

MINUTES of the second Annual General Meeting of the Devil's Peak/Vredehoek Neighbourhood Watch (DPVwatch) held at Herzlia Primary School, Chelmsford Road, Highlands Estate on Monday, 20 September 2010 at 7.00 pm.

Present: As per attendance register

Apologies: Col Hugo (SAPS); Mo Hendricks (CPF); Nico Henn (CPF); Shaun Davidson (DPV treasurer); Jeremy Broom (Herzlia)

1. Welcome

Philip Brink welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Jonny Steinberg, Belinda Walker (ward councillor), Capt Jansen (Sector 2 commander), representatives of ADT, CBar, Cibra, and members of other neighbourhood watches. He also thanked Herzlia for the use of their premises for the meeting.

1.1 Approval of the previous AGM minutes

Proposed by Justin Johnson, seconded by Jeremy Warner

2. Guest Speaker

Philip Brink introduced guest speaker Jonny Steinberg, a researcher and author of several books, including *Thin Blue* about policing in South Africa and *The Number*, a story of a gangster on the Cape Flats.

Jonny commented on the number of people attending the AGM and complimented the community on their commitment to working together.

His topic was 'What do neighbourhood watches do for their own neighbourhoods, and what can they do for their city more broadly?' While NWs can do good in their own neighbourhoods, to reduce crime they have to look beyond to their immediate boundaries. Using the analogy of a cold war between communities and criminals, Jonny described the way residents of an area react to incidents of crime by increasing security, and the reaction of criminals in turn. As each side reacts, the level of violence and the subsequent response escalates. The danger is that the neighbourhood watch could become part of this 'cold war'.

In his opinion, to bring crime down, there needs to be a significant increase in the conviction rates. He feels that violent crime is a fashion; people do it because the people around them are doing it; it becomes part of a person's identity. Once people in one's circle start going to jail regularly, people (especially young people) would be dissuaded from doing crime.

The causes of crime – e.g. being part of one's identity, unemployment, poverty, a culture of buying stolen goods – are so complicated and overwhelming that we have to isolate a few issues where we can make difference. Communities must see justice done and NWs have a role to play there. It is correct to punish but does not help to destroy lives. If we work together across communities we can break class and racial barriers and start to change attitudes. There is also a place for restorative justice, if managed correctly.

To bring conviction rates up, NWs have to exert city-wide pressure on SAPS and the justice system: there has to be city-wide co-operation between different policing sectors, so that it is not a case of shifting crime from one area to another. NWs need to push for results – too many cases go unsolved. Communities need to trace cases, and make sure that they are prosecuted correctly by the courts. With a conviction rate of 8.5%, prisons would become very full, but Jonny contended that sentences could be much shorter. Long prison sentences are not a deterrent if the

chances of being caught are very low. If criminals are almost sure to be caught, a jail term, even if short, would be more likely to be a deterrent.

After taking questions from the floor, Philip Brink thanked Jonny Steinberg and gave him a small gift on behalf of DPVwatch.

3. Treasurer's Report

Philip Brink presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Shaun Davidson who was overseas. Copies of the Income & Expenditure Report and the Balance Sheet were displayed on the windows of the hall for information.

Figures relate to the position as at 10 September 2010.

Income

Radios were sold and licence fees covered at cost so no income accrued from these items.

The main items of income:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Advertising and sponsorship | R 6 700.00 |
| Donations | R22 868.00* |
| Fundraising | <u>R15 826.00</u> |
| | R45 394.00 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| * Six radios donated | R13 286.00 (two donors) |
| Cash donations | R11 462.00 (approx 20 donors) |

Expenditure

Running expenses were contained due to members volunteering time and services free.

The main items of expenditure:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Radio network repairs/maintenance | R 6 805.00 |
| Advertising and publicity | R 5 668.00 |
| Production of branded merchandise | R 4 382.00 |
| Signage | <u>R 2 636.00</u> |
| | R19 491.00 |

DPV assets

Bank balance: R25 844.00

R8 500.00 of this amount will be used to replace donated radios currently on rental plans. Thus the available bank balance:

R17 344.00

Stock of branded goods R 5 038.00

Budgeted running expenses for the next financial year R25 425.00

This will be funded from donations, sponsorship and fundraising.

The main financial priorities remain building the radio network, continued community publicity and expanding the donations base. Exco meets monthly at which time expenditure is discussed.

4. Chairperson's Report

Nicola Jowell thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the AGM. DPVwatch has now been running for more than 24 months, and we have approximately 370 members. While we still have to address the long-term sustainability of DPV, this year several active members of Exco are standing down. DPVwatch is about being the eyes and ears for SAPS. We do this by being vigilant at home and when patrolling. The radio network which forms the backbone of our communication with SAPS has led to an increase in arrests.

