

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, December 10, 2014
515 Silver Avenue – North Richmond, CA 94801
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:18 p.m., board members present were David Meza, Don Gilmore, Dr. Henry Clark, Aaron Morgan, Beverly Scott and LaSaunda Tate.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Frazier, RN, MSN, AE-C/Project Director Breathmobile: Mary announces that thanks to a grant from the Chevron Oil Refinery, Richmond CA, the breathmobile is able to provide services in North Richmond. Mary announces that they have hired Cynthia Jordan as a new intern to work on the asthma van, at the Verde School and The Las Deltas sites.

Andrea Baily/Chevron Oil Refinery: Andrea presented an award of appreciation to Dr. Henry Clark, for his dedication and commitment toward the North Richmond community. Along with the award a picture of Andrew Young, and Dr. Clark at a fundraiser dinner was presented to him.

Pam Bilbo-Saucer/Men & Women of Valor: Pam announces that Men and Women of Valor, have joined in partnership with the Goodwill Industries, in a training and hiring project. So far (65) people have been hired into employment. Some of the selected people will be starting work on Monday. Such jobs as food service workers, care providers, custodians, and retail management positions are being made available through this program.

Pam announces that in the future the Men & Women of Valor, will be participating in the LEAP program. Men and Women of Valor will also be working with the Department of Rehabilitation and the DECAF programs. Pam says that through hard work and effort, great things are happening through out the program.

Eleanor Thompson: Eleanor made the MAC aware of a resolution that will be presented to Doctors Hospital in San Pablo. The resolution explains how much needed medical services are essential to the North Richmond community.

PUBLIC COMMENT CONTINUED

Bishop Santiago/Belinda Thomas /REACH Fellowship: REACH Fellowship cordially invites the public to a ribbon cutting ceremony in honor of the Naomi House.

This house is a gender-responsive home for re-entry women and their children.

The ceremony is to be held on December 17, 2014 from 1:30-2:30 p.m., the location is at 1724 Fred Jackson Way, Richmond, CA 94801. For more information please call Bishop Santiago at (510) 435-1355.

Dr. Otis Rounds/Physician at Doctors Medical Hospital, San Pablo, CA: Dr. Rounds came to the MAC for support and endorsement of the resolution that Eleanor Thompson presented to the MAC tonight. Retaining our full Service Hospital/Through Shared community Commitment. Unfortunately since this item is not on the MAC agenda it can not be discussed at present. Luz suggested that he go through the proper procedures, of getting on the agenda. This item will be put on the MAC agenda at a future date.

Elsa Monroe/Nurse at Doctors Medical Hospital, San Pablo, CA: Ms. Monroe came to the MAC also seeking support for Doctors Hospital. She was given the same instructions as for Dr. Rounds. The MAC looks forward to hearing her concerns at a future date.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS

Lt. D. J. Watts/CCC Sheriff's Department: Lt. Watts stated that it has been ten years, since he has worked in the West end of Contra Costa County. He recently re-located to the North Richmond area, replacing Lt. Moreland.

January through October, Lt. Watts worked on an undercover operation in the North Richmond community. On October 24, and 29, over (200) law enforcement officers came to Richmond. They conducted a sting operation on those days. Drugs and weapons were seized, unsolved homicides will be tied into some of the arrest. Thirty one people were arrested in North Richmond, during the operation. The district attorney is in the process of pursuing charges, most of the arrest were gang enhanced.

The operation was conducted with the hopes of preventing more tragedies, homicides and strong arm robberies, in the community. Hopefully the department can come to some type of conclusion on the arrest that were made. If you have any information please contact the anonymous tip line. That number is 1-866-846-3592 or e-mail information to tips@so.cccounty.us.

During the month of November 2014, (55) arrest were made in West County. (14) were made in the North Richmond community. They were mostly related to drugs, there was one felony arrest, (8) warrants were served, the others were related to felonies, battery, and auto burglary.

LAW ENFORVEMENT AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED

Lt. D. J. Watts/CCC Sheriff's Department: Eleanor Thompson asked Lt. Watts, if some of the arrested people from the sting operation, were being charged with gang affiliation. Lt. Watts answered only if they previously have gang enhancement in their record.

Don Gilmore asked Lt. Watts, if other drug dealers were trying to move in on the arrested people's drug turf. Lt. Watts answered that he had not noticed that type of action taking place.

Lt. Watts stated that during the sting operation, his own sheriff's that work with him, was not aware of the sting operation. He also stated that he continues to work with the FBI.

OTHER AGENCY REPORTS

Luz Gomez, Supervisor John Gioia's Office: Luz announces that the Interagency Refinery Task Force will host a Northern California Safety Forum. This is the first of a series of forums to provide information and promote dialogue on worker and community safety. The two hour forum offers an opportunity for the public to obtain facts and insight, ask questions, and discuss how refinery operations impact the community. Translators will be available to translate in Spanish and Lao. The date of the forum is Thursday, December 11, 2014, 6-8 p.m., Richmond City Council chambers, 440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804. For more information call (916) 327-9558.

The Verde School hoodie, toy drive, is really going well this year. Volunteers are welcome to come out Friday, December 19, 2014, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Luz has been wrapping toys in her office, volunteers are welcome to come out and join in on wrapping of the toys.

The MAC members and the Board of Supervisor's terms come to an end at the same time. Fortunately the MAC members has agreed to continue to stay on the board for another term.

