

# MINUTES OF WARD 101 PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016 AT SHARONLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL AT 6.30PM.

## **In Attendance**

See attached registers

## **Agenda:**

1. Opening and Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Purpose of the meeting
4. Stakeholder Presentation
  - 4.1 Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ)
  - 4.2 Johannesburg Property Company (JPC)
  - 4.3 Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD)
  - 4.4 South African Police Service - Honeydew (SAPS)
  - 4.5 Private Security Companies (PSC)
  - 4.6 Banbury Crossing Shopping Centre Management (BCSCM)
5. Questions and discussions
6. Next steps
7. Closure

### **1. Opening and welcome**

The Ward Councillor opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

### **2. Introductions**

Councillor Cele introduced the representative from JCPZ, JPC, JMPD, Ward Governance, SAPS, PSC and BCSCM.

### **3. Purpose of the meeting**

Councillor Cele briefly outlined the purpose of the meeting that he had discussions with stakeholders on issues of crime and service delivery at Golden Harvest Park. He further indicated that he believed that it made sense to include the surrounding areas such as the Old Municipal Nursery, Banbury Cross Village Shopping Centre and the Olievenhout Avenue stretch from Malibongwe Drive to Drysdale road in this initiative.

The components of crime were identified and what needs to be addressed to combat crime in the park. He further informed the meeting that the invited

City officials and other stakeholders will assist in addressing the components of crime, service delivery matters and what their plans are to address these issues.

#### **4.1 JHB City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ)**

Ms Ditabe informed the meeting that they received complaints from the community with regards to security of residents at Golden Harvest Park. She gave an overview of programmes and plans to respond to the issues.

That they assist in restricting access and movement into the park. Repairing gaps into the fence, currently there are four gaps as results of vandalism which need to be replaced through insurance claims and internal operational budget (Opex). Turnstile gates will be erected at the other entrances of the park and be lockable after hours with the assistance of residents. She stated that on the 15th November 2016 the fence should be repaired and will communicate with Ward Councillor if there are challenges.

That they improved security at the gate and entire park precinct. Security at the main gate is to sign in all visitors into the park. Only visitors using the main gate will be made to sign. Although the security is not capacitated and mandated to conduct searches of park visitors, but they need to be vigilant of who enters the park. That the security has to wear the available two way radios to communicate with their own security company, SAPS and JMPD as custodian of security to ensure that the assets are safe guarded.

The proposal was that the Security Companies will donate their time to patrol the facility, also requested the Ward Councillor to engage all security companies to participate in the programme. JHB City Park & Zoo will issue letters of permission to all interested security companies. Also, to explore the use of Park Ambassadors through Jozi@Work programme especially over the festive season to keep park users safe.

The clean up of Old Municipal Nursery was done in the last three (3) weeks to create visibility for park users. Many trees were pruned, grass has been cut and dumping removed. The JCPZ and JPC are trying to find sustainable use of the Old Municipal Nursery as it is currently not classified as a park and is no longer used as a Nursery but still a Council owned land.

General maintenance is conducted around park area, on conserved land they do not cut grass as it is protected by environment rules.

Reeds on wetland are not advisable to cut they grow faster, control of reeds are conducted once a year. Play area maintained every two weeks.

#### **4.2 JHB Property Company (JPC)**

Mr Sardonos stated that the housing in the park was utilized by the city officials and private individuals. The nursery site was awarded to National Display Gardens to establish a venue where the community would enjoy various garden displays, plants and tea gardens. The successful bidder did not fulfil his obligations and the contract was cancelled in 2015. The old nursery site therefore remains part of the Golden Harvest Park site. He indicated that the majority of the houses in the park were structurally unsafe and therefore a planned demolition of the houses was to be undertaken once the consultation with the occupants had been finalised.

The consultation with the occupants will need to be driven by a team comprising of JPC, City Parks, Environment, JMPD and the Ward Councillor. The planned program of consultation for occupants to vacate and buildings to be demolished should be finalised by February 2017. JPC and City Parks would require to ensure that sufficient budget exists for this process to be funded. The MMC of Housing will have to advise on process to be followed. That the houses that are structurally safe will be renovated and be leased to the community for activities that will support the park environment.

#### **4.3 Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD)**

Superintendent Mrubata informed the meeting that on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 they had site visit together with City entities and stakeholders such as Emergency Management Service (EMS), PikItUp, City Power, Environmental Health, South African Police to identify challenges at the park. The following were identified:

- Illegal dumping
- Illegal tavern
- Illegal water connection
- Illegal electricity connections

- Panel beaters

The structures in the park are used for informal trading of drugs and dagga. Seven structures were demolished. The JMPD and SAPS have to setup a strategy on littering around the park. They had already done with the illegal street trading. Their plan of action is to conduct regular patrolling inside and outside the park to disrupt the selling of drugs.

