



# COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES

**Minutes of the Community Meeting of the Richmond Hill Special Rates Area held on Thursday, 10 October 2024 at 18:00 at The Anchor of Hope Church, corner Edward and Campbell Streets**

## 1 Welcome

The Chairman, Ed Richardson, welcomed all present.

## 2 Present

A. Mouter	K. de Klerk	T. Bastos	A. Adams
T. Adams	A.Snyman	M. Terblanche	H. Jackson-Moss
K. Hart	R. Hart	S. Friedemann	Y. Nicholson
E. Richardson	M. Eddy	C. Parkin	D. Roos
P. Ganta	M. MacLean	L. Kilian	Ms Kilian
C. Hart	L. De Vrye	F. Richardson	J.Bryce

Sgt Njokweni (Humewood SAPS)  
Patroller Popo – (HRG Security)

## 3 Apologies

R. Jordaan	J. Mercer	C. Swartz (HRG Security)	T. Wegner
K. du Plessis	R. Norton	Terri Stander (Ward Councillor)	

Colonel Mgeba (Humewood SAPS)  
Warrant Officer Serfontein (Metro SAPS)

## 4 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2024 were accepted as a true record of proceedings. This was proposed by Chris Parkin and seconded by Alan Mounter.

## 5 Matters arising from previous minutes

No matters arising.

## 6 Reports

### 6.1 SAPS -Sergeant Njokweni standing in for Colonel Mgeba

Mentioned he had been on leave for a month.

Highlighted the following points:

- Due to Popi Act (Name cannot be mentioned), a resident purchased a Plot in Richmond Hill and is currently building a house. No Plans have been approved. Plot was purchased for R200,000-00. This matter has been escalated to Crime Intelligence to investigate how these funds were obtained.
- Theft out of Motor Vehicles – still a major concern in Govan Mbeki Street, towards the Main Post Office. Sgt Njokweni mentioned that no valuables or items must be left in the vehicles.
- A few burglaries were reported in the area – Irvine and Mackay Streets.

### 6.2 HRG Security – Popo – Patroller

#### LATEST STATS AND/OR ACTIVITIES

- Homeless or displaced people still big on-going issue. Remove and/or move about 17-19 homeless or displaced people per day/night
- Stop and Search – Conduct an average of 30-40 stop and searches each month
- Client/Resident Assists – Average response to client requests of more 100 responses per month
- Drug Related Issues – We respond to an average of 30 per month.
- Arrests – Numerous arrests made monthly. Some stolen property returned and no case opened
- Hubcaps– Seems to be a major issue now as several vehicle hubcaps are stolen during each month.
- Water Meter/Copper Pipe Responses – Average of 4 per month
- With Magnum Alarms, we respond to suspicious behaviour of people each night.
- This is very successful as people realise that they are being watched. We have numerous alerts each night, some weekends we get over 100 alerts to respond to.
- Assisted to extinguish fires monthly
- Report numerous of water leaks weekly
- Confiscate trolleys and Alan removes the trolleys once such are reported
- On-going Problem – Visible property left inside vehicles parked on street continues to be a problem. We often find vehicle windows left open etc.
- Numerous calls to try and assist with loud noise from properties
- Once again, we also kindly ask residents to not feed the homeless or displaced people, as this remains a huge issue. There are feeding schemes that they can refer them too.
- We ask resident to call us if they notice ANY suspicious behaviour. Let us rather respond and address situation accordingly.
- We have some property issues that has been reported to the SRA and SAPS as well.
- Reminder for residents to call if you have an emergency for immediate response. We try to respond to WhatsApp's asap, but if we are patrolling, it might take a little longer to get response.
  - Popo, mentioned that there is a problem which has started at Khumbulani School. School children are smoking drugs on the staircase going down to the Main Post Office. They also go to the Palmerston Street Power House, sit there and smoke their drugs, even during school hours.

### 6.3 Metro Police

Nil.

#### **6.4 Ward Councillor (Terri Stander)**

Nil. Sent apology.

### **7 RHSRA Matters**

#### **7.1 NMBM payment challenges and implications**

The New Financial Year started 1 July 2024. The first increased rates amount payment has been received. A meeting has been set up with the City Manger on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to discuss the finances and related issues.

#### **7.1 Problem Buildings**

All problem building must be reported to Sharon at the SRA Office who will escalate to the relevant departments. The SRA follows up on a regular basis.

Two raids were done at 85 Mackay Street which were unsuccessful. All relevant information regarding this property is being dealt with and the information is kept confidential. The part owner of the property is keen to move to another property in Motherwell it is occupied at present. Further instructions are being awaited from the 50% co-owner for the way forward. This is happening way too slow.

The Ward Councillor is attending to the Problem Buildings in the area.

#### **7.2 Illegal construction**

All problem buildings must be reported to Sharon at the SRA Office who will escalate to the relevant departments. These matters are followed up on regularly.

There are currently 14 premises which are being investigated by the Building Inspector for Illegal Plans etc.

#### **7.3 Cameras and block watch – John Bryce**

- Currently 23 cameras are installed and are being monitored.
- 5 more cameras will be installed by end of next week.
- Existing contracts are in the process of being taken over by the SRA.
- There is some paperwork required before we can take over the contract.
- Please contact Sharon if you need your contract to be added to the SRA database.
- If you are willing to host a camera, please contact Sharon.
- Necessary paperwork will need to be completed before installation.
- The installation and monitoring costs are covered by the SRA.
- The only thing that is needed is power and access to uncapped internet.

Resident asked whether they would still have access to the cameras after the SRA have taken over. The Chairperson replied, yes.

#### **7.4 Stanley Street Car Guards / Business Owners / HRG Security Guard**

The Chairperson mentioned that the Stanley Street Car Guard is currently not working as well as expected.

It has been agreed to run this for another 2 months with Signage being put up to 'Stop tipping the

car guards”.

HRG will be arranging extra security when the signs are put up.

#### **7.5 Water Meters – unsatisfactory reinstatements**

Please report all such issues to Sharon at the SRA Office.

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

Malcolm mentioned that there are over 3 000 homeless in our city. Emphasised that money must rather be donated to the Organisations instead of the homeless people. They would use that money to buy drugs etc.

#### **7.7 Noise Complaints**

Sergeant Njokweni mentioned that they are aware of the Noise Complaint, gun shots, etc with regards to The Neighborhood Pub. All Relevant Departments, Noise Pollution, Metro SAPS, SAPS, Liquor Board and the Ward Councillor are attending to this matter. This has been brought to the attention of the Landord/Owner.

### **8 Matters arising**

#### **8.1 Flood lights**

The Chairperson mentioned that the Board is looking into installing flood lights at certain points and not solar lights.

A roll out will soon take place.

#### **8.2 Resident Concerns**

Resident from St Phillips Street aired his views concerning his aggrievances relating to Restaurant/Pub/Car Guard Noise and various other issues.

Various suggestions were made and all duly noted.

#### **8.2 Conservation Stats July/August 2024**

Bags taken to the tip 2 768 - plus boxes, branches, and junk

Kilometres travelled – 3 800

Trip to the tips – 65

### **9 Date and place of next meeting**

AGM Meeting on 5 December 2024. Chairman emphasised need for new board members.

### **10 Close**

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

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**Approval of Minutes**

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Chairman

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Secretary

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Date