about the same things over and over again really doesn't help us at all.

What we are looking for is not winging, but solutions.

That is what we need from every single one of you. We need to turn this into a little bit more of a positive input rather than negative input all the time.

In September, we hosted the Alliance Francais Music Festival, which was a great success. There are other events in the pipeline.

We certainly hope to see many more of those sorts of things in the future. We have the ongoing overall wall project.

Thank you to Emma and Rochelle who have been mainly driving it. I know that you're not the only people involved.

It's really great to see some effort coming in on the sideline.

Although it hasn't covered the whole wall yet, we haven't completed the whole wall in terms of even the white base coat.

I'm sure that those of you who've seen what's going on with that overall have seen a difference and it's going to become a focal point in the suburb.

Malcolm, along with one of our fellow guides and one or two other people has been working on reviving the Richmond Hill historic walking trail

In terms of the Municipality, if you want to make a difference, you must vote. Only 67% in Ward 5 voted. A third of you did not vote. You must vote to make a difference.

Crime and SAPS – If you want to make a difference, you must report crime.

If you do not report a crime when it happens it means that the police do not have accurate statistics on which to base the allocation of resources.

We need to report crime every time. You need to open a case and if the policeman says no, you contact the Crime Sector Manager or Sharon to follow up.

In terms of SRA viability, and I'm sure it doesn't pertain to most of the people here.

We need people to pay their rates. We operate on a special line item on your rights bill. That's the money that we get back from each and every one of you as a home and property owner.

So, with a 60 to 65% collection rate currently on municipal rates, we are getting a much lower level than our budget would be which is why we are spending over.

In terms of the suburb as a whole, it is lovely to see a reasonable turnout from AGM you know, normally only about six people sitting over here and battle to get a quorum.

This is fantastic. And this is the sort of thing that we want to see. So, get involved, help where you can make a difference.

As the directors are elected every year to run the Richmond Hill special rates area, you mandate us to do to do so and we do this, notwithstanding our naysayers and there are a lot of them around. We do this to the best of our ability and with integrity and proper governance.

Our books are properly and professionally accounted for. None of our Directors are paid. We stand up and we do this endless task.

Don't ever think that any of us has a hidden agenda because it has come up. You have the right to appoint different directors at every AGM.

We will shortly be moving on to the election of directors for the 2024. Some of our directors will step down. We need people to start stepping up and taking over.

There has often been a sort of comment about this age group of people that run an SRA like this.

I was reminded in our meeting earlier that most of us are getting on in years and you need the younger people to come in and to get involved.

What do you need to do that?

There's not much expected of you. You just need to get properly vetted.

You can't have a criminal record or anything like that. You need to be held accountable, rightly or wrongly, for all your actions.

You carry the very real risk of legal accountability on your shoulders if anything goes wrong within the SRA. You are subject to continuous gripes and moans.

You give up countless hours of your time every week.

I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and please stay safe.