

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

515 Silver Avenue - North Richmond, CA 94801

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

*Due to COVID-19 the NRMAC conducted a remote meeting that was accessible via Zoom to all members of the public.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Board members present were: Annie King-Merridith, Dr. Henry Clark, Lily Rahnema, Don Gilmore, Beverly Scott, and Princess Robinson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

The agenda and minutes were reviewed by the board members. Don entertains a motion for approval. Lily motions to approve the agenda and the minutes. Dr. Clark seconds, Annie approves the agenda and abstains from voting on the approval of the minutes. The remaining board members are all in favor of approval/ agenda/ minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Annie announces that on January 18, 2021, Mrs. Bobbie Spears died, she and her husband Mr. Willie Spears were instrumental in the community and founders of the Annual Willie Spears Community Cleanup Day. Annie says being that February is Black History month, she would like to pay tribute to Cicely Tyson. Dr. Clark would like to pay tribute to community workers, Nathaniel Evans, Mrs. Irene Mason, and Deacon Lee. These individuals were amongst the first families that helped to develop North Richmond. Annie and Clark suggest that at the end of the meeting, we have a moment of silence, in honor of the deceased individuals.

In the future, Annie would like to add Shield's and Reid Neighborhood Council to the NRMAC agenda, under Agency Reports.

Cynthia would like to verify and set straight a rumor that has spread throughout the community pertaining to Men and Women of Valor. There was a repass in the community for the deceased Loritta Wilson. Rumor has it that Men and Women of Valor hosted the repass at their building. This is not so, only the food for the event was being stored at the building. There was such a large crowd, people were visible up and down the streets, between Shield's and Reid and Men of Women of Valor.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY/REPORTS

Lieutenant Buford/CCC Sheriff's Department: Reporting for the month of January 2021. There were (210) calls for service. In November there were (217) calls, (274) calls in December.

Reports that there were two shootings. A shooting in December, the suspect was identified, and there is an ongoing investigation, that's coming along pretty good. In the 1800 block of Grove Street, three people were shot, everyone survived. The shooting appears to be a targeted one. The victims and witnesses are being extremely uncooperative. For verification, Dr. Clark asks where did the shootings occur.

North Richmond has lost a deputy position, Officer Ryan White, former housing authority deputy position has ended.

Officer Abernathy/CHP: Reporting for the month of January 2021.

OfficerAbernathy explains why he has not reported to the NRMAC in a while. He was pooled out to work in different areas. This action was due to the recent protests in the Bay Area. He is currently back at his Oakland office.

Officer Bauza, from Richmond Heights, has been assigned to the N. R. community. He will be helping out in patrolling the area. The officers have been doing traffic control, traffic collision, and the monitoring and towing of abandoned vehicles. There is an increase of abandoned vehicles on Vernon, Castro, and Battery Streets.

Henry asks are the stolen vehicles associated with homelessness? The answer is yes, and RPD will give a full report, upon their presentation.

Lt. Tracy Mollenbernd/RPD: Reporting for the month of January 2021.

Two parking enforcement officers are being added to the police force. Abandoned and stolen vehicles are being recovered. Vehicle thefts are up by 15%. Ten vehicles were recovered from Castro and West Seventh Streets. Vehicles show up at these homeless sites, mainly at night time, they are not reported stolen until the next day or two. The homeless sleep in these vehicles, strip them of their parts or set them on fire. Seven additional vehicles were recovered from the Castro Street area. Ongoing communication with S.O.S., looking for solutions, on how to deal with the homeless situation. The parking of semi-trucks on 7th Street is also being monitored. There were nine traffic collisions that occurred in Beat Five. Accidents occurred in the area of 23rd St.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY/REPORTS CONTINUED

Commercial burglaries are up by 17%, and firearms assault is up. Residential burglaries are down. This is a result of more people working at home, and neighbors watching out for each other.

On December 17th, a woman was shot inside of one of the homeless tents on Brookside Drive. Law enforcement does have a lead, they have a description and know the nickname of the suspect.

Laticia Chavez talks about several fires in the community. There was a fire Saturday at a vacant house located at 412 Market Ave. Another fire was located near the Senior Citizen Center. She would like to know who has the report about these fires. She was told to follow up with Robert, to get more info.

Henry asked were the houses vacant, that caught on fire. The answer is: One was vacant and the other thought to be occupied by residents.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS

Carlos Lemus, Project Manager/Healthy Richmond: Carlos would like to acknowledge Black History Month. It has been two years since the Quality of Life Roll Out Plan. They are looking to do a reunion in April. They have been working on Vision 2020, with Luz. Carlos suggests that we invite the fire department to an NRMAC meeting, to give an update on the recent fires in the neighborhood.