4.1 Activities during the year

Social and fundraising events:

- * Halloween and St Valentine's Day parties in Pypies Square
- * Fundraiser at the Barnyard Theatre (The Dancing Queen) – thanks to Graeme Logie
- * Radio network get-together/braai
- * Clean ups of Plantation and Chelsea Road
- * World Cup volunteers did duty as ambassadors on the Fan Walk on match nights

Crime fighting activities include:

- * Attendance at weekly SAPS Thursday morning meetings
- * Representation on the Cape Town CPF and Sector 2 CPSF committees
- * Participation in two SAPS operations in the area
- * Work together with TBK, OH and Gardens watches
- * Promotion of Give Responsibly campaign, Haven vouchers, and in future the Broccoli Project. Continuous engagement with the City and interested NGOs regarding vagrancy

4.2 Radios

- * Radio holders increased by 20 this year
- * Five radios donated by Renzo Schincariol after our last AGM are being used as rental radios and 'rent to buy' radios.
- * DPV invested in radio infrastructure (repeater antennae installed on top of Disa Park).
- * A base station (donated by Lazer Communications) is being set up at the Police Station. It will be monitored 24/7, and will provide a dedicated radio link for TBK, OH, and DPV.
- * The Romanovs have donated a radio which is being raffled at this AGM, the proceeds of which will go towards buying another radio.

4.3 Patrolling

- * Thanks to Earl Fischhoff and Andrew Laing for taking responsibility for this. The patrol roster is slowly growing. Patrol training takes place on the last Wednesday of each month.
- * The Tuesday evening walk has a core group of regular walkers. The Wednesday night walk is also still taking place.
- * There is a 'patrol' radio lodged with security at Larmenier Retirement Village which can be booked out by any member wanting to patrol.

4.4 Crime Analysis

We collect our own data, based on incidents logged on our website and reported at the SAPS meetings. *The following analysis is based on DPV statistics, not SAPS.*

- * Most incidents occur on Fridays, followed by Tuesdays, Sundays and Mondays.
- * A large number of crimes are committed during the day, especially house break-ins. Contrary to popular perception, flats are often targeted.
- * Our biggest problem is theft out of motor vehicles (39.5% – 84 incidents), followed by theft from property at 28.8% (69 incidents). Theft of motor vehicles and muggings/robberies both stand at 9.4% (12 incidents). Theft of m/v has increased from last year, and includes the theft of motor cycles and scooters. The number of robberies has come down from last year.
- * Theft out of m/v often is opportunistic and the victims do not always report incidents to SAPS unless there is an insurance claim.
- * Zone 7 has the highest number of crime incidents reported (23.5%). This is a high density area with a large number of blocks of flats, many cars parked on the street, and also does not have many active DPV members. Incidents for other zones stand at Zone 3 (15%), Zone 4 (14.5%) and Zone 2 (14%). Zones 1 and 5 (12%), Zone 6 (7.5%)

4.5 Plans for the future

- * In order to bring new voices on to the Executive Committee, Tessa Gilbey (Zone 6), Theresa Henderson (Zone 3) and Jo-Anne Friedlander (Zone 2) are standing down. We will continue to grow our radio network and build the number of active patrollers. We will also continue to build our relationship with SAPS and other neighbourhood watches. There is currently a moratorium on employing reservists; when lifted we hope some of our members will sign up. Crime incidents are monitored on a weekly basis, and we plan to engage with the Departments of Justice and Correctional Services.
- * We are taking a holistic approach– keeping streets clean, making sure street lights are working, and generally looking after our suburbs.

4.6 Thank you's

- * Exco for dedication and hours put into DPV matters.
- * Albert Dreyer and Knights Catering
- * Harriet Clift (membership database and the newsletter)
- * Disa Park (radio repeater installed on their roof)
- * CBar (allocate a security guard to walk with us on Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
- * Julia Voster (maintains the website)
- * Johnny at the Spar (sponsorship)
- * All donors
- * The extra mile: Andrew and Sam, Earl, Birgit, Theresa, Jo-Anne
- * The extended community family

5. Captain Jansen (Sector 2 commander)

Nicola then introduced Captain Jansen, who had returned to Sector 2. He addressed the meeting, referring to a number of successful arrests and confirmed that he was always available to the community. He pointed to the good working relationship between SAPS and DPV, saying that he was pleased to work with people who are committed.

6. Election of Exco members

Justin Johnson ran through the existing committee and nominations which were confirmed as follows.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Chair | Nicola Jowell |
| Deputy Chairs | Justin Johnson and Earl Fischhoff |
| Zone 1 | Olaf Dahl |
| Zone 2 | Shaun Davidson (nominated by Olaf Dahl/seconded by Jo-Anne Friedlander) |
| Zone 3 | Justin Johnson (nominated by Leam du Toit/seconded by Len van Zyl) |
| Zone 4 | Leam du Toit |
| Zone 5 | Jeremy Warner |
| Zone 6 | Jackie Romanov (nominated but not accepted) |
| Zone 7 | Andrew Laing (nominated by Earl Fischhoff/seconded by Theresa Henderson) |
| Publicity | Philip Brink |
| Patrol/Ops | Andrew Laing |

The audience was invited to speak to their zone leaders after the meeting which closed at 20.30.