



Minutes of the Community Meeting of the Richmond Hill Special Rates Area held on Thursday 15 February 2024 at 18:00 at The Anchor of Hope Church, corner Edward and Campbell Street

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Ed Richardson, welcomed all present.

S. Immelman	Yve Nicholson	R. O'Neil	A. Adams
T. Adams	J. Bryce	D.Soper	D. Roos
H. Botha	C. Cull	J. Hugo	S. Mtshikira
Pumla	B. Britz	B. Momoti	C. Parkin
E. Parkin	S. Underhill	M. Terblanche	L. Faure
M. Faure	C. Warneke	D. Kingsley-Hall	J. Botha
Terri Stander (Ward Councillor)			
Lennox (Patroller) (HRG Security)		Brigadier Hlomza (SAPS Humewood)	
Colonel Frank (SAPS Humewood)		Sergeant Njokweni (SAPS Humewood)	
Rochelle Jordaan (Director)		Michael Eddy (Director)	
Malcolm MacLean (Director)			

2. Apologies

Margie Miller, Trudie Wegner, Lara Probert, Margo Bastos, Tony Bastos, Mariska Spoormaker, Dave Whinney, Margie Whinney, Mike du Preez, Rory Norton, Scott Rollo, Gareth Foster, Clinton (HRG Security), Peter Domoney, Jacques Jordaan

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by Danie Roos and seconded by Rochelle Jordaan.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

No matters arising

5. Reports

5.1 SAPS

Sergeant Njokweni – Sector Commander for Sec 1

Welcomed Brigadier Hlomza, the new Station Commander at Humewood SAPS since 31 January 2024.

Brigadier Hlomza was stationed in the Western Cape area. Brigadier mentioned that she has seen a few challenges and Management is looking into this to find solutions. Brigadier mentioned that she is looking forward to working with the Community.

Theft in Richmond Hill is mostly copper pipes, and anything that the criminals can reach

5.2 HRG Security

Patroller Lennox

CRIME REPORT PAST 2 MONTHS (Dec 2023 and Jan 2024)

- Vagrants: We remove/move on about 14 vagrants per day
- Stop and search: Average of 30 per month
- Client/resident/assists: Average of 80 per month
- Drug related incidents: Average of 30 per month
- Arrests: Average of 12 per month
- Water meter/copper pipes stolen: 14 in past month
- Monitored suspicious vehicles regularly
- Assisted to extinguish fires
- Reported numerous of water leaks
- Confiscated numerous trolleys
- We are encountering numerous doors/gates left open daily
- Visible property left inside vehicles
- Vehicles left unlocked and/or windows open
- Huge problem with vagrants / trespassers returning due to being fed or given unwanted goods

5.3 Metro Police

No member attended.

5.4 Ward Councillor

Terri Stander

Street lights: A meeting was held with the Ward Councillor and Executive Director, E & E Department. Summary of discussion for Richmond Hill area:

- a) The list of street lights submitted to the department will be captured and assigned reference numbers where necessary,
- b) The department will repair the street lights with cable faults using overhead cables as a quick win. These cables contain aluminium not copper, making it less valuable to cable thieves,
- c) Sub Stations and Minis subs: Vulnerable mini-substations will be secured, including Lutman and St Patricks Street
- d) Job cards will be forwarded to Roads Department for the outstanding reinstatements created by cable repair, etc.

Grass Cutting: A problem whereby the Municipality has not been paying the contractors.

Closure of St Patricks steps: Another meeting was held with the owner of the Engen Garage who has agreed to close-off the St Patricks steps with a gate. It will be integrated and not be able to move. The left over palisade fencing will also be used to close off our sub-stations.

Terri mentioned that there is an allocation of half a million to repair potholes in Central area including Richmond Hill.

John requested that an Agenda must be available at the next **IDP Meeting**. Anything that needs to be done in Ward 5, must be in this plan.

Terri mentioned that in the Plan it stated the Park must be upgraded, but this did not state which Park in Richmond Hill.

6. RHSRA Matters:

6.1 Problem Buildings Chairperson

Richmond Hill SRA Office follows up weekly on any problem building/properties. These are building which have been left alone, unoccupied and so forth. If you do know of any problem building, please pass this on to Sharon at the SRA Office.