The nursery area is the big challenge when they visiting the place they found new occupants. That the JMPD, SAPS, EMS and City Power will embark on joint operation.

He further stated that they have By-law challenge at Malibongwe and they work hand in hand with Londoloza Security in doing stop and search on pick hours. They are facing a problem that the JMPD vehicles are marked, the culprits see in a distance and difficult to arrest them.

#### **4.4 South African Police Service – Honeydew (SAPS)**

Col. Mncwabe commended the Councillor for the initiative of taking social issue in a serious note. He outlined the hotspots for drugs and robbery at Olievenhout Avenue and that crime is easier at parks. The SAPS have formed partnership with JMPD and Private Security companies.

He further stated that when they move away the criminals in a certain spot they formed another one and will be followed. That they have different strategies in different areas.

#### **4.5 Private Security Companies (PSC)**

Security companies who work within the Honeydew Precinct have a Project setup whereby the Security companies assist the Police with regards to time and resources.

This initiative will be rolled out where Security Companies will assist the Police and JMPD with additional Patrols and visibility in the Golden Harvest and surrounding areas.

A Whatsapp group has been setup where Security companies can communicate with one another and call for help if required. A roster for additional visibility has been setup according to the peaks of crime in the area.

#### **4.6 Banbury Crossing Shopping Centre Management (BCSCM)**

Ms Erasmus outlined the history of the shopping centre and they relied on partnership with Londoloza Private Security. The school in the centre has licence to operate.

Londoloza to take over the armed response for the Centre and assist with specialised operations. The World Sports Betting common area will be completely enclosed to avoid the persons from being able to look down and target possible customers for illegal substance sales. The staircase will be secured to prevent loitering on the staircase.

World Sports Betting will take full responsibility for the security upstairs with their security officers. The school is not the responsibility of Banbury Cross Village Management. There are not violent crimes within Banbury, only the sale of illegal substances and unfortunately public drinking as well.

#### **5. Questions and discussions**

1. JPC: Why start on February 2017 instead of December 2016 to engage people and demolish the old structure?
2. JCPZ: Trees on the street does it belong to City Parks. Corner Malibongwe illegal dumping at far away house the palisade is broken also people cooking there.
3. JPC: Do you have records or audit of people living in unsafe property, nursery and illegal residents. Flora has nine (9) villages around the park. Banbury breach of by laws, SAPS patrol host spots regularly.
4. JPC: Feedback not impressive on demolishing of dilapidated structures in the park.
5. JPC: Illegal occupants do they pay for services, if yes where do that money goes to.
6. JPC: Five (5) years declared unsafe but those twenty (26) structures still exist.
7. Councillor: Illegal dumping at Jacaranda area.

8. JCPZ: Private security what authority they have in the park: What is Park Ambassadors?  
Need more SAPS in and around park, foreign nationals invite people on park to do business.
9. JMPD: Illegal taxi rank need to drop off
- 10.PSC: By patrolling they should stop not drove by.
11. PSC: Small security companies need to be recognised.

## **Answers**

They cut trees on neighbour site. At corner Malibongwe they visited the disbanded house, the owner left for overseas and the lady occupies the house have tenants who did illegal connection.

That the residents have to log call to City Parks call centre (011) 712 6600 provide street address.

Banbury Village school have a license.

Illegal occupants keep on changing illegal tenants. The city does not receive money for services. The city disconnects those illegal connections but they connect again. Legal processes have to be followed to evict illegal occupants if they do not vacate voluntarily, an eviction order will be required.

Demolishing of the structures need a proper coordinated approach.

Jacaranda under the bridge clean up operation has been done. The site's entrance is where Hornbill meets Jacaranda. Other issues will be attended with other departments, we are also aware of illegal taxi ranks.

Recognition of small security companies noted must be contracted with JPCZ

Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) lease concern into park land need high security area

Park Ambassadors to be trained, their roles are to assist and educate people on how to use park effectively.

## **6. Next steps**

The Ward Councillor advised that the next public meeting will be held in the next quarter.

The outcome of the public meeting is that a steering committee will be setup consisting of the stakeholders that addressed issues at the meeting. The purpose of the steering committee will be to review the progress that is being made as per the plans presented at the meeting.

## **7. Closure**

The meeting adjourned at 21h07.