



27 AUGUST 2025

Hoekwil & Touwsrante

Community Dialogue

2025

Meeting
Report

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38th Meeting

Odendaal opened the meeting by warmly welcoming the small group gathered in a circle and thanking everyone for being there. He shared that this month marks four years since the start of the Touwsranten/Hoekwil Community Dialogue, a big milestone worth celebrating!

He reflected on some of the Touwsranten/Hoekwil Community Dialogue's achievements over the years:



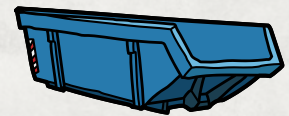
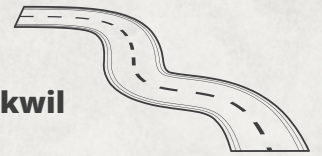
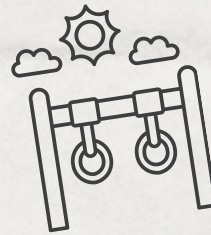
»» The construction of toilets

»» Clearing the walking path between Touwsranten and Hoekwil

»» Local community markets

»» The introduction of rubbish skips

»» The recent outdoor gym initiative



Despite some challenges, the group remains hopeful and committed to continuing the work into the future.

Some planned agenda items didn't go ahead as expected, including updates from Planet Youth and Collin Wildeman's story on illegal evictions. We hope to hear from both Collin and Hermann at the next meeting.

Apologies were received from Morné Heunis, Collin Wildeman, and Chandré Gould.

Check-In: Honouring Women's Month



To mark Women's Month, participants were asked to reflect on a woman in their lives they see as a role model and to share something they admire about her. This opened a heartfelt discussion and reminded everyone of the strength and inspiration women bring to our communities.



Dialogue Reflection & Insights

Andisiwe shared insights from the 2023 assessment of the Dialogue, reminding us where we started and what we've learned. She highlighted key themes from the report, including:

Misconceptions around the Dialogue's role

Its commitment to uplifting the community

The slow but steady progress

The value of engaging with different viewpoints



Reflective Question:

“What do you appreciate about the Community Dialogue?”

Responses included:

"It's a mirror of what's possible."

"It's good to see how the Dialogue has evolved over time."

"It's 100% a civil society initiative, not run by any official body."

"A space for managing disputes with many different opinions."

"I always leave feeling lighter, like some of the stress has lifted."

"It allows for open conversations with SAPS members."

"It's a platform to bring community concerns forward - although Touwsranten still faces more issues than Hoekwil."

Updates & Initiatives

SAPS



August was relatively quiet, with:

- 2 serious assaults
- 3 common assaults
- 1 robbery
- 1 house break-in
- 2 car thefts
- 4 arrests for illegal weapon possession



W/O Kuhn is trying to arrange swimming lessons at the public pool in George but is struggling to reach the right contacts at the municipality. If successful, he hopes to offer three sessions per week.

There are plans for a community police parade in mid-December (similar to their annual internal parade). Any donations of clothes, sweets, etc. are welcome.



Seven Passes Initiative



SPI is now officially registered as a community center offering after-school programs!

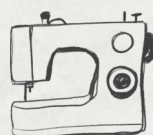
Updates include:

- A new U13 soccer club (led by Herman Massyn)
- Sewing classes for young girls (led by Aunty Lien)
- A student-led yoga club
- Judo lessons are being planned

They're still negotiating with the VGK Church for use of their hall. Their biggest challenge is space, especially in separating different age groups during aftercare.

The Wilderness Arts Association will be visiting soon – they're hoping to host a storytelling and drumming circle.

Roslynn is taking the lead on many of these initiatives and doing great work.



Market

There will be no Spring Market this year, and the date for the next one is still to be confirmed.

Closing Reflection:

As the meeting wrapped up, participants were invited to share their hopes for the future of the Dialogue. Some dreams included:



Attendees List

W/O Kuhn	Sharon Appels
Odendaal Esterhuyse	Sharon Fisher-Buys
Shireen Miller	Andisiwe Makwecana