



Minutes of the Community Meeting of the Richmond Hill Special Rates Area held on Thursday 13 June 2024 at 18:00 at The Anchor of Hope Church, corner Edward and Campbell Streets

1 Welcome

The Chairman, Scott Rollo, welcomed all present.

2 Present

R. Norton	M. Eddy	T. Eddy
E. Richardson	F. Richardson	L. Probert
R. Bryce	J. Bryce	M. Terblanche
D. Roos	C. Cull	K. de Klerk
A. Fisher	E. Parkin	C. Parkin
R. Pike	C. Wilke	A. Amtha
M. Bradfield	M. MacLean	S. Olivera
C. Williams	B. Randall	D. Burton
J. Hugo	D. Kingsley-Hall	S. Lyon
A. Buchner	Y. Nicholson	R. O'Neill
D. Watson	M. Faure	J. Botha
L. Faure	L. Andersson	S. Immelman
E. Nell	N. Law	M. du Preez
P. Ganta	A. Ndimuvwi	N. Bata
L. Ndimuvwi		
Terri Stander (Ward Councillor)		
Lennox (Patroller) (HRG Security)		Lt Colonel Mgweba (SAPS Humewood)
Sergeant Njokweni (SAPS Humewood)		Colonel W Warner (Metro SAPS)

3 Apologies

T. Bastos	M. Bastos	P. Hammett
C. Swartz (HRG)	S. de Beer	C. Hart
H. Barker	A. Hart	J. Jordaan
R. Jordaan	T. Wegner	C. Wild
T. Wild		

4 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2024 were accepted as a true record of proceedings. This was proposed by Sgt Njokweni and seconded by Lara Probert.

5 Matters arising from previous minutes

No matters arising.

6 Reports

6.1 SAPS (Lt Col Mgweba)

Lt Col Mgweba mentioned that Robberies and Motor Vehicle Break-in's is the main crime in the area. Sergeant Njokweni (076 563 1285) or Lt Colonel Mgweba (082 303 0588) can be contacted directly if you experience any problems with the Humewood landlines. Lt Col Mgweba thanked the community for getting involved and complimented HRG Security on their excellent work in the area. Residents need to stay vigilant.

6.2 HRG Security (Patroller Lennox)

Latest Stats and/or Activities

- remove/move an average of 17-19 homeless/displaced people per day/night;
- conduct an average of 30-40 stop and searches per month;
- average around 100 client/resident assists per month;
- respond to an average of 30 drug-related issues per month;
- numerous arrests made monthly. Property often returned and no case opened;
- several vehicle hubcaps are stolen every month;
- around 7 water meter/copper pipe theft responses per month;
- respond to numerous suspicious behaviour reports – up to 40 per night – using Magnum Alarms information. This is very successful as people realise that they are being watched;
- assist to occasional fires;
- report numerous of water leaks;
- confiscate trolleys, which Alan removes;
- property left visible inside vehicles parked on street continues to be a problem.
- vehicle windows left open, etc is also a problem;
- attend to numerous noise complaints;
- residents are kindly requested not to feed homeless or displaced people. This will keep them in the area. There are shelters available;
- residents are requested to report any suspicious behaviour;
- residents are requested to phone if there is a real emergency. The response is quicker to a call than a whatsapp.

6.3 Metro Police (Col Warner)

Municipal By Laws are empowered by The Constitution as city laws. The Metro SAPS focus on businesses, which are more attractive to criminals.

The whole world is facing the complex problem of homeless/displaced people. Most of them have homes, but prefer to live on the streets.

In terms of any by-law infringements, residents must report to Metro SAPS or the SRA. Stay positive and do not lose hope.

6.4 Ward Councillor (Terri Stander)

Noise complaints and liquor licence infringements must be reported to Metro SAPS.

Always request an OB reference number.

Any problems with getting reference numbers must be referred to Sharon, who will forward to Sgt Njokweni.

It took 6 weeks to remove the Russell Road vagrants – and they returned the same

night.

Please don't hand over any food, belongings or money to any vagrants.

Vagrants cannot be moved, except to a place of safety. The JOC is working hard to source a building for the homeless.

MES Vouchers can be purchased at the SRA Office at R30.00 a voucher. Each voucher gives a person a bed, a shower and a meal.

Approval will be sought to fence off the grass area at the top of Albany Road.

Terri to set up a meeting with the Business Owner in Westbourne Road.

7 RHSRA Matters

7.1 Problem Buildings

All problem building must be reported to Sharon at the SRA Office who will escalate to the relevant departments.

7.2 Illegal construction

All problem building must be reported to Sharon at the SRA Office who will escalate to the relevant departments.

7.3 Cameras and blockwatch

The SRA has submitted its business plan and await its final approval. The Plan includes installing monitored cameras in certain areas in Richmond Hill, to the Municipality. The new rates will come into effect from 1 July and the additional funding will be effective from end August 2024.

The SRA is currently installing 7 more cameras in key positions as part of the "Pilot phase".

A new contract between SRA and current camera hosts must be drawn up. This will replace the existing Magnum contracts and take over the monitoring fee. Reimbursement for the camera installation costs will be dealt with at the same time.

The SRA, HRG and Magnum have compiled a list of "First phase" addresses, mainly on the SRA perimeter. Letters will be sent to these addresses requesting the legal owner to establish contact with Sharon and confirm they are willing to participate. If not, new addresses will be sought. All communication with Magnum must be through the SRA.

Once new cameras have been installed, footage will be analysed to determine if extra lighting is necessary.

Any issues regarding maintenance, repairs, contracts, installation or queries must directed to the SRA office. The contract will be between the camera host and SRA.

7.4 Richmond Hill Park equipment

Terri will be attending a Council Meeting on 20 June 2024 and will address the problem of the Park Equipment and report back.

7.5 Water Meters – unsatisfactory reinstatements

Please report all such issues to Sharon at the SRA Office, who will escalate to the correct department.

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

The identified building is no longer available and new sites are being sought.

7.7 Wild Park

Mariska, who oversaw the Wild Park, will be moving out of the area. Anyone interested in taking over her role in keeping an eye on the Park, please contact Sharon.

7.8 Conservation Stats April/May 2024

Bags taken to the tip 4208- plus boxes, branches, and junk
 Kilometres travelled – 3799
 Trip to the tips – 85

8 Matters arising**8.1 Russell Road Project**

20 Bins are currently being made and will be donated to the Russell Road Project. 'No Litter' signage has been made and handed over to Steve de Beer. Thank you to Steve de Beer and his Team for the epic work.

9 Date and place of next meeting

The next Community Meeting will be held on 8 August 2024.

10 Close

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

Approval of Minutes

 Chairman

 Secretary

 Date