

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL
Wednesday, February 13, 2013
515 Silver Avenue-North Richmond, CA 94801
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Board members in attendance were: Don Gilmore, Junie Tate Sugar, Beverly Scott, and Dr. Henry Clark. The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

The agenda and the minutes were reviewed and accepted by all board members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3MINUTES/PERSON)

Shirley Boadie would like to bring the MAC up to date on her communication with PG&E, concerning the removal of the trees on Pittsburg Avenue, in North Richmond. Shirley had been in contact with a Ms. Kennedy, discussing other alternatives vs. the removal of the trees. Unfortunately Shirley didn't make much progress with her ideas. Ms. Kennedy didn't return her calls.

Ms. Meza, a resident of North Richmond and worker at the community garden at Verde School, states that vandalism has occurred at the school. Youngsters have been jumping the fence next to the garden. They have been vandalizing the property and stealing fruits and vegetables from the garden. The fences have been stripped of their metal and supporting structures. The fence is being propped up by miscellaneous poles. This has been reported to the principle, but so far no action has been taken, to resolve these issues.

Ms. Meza also reports that, on the corner of 6th and Grove Streets, the occupants of the apartment complex, located on that corner, are setting items on fire in the middle of the streets. It seems like whatever they can find to burn, they set it on fire, at the middle of that intersection. These events have been going on for at least two months. There is a lot of vandalism and graffiti occurring at the vacant Housing Authority Units on 6th Street.

Carla Orozco will look into the vandalism incidents that occurred at the Housing Authority Units. Lt Moreland, of the CCC Sheriff's Department, will go to the Verde School and have a meeting with the principle. We are looking forward, to having these issues resolved.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS (5 min/person)

Lt. Jon Moreland/CCC Sheriff's Department: Reports for (January 1-31, 2013). During this time period there were one stolen vehicle, one possession of narcotics, and two possessions of dangerous drugs. There were one probation violation, two felonies, and two juveniles missing. There also were, one tow, two property's were found, and one suspicious circumstances. One civil problem was reported, and one outside arrest was made. Four warrant arrests were made, and there were seven armed robberies. One strong-arm robbery, three vehicles were carjacked, and one shooting occurred. There has been a rash in residential burglaries, nine in all were reported. Five vandalisms were reported in the month of January.

West County as a whole has seen a rash of robberies. The cities of El Sobrante, San Pablo, El Cerrito, and Tara Hills have reported such recent crimes. The crimes in these areas are not related to the North Richmond crimes.

The police department has acquired surveillance photos of the suspects that were involved in the El Sobrante robberies. The sheriff's department is trying to keep up with the latest trends in crime. They have the Investigation Unit, and the Sheriff Unit, working on these crimes. They meet once a month, trying to solve these crimes.

Dr. Henry Clark acknowledges Officer Donnie Gordon, whom recently retired from the Sheriff Department. Dr. Clark recommends him for his long time service in the area. Dr. Clark also thinks that Officer Gordon, performed his job well, in the community.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

Update REGARDING PROPOSED TREE REMOVAL ALONG Pittsburg Avenue as recommended by PG&E. April Kennedy, PG&E : Ms. Kennedy reports that, the study was completed, pertaining to the removal of the trees located on Pittsburg Avenue. No endangered species were found in the area. The removal of the trees does not seem to be a threat to the present vegetation growing in the area. The project will take about eight to ten weeks to completely remove the trees from the area.

CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION regarding a proposed Urban Farm Project in North Richmond ./ Doria Robinson: Roots & Restoration Farm, transforming the food shed of North Richmond, one resident at a time. Urban Tilth would like to work with local residents and local youth to design, install and manage: a farm stand to provide fresh, hyper local produce to the North Richmond community. A production farm plot to produce fresh produce for the Fred Jackson Way, farm stand, the growing of specific crops for Farm to Table CSA, growing produce to support the development of a faith based CSA serving North Richmond churches and seniors.

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ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND /OR ACTION

CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION regarding a proposed Urban Farm Project in North Richmond / Doria Robinson: The restoration project will be a Community Farm Learning Center, it will consist of an open community farm park, community work shops, chickens, bees, produce processing shed, greenhouse, outdoor kitchen, small office for Urban Tilt, and Youth run Co-op Incubator. This will also be home for the Youth and Young Adult Apprentice Program.

It is important to engage North Richmond in such a project. Non-profit will be taking the lead in this project. The property belongs to the Contra Costa County, it consist of three acres, and the transfer of the property has occurred.

Urban has received (\$200,000), for their first grant. The money must be used over the next two years. The CA Endowment has funding for staffing; they are waiting for an answer from them. An initial grant of (\$60,000) is needed for planning this project. The Contra Costa County will help to build the facility. The Contra County Staff is excited about this project.

A garden project in Brentwood may partner with us and supply us with produce and vegetables that are not grown in this area.

Luz suggests that someone from the MAC sit on the board of this Urban Tilt Project.

Ms. Meza from the Verde School, garden project will be involved in this program.

