



ON POINT

August 2011

Fellow Members,

Peter Minkwitz, president of the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council, must take a sabbatical from the PRNC to focus on his health. Please join us in supporting his quick recovery. Peter has left big shoes to fill and the remaining members will work to shepherd the PRNC in his absence. Personally, I am asking the community for guidance as we learn all the nuances of running the PRNC without Peter at the helm.

The July 17th water main break on West Richmond Ave opened a sink hole that consumed one of the two cherished wig-wags and the associated abutment. Victor Morales, the chair of the wig-wag committee, reported that legal clearance with BNSF is nearing completion. It is time to commence physical and electrical restoration of the wig-wags including restoration of the one missing wig-wag. Carlos Privat indicated the City will perform all restoration work. I am excited to see the wig-wags operational in the near future.

During the August meeting, we will welcome our newest business Point Pharmacy to Point Richmond owned by Vern Verling. Point Pharmacy's mission is to provide a holistic approach. Maureen Decombe will be giving us an update about the Richmond Waste water treatment facility operated by Veolia.

Marjorie Moore of the Ki Research Institute will be proposing privatizing the Point Richmond Community Center. The idea is to allow for more community access than is currently available with the City of Richmond. I am interested to hear the proposal for two reasons. First, the PRNC was locked out of the facility a few times in 2010 and was forced to find impromptu venues like Symphonie. Second, small community groups can't afford large facility charges like the city has proposed in the past.

I hope to see you at the August Meeting.

Megan Bleckinger, *1st Vice President*
POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



AGENDA

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Point Richmond Community Center

- 7:30 pm **Call to Order**
- 7:30 **Approval of Minutes from July 27, 2011**
- President's Report** by Megan Bleckinger, 1st V.P. 5 minutes
- 7:35 **Police Report** Officer Joe Anderson
(510) 621-1212 Ext.7145 janderson@richmondpd.net 10 minutes
- 7:45 **Report on Membership** Sue Rosenof (510) 599-1197 2 minutes
- 7:47 **Treasurer's Report** Louise Fender (510) 260-0309 2 minutes
- 7:50 **Committee Reports and Announcements from non-profit groups**
2 minutes each Up to 20 minutes
- Point Richmond Business Association, Margi Cellucci
Women's Westside Improvement Club, Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219
Knit and Such, Altha Humphrey (510) 232-2934
Arts of Point Richmond, Altha Humphrey
Red Oak Victory, George Coles
PRNC Safety Committee, Tom Brichta 510-620-6538
Friends of Richmond Tennis Committee, Gary Hurlbut glh@tia.org
Formula Restaurant Ordinance Committee, Marsha Tomassi 510-215-6133
Point Richmond History Association, Mid Dornan 510-234-5334
- 8:10 **Introduction to the Point Pharmacy**, Vern Verling
- 8:20 **Update on Veolia and the Waste Treatment Plant**, Maureen Decombe
- 8:30 **Proposal to privately manage the Point Richmond Community Center**,
Marjorie Moore, Ki Research Institute
- 9:00 **Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee** Rod Satre
Items to be considered at the Committee's August 31, 2011 meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by August 17, 2011.
Contact Rod at (510) 232-5059 or rdsatre@live.com
- 1) **Vacating a street next to 222 Martina St.** Ted Cuzzillo, applicant
 - 2) **221 East Scenic Rehabilitation**, Tom Butt, owner. Add a door to the South (rear) elevation and add two skylights

Public Forum: Please sign up. As many as 5 speakers—2 minutes each.
Issues brought to the attention of the Council in the Public Forum cannot result in Council action at this meeting. Instead, the issue should be presented to Council for consideration by the PRNC Board as an agenda item at a future meeting.
Submit agenda items by September 16, 2011 to Megan Bleckinger (510) 242-2288 or <http://www.pointrichmond.org/contact.cfm>

Adjourn

IMPORTANT DATES

- ** August 31** **Next Regular meeting of the PRNC**
Wednesday **7:30 pm, Point Richmond Community Center**