Don says if we are having issues with vacant and abandoned buildings, there is a need for mitigation to respond and address these issues. We can also invite the fire department to an upcoming NRMAC meeting.

Robert Rogers, District Coordinator/Supervisor John Gioia's Office: Robert on the tremendous undertaking, in getting the COVID vaccine out to the public. So far 150,000 CCC residents have been vaccinated. There is a priority for age 75 and older. The best way to get the vaccine is to sign up on the county web-site. Three sites in W. County, CCC College, West County Health Center, and Richmond Municipal Auditorium.

There will be a vaccination site in N. R. this upcoming Friday. The location will be at the Senior Citizen building, located on FJW. Don thanks Robert and Supervisor Gioia for getting the vaccination clinic to N. R.

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OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED

Annie asks has Healthy Richmond, responded pertaining to the vacant youth seat on the NRMAC board. Robert says that Healthy Richmond asked for this youth seat. Robert will send a specific email to Healthy Richmond, and RYSE, reaching out to youths through those organizations.

Dr. Henry would like for a representative from the North Richmond SIT office, to give a report to the NRMAC. Robert says that he did reach out, and the director and she should be presenting at the next NRMAC meeting.

Don Gilmore, Director/CHDC: The Downpayment Assistance Program has started.

There is an online program, that directs you through the process.

The program application for reservations process started Monday and will run up until next Sunday. Participants could receive \$25,000 toward a downpayment on a house. The selection process will probably be a lottery, there are (359) slots, and so far (239) people have applied to the program.

Annie and Lilly will be working with Don on the resource center. They will be going through an inventory of companies that promise to give back to the community.

Cynthia asked about the company Engenius, which is scheduled to be a part of the resource center, to be located at Heritage Point. Yes, the company will be a part of the resource center, they will present the STEM program.

Henry has a question about the \$500,000, that Centerpoint is offering the County toward its solar program. The money toward the solar program is a community benefit. This was a conditional request from the County, amongst the other conditions, that the projects are totally solar. It's the County's decision as to how the money will be spent. Robert says that he sent Henry documentation about the solar and County programs. Henry asks if there is any room for negotiating on benefits besides solar. The answer is that NRMAC is always welcome to negotiate with the investors. Centerpoint did and has made contributions to Urban Tilth and other CBO's, in the area. Don says we can take this up with our ad-hoc committee: Lily and Annie.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAMS REPORTS CONTINUED

Felicia Orozco, Community Service Coordinator/CHDC - Mitigation Fee Funded:

Continuing to address illegal dumping. There was a big clean up at the Castro, homeless encampment. The cleanup was done in cooperation with a Core Team, consisting of City County, CHP, SOS, and BSF Railroad. It is a challenging place to keep clean.

The N. R. January/Green Letter was distributed in the community. Continuing the walk of the streets of N. R., in order to identify illegal dumping and other troubled areas. The community walks have been put on hold because of the COVID restrictions. Will resume walks in March.

The Willie Spears Cleanup is scheduled for June 2021. Plans are being made for a virtual celebration of Earth Day. Dr. Clark is glad that planning is going forward for the Earth Day event.

Annie asks about the activity they spoke about for the homeless encampment located by Pick and Pull. Janie says that that cleanup will take place tomorrow.

PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations

Keith Reynolds Jr., Senior Project Manager/W. County Waste Water Management: The pipe project entitled: The 3.1 Priority Pipes Replacement Project. The purpose of this project is to upgrade aging infrastructure. This is one of the largest projects that the district has taken on. The project helps to reduce the failure of overflows and backups.

The district will be replacing the clay pipes that are currently in the ground. Some of the pipes are over 75 years old. A new type of plastic pipe will be used to replace the old clay pipes. Will be increasing the size of the pipes from six inches to eight inches. The increase in size is to meet local needs. Replacement of pipes will help increase the ease of maintenance for the working crews.

Will be replacing 5,828 linear feet of pipe, 17 manholes, and 92 residential connections. The construction of the project started in November 2020. Construction is scheduled to be completed by April 2021. Have been moving quickly with this project.

The announcement of the Pipes Program, allows you to get money toward replacing your lateral. NR has some of the older laterals. For more information on the program you may contact, Keith Reynolds Jr. at 510-230-3085 or kreynolds@wcwd.org

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PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued

Paula White, Community Programs Manager/Watershed Project/Hope Gardens, N. R.:

Paula speaks on the Hope Gardens, of North Richmond. Hope Gardens create urban oases in North Richmond. Residents helped plant "Hope Gardens" for their neighbors. These five gardens have transformed planting strips between the sidewalk and street from weedy eyesores into beautiful urban oases.