P. G. & E. is willing to participate in this project. They have a program all-ready established, to help community gardens. They are willing to donate trees and vegetation. P. G. & E. also have a program that wills off-set the high voltage cost.

Supervisor John Gioia, will be taking an active role in this program. While visiting the Washington area, the supervisor had the opportunity to visit a project, similar to the one that's being proposed to the North Richmond Community. He was very elated in what he saw, and decided to introduce such a project to this area.

The MAC is in full support of the garden project, and is looking forward to the establishment of the project.

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PRESENTATIONS

North Richmond Main Street project update. Eleanor Thompson: Mrs. Thompson has been working on this Main Street Project for about two years. One of her main items tonight is the median that's located on Fred Jackson Way, between Chesley Ave., and Grove St. She has been working on getting electrical outlets installed, for the Xmas Holidays. The community would like to have Xmas lights and decorations, on display during the holiday season. She met with Tom Butts son, and he is going to quote her a price on the cost of installing the outlets. A fundraiser to generate funding, for the cost of the installation, will be held in the near future.

The second annual, July 4th parade, is scheduled for this year. The location will be at the median, located on Fred Jackson Way.

Mrs. Thompson would like to organize a program to enhance the neighborhood. She plans on having projects such as, the planting of flowers and trees.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS (5 min/person)

Luz Gomez, Supervisor John Gioia's Office: For the past year the supervisor's office, has been working on a program, to shut down illegal transfer stations in this area.

These stations are working and holding areas, that house the discarded materials, (to be sorted), that's generated from the demolition of houses. The people involved, do not have working permits to perform this type of operation.

As to date, (twelve) locations have been identified. A whole team of authorities have been going out and inspecting these places. Luz had the opportunity to go out on an inspection. Fines will be imposed; and violators will be expected to pay, for operating illegal activities. A news conference will be held at one of the sites, on March 2013.

Long time MAC member Joe Wallace, has resigned from the MAC Board. A vacancy and announcements to fill it will be coming up soon. The North Richmond Community is primarily Latino, and it would be feasible if a Latino resident could fill this vacancy.

A committee has been formed, to work and rally around the improvement of the Verde School. There will be up-coming meetings, focusing on what help and improvement can be made toward the school. Verde has been in the community a long time, and it should be brought up to higher standards, and excellence.

The Community Corrections Partnership has released a draft (RFP) and funding will be made available.

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OTHER AGENCY / PROGRAM REPORTS (5min/person)

Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC), Don Gilmore: Free tax services are being offered this year. Taxes done right, free tax service you can trust. The location is, Heritage Senior Apartments, located at 1555 Fred Jackson Way, North Richmond. You may call and get information, (510) 412-9290; the office was officially opened on, 1/26/13. Services are available on Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., by walk-in or appointment.

CHDC has applied for funding to repair the roof at the Heritage Senior Apartments. Luz suggests that CHDC check out the organization (LISC), for possible funding. Supervisor John Gioia is in support of this project.

The Senior Multi Cultural Center, is seeking volunteers to translate from English to Spanish. If you wish to volunteer please contact, Ms. Sain, (510) 232-3511.

Community Services Coordinator (Carla Orozco-Mitigation Fee-funded, NHNR)
The Basketball Program is up and running, sign-ups are still going on. Parents are encouraged to sign their children up for the league.

Project Green will host a workshop entitled: Water Conservation, on February 19, 2013, the location will be at Project Pride, the time of the event is 4:00 p. m. – 5:00 p.m. The Maya Youth Academy, will direct the workshop.

The Little League Baseball Program is accepting sign-ups for the up-coming season. The age groups are from (4-14), this is a free event, for more info please contact Carla Orozco at (510) 776-7568.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District Update, Jim Smith: There will be scheduled workshops on the tracking rule. This rule is a result of the latest Chevron Refinery Fire. The rule proposes that the refineries pay fees, based on the amount of emission out-put, at that particular refinery. These workshops are scheduled to be held in three sessions. The Center for the Performing Arts is tentatively scheduled to host the first workshop.

Dr. Henry Clark stated that the workshops should be hosted in North Richmond. His reason was that the Chevron Refinery is located next to North Richmond. Most of the residents of North Richmond do not have transportation to get to other parts of town.

Jim Smith announced that, he will make another presentation to the MAC Board, with changes in the plans of the workshops.

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CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The West County Luncheon Group “New Beginning’s”, will host the 3rd annual luncheon and workshop. The date is February 25, 2013; location will be at the Multicultural Senior and Family Center, 515 Silver Street, Richmond Ca 94801.

Guest speakers include: C. Cummings from (RNAHC), Tracy Reed (A A H C), Gilead Sciences Inc. and Jennie Vanderlaag. Come and join for a free workshop and lunch. Need a ride, call (510) 229-5000, extension (1).

This health education workshop is part of a series sponsored by the Neighborhood House of North Richmond for people living with HIV/AIDS, their friends and family members.

A meeting is scheduled by the planning committee, for the 3rd Annual North Richmond Music Festival. The date is February 21, 2013, location 250 Chesley Ave., at 3:00 p.m. For more information please call Carla Orozco at (510) 776-7568.

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