- **September 14** **Last day to submit proposed projects to the**
Wednesday **Land Use/Design Review Committee**

- **September 8** **Next meeting of the PRNC Board of Directors**
Wednesday **Call Megan Bleckinger for the time and place**

- **2nd Wednesday** **Next meeting of the Point Richmond Business Assoc.**
12:00 noon **The Baltic Restaurant**

- ** Every** **The Point Richmond Farmer's Market**
Wednesday **4-8 pm**

- **1st and 3rd** **Richmond City Council meets**
Tue 6:30 pm

- **August 12** **Summer Music Festival, Downtown Point Richmond**
Friday 5:30-8:00 pm **The Dave Crimmen Band and Lloyd's Garage**

- **August 27** **Annual large item trash drop-off day.**
Sat. 7am-11am **Next to Washington School (Volunteers need to check IDs)**

- **August 27** **2nd Annual Picnic in the Point**
Sat. 12-6 PM **Judge G Carroll Park**

- ** September 10** **2nd Annual Chevron Refinery Community Tour**
Sat. 9-12 PM

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council

Membership Meeting July 27, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. The minutes of the June 29 meeting were approved with the following corrections:

- Spelling error—Anna Schwartz, not Ana Schwartz
- The meeting was closed in honor of Deborah Shane Coles, George Coles daughter and Bill Herkert, longtime Point Richmond resident who lived on Cypress Point.

3. President's Report (Peter Minkowitz 232-3663)

- A wig-wag fell into a sinkhole by the Mechanics Bank is being stored in the BNSF yards until fixed. The abutment was condemned.
- The pharmacy on W.Richmond has opened. It will carry both standard and holistic drugs. The owner/pharmacist will introduce the business at the next meeting.

4. Police Report: Officer Anderson

- Burglaries were down in the last 30 days. One reported burglary on 200 block of Bishop with no forced entry. A white female in her 20's was seen near house. One auto theft and several bikes were stolen in Brickyard Cove.
- A member commented on a man roaming the streets near Santa Fe and East Richmond in early morning hours. Well known to Officer Anderson who will look into it.

5. Membership Report (Sue Rosenof 599-1197) Currently have 421 members. Up-to-date on dues-120. Forty people paid dues in June. Members are encouraged to receive their newsletters via e-mail.

6. Treasurer's Report (Louise Fender 260-0309) General Fund balance forward \$5226.67, Expenses \$209.25, Income from dues \$335, Total General Fund \$5572.55. Total in Treasury (including other funds) \$11,244.15.

7. Committee Reports and Announcements from Non-Profit Groups

- Point Richmond Business Association (Margaret Morkowski) Meets.--2nd Tuesday of month at the Baltic. Community welcome to join. Holding 2nd Annual Picnic in the Park Sunday, Aug 28. Benefit for Washington School PTA. The PRNC is a co-sponsor.
- Women's Westside Improvement Club (Margaret Morkowski). Next meeting Tues, Sept.13.
- Knit and Such (Altha Humphrey) Next meeting Wednesday, August 3 at the Community Center. 12:30-2:30. Free
- Arts of Point Richmond (Altha Humphrey}.Next meeting Aug 13 at the Community Center. Sunday, August 21 Art in the Park 11AM-6PM, Gateway Park, next to Mechanics Bank
- Red Oak Victory (George Coles) Red Oak Victory should be in dry dock by end of month. There will be a Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, August 13. \$6, 9:30-noon. Movies every other Thursday on the Red Oak. Next movie "Destination Tokyo".Movie free, \$5 to board ship.
- Friends of Richmond Tennis Committee (Garry Hurlbut) Working on tennis courts at Nicholl Park and next to the Plunge. Friends of Richmond Recreation have endorsed project. Margaret Morkowski will be on it. Lot of space for community garden. Funding will be issue. Committee will work on grants. Need more volunteers. Contact Garry via e-mail glh@tai.org.
- Formula Restaurant Ordinance Committee-- presentation at August meeting.
- Point Richmond History Association--Pat. Plaques, wig-wag plaque. Picked out two stores.