There are block ambassadors, they encourage neighbors to keep their block clean. Each of the gardens was adopted by a resident whose home is behind the garden. Trees and drought-tolerant plants have been planted.

In exchange for having an attractive new garden planted, the garden adopters have agreed to water and maintain them and received a tool kit containing a hose, large metal bucket, digging tools, and gloves to help them do so.

A goal has been set to plant five more gardens in March. Residents are encouraged to adopt a Hope Garden. You may contact Paula White at 1-510-883-6470 or she can be reached by email at (paula@the watershedproject.org.)

Dr. Clark asks about the garden at the Senior Citizen Center located on Silver St. The answer is, presently no one maintains the garden. Janie says that the garden was funded through mitigation. Right now don't have funds to maintain that garden. Janie is looking for funds to maintain that garden. For now, they do keep the garden cleaned of debris and weeds.

Princess asks do you have to be the homeowner to participate in the Hope Gardens. Paula says it will be okay, as long as the homeowner agrees to participate.

Danny Woodall, Operations Manager/Chevron, 2021 Community Updates:

Lilly announces Mr. Woodall, will provide some insight on Chevron Refinery.

He starts out by saying that N. R. host one of the many air monitoring systems.

He has been at the Richmond refinery for three years, with Chevron twenty one years.

His team in operations is responsible for the day to day operations at the refinery. Also

responsible for individual operators in the refinery 24/7. The team supports organizations that's connected with Chevron.

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PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued

Chevron has been partnering with the community through the evolving COVID crisis. A donation of \$50,000 was made to Richmond Rapid Response Fund, \$25,000 surgical masks to local hospitals. Eleven hundred dollars in \$100 gas cards to first responders and front-line service providers. One thousand face shields to medical personnel and responders

Chevron has been reducing on-site staff as much as possible. New protocols, technology and equipment has been introduced since the outbreak of COVID.

Refinery Modernization Project: Energy Efficiency, Lowered Emissions, Created Jobs and Continued Success. The community warning system is in place.

Henry says that he served on the CCC Hazardous Board, and he supports the Chevron Modernization Program. He appreciates Mr. Woodall for coming out to the NRMAC.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

DISCUSS/RECOMMENDATION - Todd Berryhill/Scannell Properties on warehouse project at 155 and 177 Parr Blvd.: This proposed project was presented to the NRMAC in 2018. Scannell Properties is based in LaFayette, CA, they renovate and build new buildings

They plan on constructing two warehouse buildings totaling 327,207 square feet in area. The project also includes: several lot line adjustments, demolition of existing improvements, landscaping, off-site roadway and drainage improvements, annexation of the subject site into the West County Wastewater district, removal of 1 tree, grading of approximately 31,900 cubic yards of soil and fill of 0.145 acres of wetlands/water under jurisdiction of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Project consists of 29.4 acres. Solar will go on buildings and parking lots. Zero emission vehicles. Fed X has agreed to occupy one of the buildings. Fed X will be purchasing zero emission vehicles (ZEV). The other building does not have a tenant yet.

Questions and Comments: Would like to have union labors, would like to build with local workforce. Vehicle traffic directed away from the neighborhood. Will be hiring locally. Dr. Clark asks when will the project be completed? Answer s/b completed 2022.

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PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued

Princess asks, when job opportunities become available, will they come back to the NRMAC. Beverly asks about potential traffic to the Richmond Parkway. Answer: Truck routes will be at non peak times. It was noted that the Richmond Parkway is not designed to CalTrans standards. The City of Richmond maintains the parkway. Princess asks will proceeds be going back into the community. The answer is yes.

Mr. Berryhill says that his company did spend money in the community during the holidays. If there are particular things that the NRMAC wants in the community, just let them know. Dr. Clark says Annie and Lilly will make contact to ask for support toward the proposed resource center. Don says our committee wants some type of plan like a training job program.

Action item: Don entertains a motion to support the project. Henry makes a motion to support the project to go forward. Annie second, all in favor.

Meeting ends with a moment of silence for several recently deceased and long time community activists: Mr. Natedaniel Evans, Mrs. Bobbie Spears, Deacon Lee and Mrs. Irene Mason. A moment of silence for Ms. Cicely Tyson also.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

**Next Meeting
March 2, 2021
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
515 Silver Street
N. Richmond CA 94801**