6.2 Illegal construction Chairperson

If any illegal constructions are noted taking place, inform the SRA Office so that the Building Inspector can be informed. The building Inspector will then visit the said premises and doing an investigation. He would then inform the SRA Office of the outcome or procedures which will be followed by them.

4 Stanley Street has just been escalated.

44 Mackay Street – an outcome is still being awaited.

6.3 Cameras / Block Watch

John Bryce / Malcolm MacLean

John Bryce reported that a lot of research has been done with various security companies Provided an update as well as suggested proposals for the roll-out of the camera initiative that was agreed upon at the AGM.

Currently there are 16 cameras in the area that have been paid for by residents and SRA. Feedback has been received from Clinton, HRG Security that they are very satisfied with the service they are receiving from Magnum.

There is a good relationship between the two and information sharing as well as back-up support is helping in the quest to secure Richmond Hill. HRG have an intimate knowledge of the area and the people and combining this with the real time footage of movement supplied by Magnum, there is a noticeable avoidance of areas under surveillance, by certain individuals.

HRG strongly support the initiative and look forward to the increasing coverage in the future.

Now according to the AGM minutes, the funding for the roll-out of the cameras will begin on 1st July 2024.

That is still four months away. John proposed that we start drawing up a plan before that date in order to identify people and properties that want to support the initiative, carry out an inspection of the sites, and establish requirements along with proposed date of installation, in order to facilitate a smooth roll-out. In order to do this, a camera committee would need to be established, a camera committee that would include representatives from Magnum, HRG, SRA, Business owners and Community members.

This committee would establish best camera positions, and through the SRA establish if the specific property owner would be in a position to go along with the initiative. Once go ahead is received the owner will be contacted and a feasibility study would be conducted, and if approved, a date allocated to installation.

If the selected property owner cannot support the initiative, then a next suitable property will be selected, and the same process would apply.

Malcolm: Malcolm gave John a word of thanks for all his dedication to this Project.

Ed: Mentioned that the SRA are putting up 2 cameras, 1 at the SRA Building and 1 at the Back Street Grill Restaurant covering different directions.

Looking for volunteers to join the Camera Project Team. All names can be passed on to

Sharon at the Office.

Current team – John Bryce, Claire Warneke, Ed Richardson.

Block Watch: A proposal has been put forward to create a formal neighbourhood watch, which is more a reaction unit to support HRG. If they experience a problem the neighbourhood watch members would drive out to them to assist.

6.4 Wild Park

Terri – Ward Councillor

Mentioned that an application was forwarded to the NMBM to change the zoning of this said area into a park. At present is not zoned as 'anything'.

6.5 Richmond Hill Park Equipment

Terri – Ward Councillor

An amount was allocated for the park, Richmond Hill residents should be allowed to say where the difference of the money must be allocated. Residents must give this a thought.

6.6 Water Meters – unsatisfactory covering up

Chairperson

Where the old water meters have been replaced by new water meters, if anyone is experiencing that the meter is leaking or that a reinstatement has not been done, pass the information on to the Richmond Hill SRA Office with your address so this can be escalated.

This currently seems to be controlled.

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

Malcolm

There has not been enough feet on the ground dealing with this issue. A joint Operations Group has been set up by David Edwards from Central where Richmond Hill has formed part of.

Next meeting will take place next week. Things are definitely moving forward.

There is an issue with addiction, homeless and vagrants. This issue must be dealt with.

The SRA is now a member of the NMBM Business Chamber. There are now 9 clusters formed and they all get together in looking for a way to deal with this.

6.8 Richmond Hill Heritage Walk

Malcolm

There will be a Heritage Walk on the 24th February 2024. All interested parties to give their details to Sharon at the SRA Office.

7. Matters arising :

No matters arising

8. Conservation stats:

December 2023 and January 2024:

Bags taken to the tip 4596- plus boxes, branches and junk

Kilometres travelled – 3435

Trip to the tips – 79

11. Date and place of next meeting

The next Community Meeting will be held on the 11th April 2024.

12. Close

The Chairman thanked all present for attending. The meeting adjourned at 19:00.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Secretary

Date