8. Update on Veolia and the Waste Treatment Plant (Maureen Decombe) Update. Monitors have been placed at north and south fenceline and at Washington School. Results can be found at <https://www.mysmartcover.com/h2s/index.php>; User Name: Public/Password: Access.

Will be able to correlate odor and presence of H₂S in atmosphere. Research on impact of H₂S on health is contradictory; can effect of quality of life, information about toxicity is contradictory. Aaron Winer, plant project manager, introduced Jamal Muhammad, Veolia's new community liaison. Chad Davis from City explained that manholes are being fixed for a better seal to avoid water coming up and out during storms. City-wide project with current focus in Pt. Richmond.

Concern expressed about smells being worse at night. Veolia activity is down at night. Some H₂S odor may be coming from the refinery. Chevron has fenceline monitors and is using new technology to contain odors. Citizens can call general number (242-2400) to report problems or, at night, Chevron fire department in plant (242-4200).

9. Chevron Application for New Hydrogen Plant (Dean O'Hair, Renewal Project; Heather Kulp, Community Relations, Public Affairs; Jordan Malcolm, Permitting Team)

To get news updates call 510-242-2000 or e-mail info@richmondrefinery.com and Jordan Malcolm will put you on mailing list. Mr. O'Hair is also available re: questions of the renewal project at 510 242-1497. Info is also available at www.ci.richmond.ca.us/chevronrenewal. City asked Chevron to resubmit an application to finish parts of renewal project which were stopped as result of lawsuit in 2009 on the question of whether or not the refinery would refine heavier crude grade oil. Chevron is committed to transparency in the current process. The plan now is to finish the hydrogen plant to make hydrogen to be used to be more efficient in removing sulfur from crude oil (the sulfur will be sold for other purposes, including agriculture). Two aspects of the original project will not be implemented as demand for gasoline is down.

The city is currently working on studying the project and will submit an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the council for approval. The public will be invited to comment. The complete process will likely take more than a year. The city has planned a series of 4 educational sessions to prepare the public to understand and respond to the EIR. The first session on Greenhouse Gases was held on July 25 and is available on KCRT on the city's website. The 2nd session on Health Risk Assessment for Airborne Emissions will be held August 22 at 6P in the City Council Chambers. Sessions on Operation of a Refinery and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will follow.

Announcements: Chevron will be holding Community Tours of the refinery on September 10 from 9a.m. to 1 p.m. The refinery is posting 15 operator training positions. Applications close on August 3.

Question: Could Chevron require that ships that come to the wharf decrease emissions by cutting power and use "hotel generators" on shore? **Response:** This procedure is not feasible for oil tankers which have to be ready and able to move at a moment's notice for safe operations.

10. Toxics and Pollution at Keller Beach (Matt Graul, Water Manager, East Bay Regional Parks)

In May 2011, **SFgate** published the results of a "beach health report" in which Keller Beach received a Grade of "D". Matt Graul was at the meeting to respond to this report. Powerpoint of his presentation will be available on the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council website once approved by East Bay Parks. Main points are:

- The parks are required to monitor drinking water and recreational water weekly from April 1 to October 31. If tests exceed standards, retest and take action (put up appropriate warnings—red light—usually result of sewage spill and beach closed; yellow light—advisory warning that bacteria levels are above state maximums; green light—levels below state maximums)
- Test three organisms: Total coliform, fecal coliform, and enterococcus. Enterococcus is currently the best measure of potential disease, especially in salt water. Decaying vegetation is major cause of high total coliform counts at Keller Beach which comes from a large mass of aquatic vegetation right off the beach. The ratio fecal/total coliform or enterococcus looks good. Although the numbers are higher than state standards, they do not present a danger to those who go in water. Thus there are a lot of “false positives”, measures that falsely suggest that the water is unsafe at Keller Beach. Lake Temescal often has similar measures as the result of high algae levels which are not toxic. New “markers” being developed, but are not available for use.
- High levels of all three bacteria usually means sewage spill. Have been none in the last three years.
- Matt said he would give Keller Beach a B+/A rating.
- For more info www.ebparks.org or mgraul@ebparks.org (520-544-2327)

11. Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee

1. Construction of two-level deck on rear of house at 261 Washington Court, Mark Adams, Owner, Meredith Bressie, Designer, Interactive Resources, Engineering --Linda Drake reporting. Design review supported project with two conditions: Rail on south side of deck will be translucent or opaque to 6' x 12'. Trees will be maintained as privacy screen.
2. Vacating a street next to 221 Martina St. Ted Cuzzillo, Applicant did not attend.

12. Public Forum

- Garry Hurlbut—Neighborhood Watch at Sea Cliff being organized. Will have large meeting in September of other Homeowner’s Associations in Point and Michelle Milam and Todd Opdyke. September 8. Just established committee in HOA to deal with other issues--emergency earthquake. Current HOA board being challenged.
- Margaret Jordan—LBNL Welcome at Civic Center big success; Information re: funeral arrangements and to donate to fund for family of Daryl Russell, son of local Starbucks employee, and Richmond resident recently killed as result of gun violence can be found on Point Richmond website.
- Jean Womack suggested that the current location of the Farmer’s Market is bad for business re: parking, competition with restaurants, and that it should be moved.
- Pat Pearson suggested ordinance to prohibit use of leaf blowers.
- The meeting was closed in memory of Daryl Russell.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by

Margaret Jordan, Secretary,

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2011-2012?

The dues help cover our administrative expenses and are minimal. Rates are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for a household. New and renewed membership covers the period May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012. Lifetime memberships are available for \$500. If the amount of the dues is a financial hardship, a waiver is gladly granted.



POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

New

Membership Application
May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012

Renewal

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Bring dues to the next meeting or mail check and this application to:

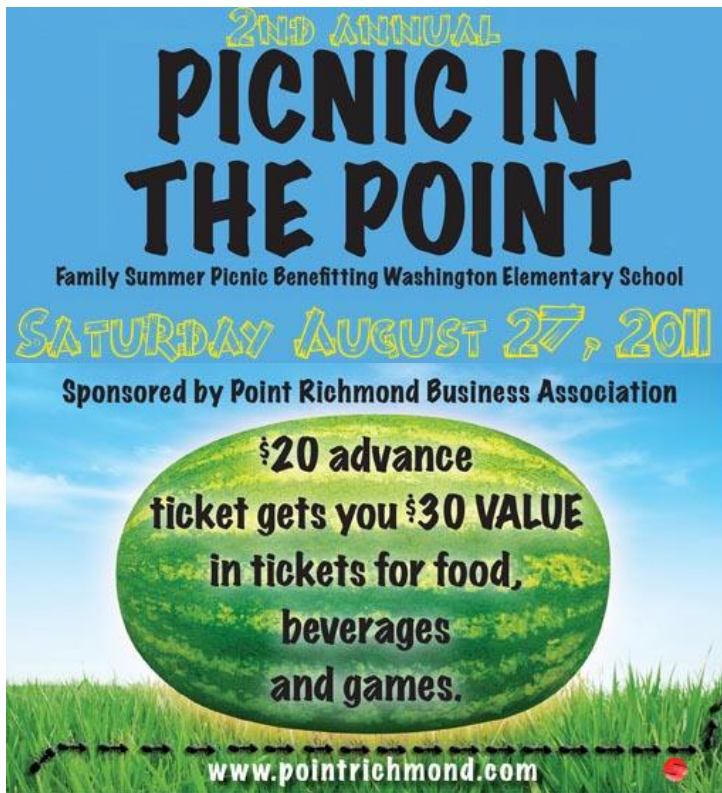
PRNC
P.O. Box 70386
Point Richmond, CA 94807

Do you want to receive the Newsletter by mail ?

Yes No

Do you want to receive the Newsletter by e-mail ?

Yes No



For further information, call 510-778-1313