Don Gilmore/Community Housing Development Corporation: Don states that he is excited about the partnership with REACH Fellowship on the re-entry house. The Filbert Townhouse Project was not successful with the tax credits programs. Heritage Point is experiencing similar situations as the Filbert Street Project.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED

Janie Holland/Community Housing Development Corporation: Janie presented about the Willie Spears Trash Pickup. The trash collection occurred this past Saturday. The statistics were as follows: There were four drivers from Richmond Sanitary, there were two dumpsters stationed at the Shields and Reid Park, The recycle truck for metal was filled up twice, SIMS metal was on site collecting metal. Twenty four loads of trash out of North Richmond were taken to the landfill. On a whole (62.10) tons of trash was taken out of North Richmond. People from the community came out in great force, to help with the trash pickup/cleanup.

The Fresh Cargo Farmers Market came out into the community today. Sales were low due to bad weather.

Carla Orozco-Mitigation Fee-funded, NHNR: Carla announces if anyone have problems about illegal dumping, please call her at 510-776-7568 or at carlaorozco@live.com Carla wants to thank Carlos Meza for volunteering on clean-up day. It appears that Carlos was one of the first participants to arrive on site on that day.

After the clean-up, garbage was being disposed onto the streets of North Richmond. Carla said that she would bring this matter to the CCC Sheriff's Officer's attention, Code enforcement will also be notified. The City of Richmond Abatement Team, assured Janie that they would be out on the streets, to pick the overflow of trash. After every trash pick-up day, people continue to bring their trash to North Richmond.

Carla states that a Community Trash Pickup day near and at the Verde School was held. Parents from Verde participated in the litter pickup. The entire day was a great success.

Participants are being recruited for the basketball program. Interested persons may go to Project Pride for applications. The age group is from (6-14). This is a part of the Richmond Junior MBA Basketball Program.

Tania Pulido/Urban Tilth: Tania reports that the lease has been signed for the three acre parcel of land for the garden. Two residents have been hired from the North Richmond area to work at the garden. A coordinator has been hired for the garden. The land has been cleaned and cleared of debris. A cultural and environmental study is in process of being conducted. The project has intentions of breaking ground by 2016.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

HEAR COMMITTEE REPORT and MAKE RECOMMENDATION regarding proposed development at former NOVE property. Luz reports that the bank owns the property.

The property is being proposed to be approved as a commercial warehouse land use. The MAC sub-committee met and recommended conditions of approval.

The land use of this property is currently zoned as residential. At one point in time houses were to be built on the site. The sub-committee is not sure as to what the property should be zoned for. It may be better to switch the property to light industrial. Further investigation needs to be conducted.

The following conditions pertaining to the property needs to be considered. Local hiring condition, use permitted, taking into consideration the plans of the East Bay Regional Park District.

Dr. Henry Clark does not know exactly what type of business is proposed for the property. He asks if there will be limitations on the proposed structures. Limitations such as size, height, etc. He asks will there be jobs available to the community.

Board member Aaron is not sure as to exactly what is going on.

Luz stated that she heard from the planner-and basically a unique request to go ahead and approve the zoning was presented. A land use and building permit will be approved at the same time. So who ever builds on the site will already be approved.

The county will incorporate a letter and it will go to the board of supervisors.

Don states that we should see what is more feasible for the community.

Luz states that a market analysis should be conducted. Luz says to put all this in a comment/response letter. Which would also be good for planning to look at.

LaShanda put a motion forth to do a further analyze as to exactly what could be done with the property. The motion was second and passed.

Don states that we are not ready to go forward until we see what can be done with the land.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION CONTINUED

HEAR COMMITTEE REPORT and MAKE RECOMMENDATION regarding a proposed Land Use Permit for the purposes of permanently establishing a soil recycling and distribution facility at 115 Brookside Drive/Ghilotti. Mr. Ghilotti comes before the MAC requesting recommendation for a land use permit. The property located at 115 Brookside Drive, is owned by the Ghilotti family and they are in the soil and concrete recycling and distribution business. This property is located across the street from the proposed Urban Tilt Farm.

Luz stated that on such a project we would want local hire to be effective. The dust from the operation such should be kept at a minimum. The land should be used for only what it was would be permitted for. There should be a noise limit imposed upon the site.

Urban Tilt/Tania Pulido says that there has not been enough quality time spent at the garden to notice any noise or distractions coming from the 115 Brookside Drive site.

Mr. Ghilotti went on to explain the operations of his distribution facility. They take broken concrete and recycle it. They take discarded soil and dirt and sift it and turn it into re-useable material. They do not propose to do anything different than what they have been doing at the site.

Henry Clark stated that Ghilotti did not take into consideration to come before the MAC prior the startup of their operation. He also commented that the community is not receiving any benefits from this operation.

Ghilotti stated that they are working toward giving back to the community.

MAC will send a letter to the County Planners to make sure that this operation does not distract the operations of the Urban Tilt Farm. The corner where the operation is located should be beautified. The height of the pile of material on the property should be limited. The noise from the operation should be modified and limited, and not cause disturbance. North Richmond should be able to utilize some of the material and products that are produced by this company's soil recycling operations.

This was motioned by David, and second by Henry, all board members were in approval.

Henry states that in the past the community was left out of decision making for the community. Now proposed projects have to come before the MAC.

Mr. Soto is concerned about dust residue from the concrete at the operations. The MAC stated that that they prefer that there be no dust impact toward the community from operations at the recycling facility. Dr. Clark would like to see an environmental impact report.

This presentation by Mr. Ghilotti was tabled for now, and will be presented in the future.

N.R. MAC/MINUTES/DECEMBER 10, 2014

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ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION CONTINUED

HEAR COMMITTEE REPORT and MAKE RECOMMENDATION to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors to APPROVE the proposed annual plan for the North Richmond MAC for 2015: LaSaunda moved to approve the 2015 plan, motion second and approved.

CONSIDER and MAKE RECOMMENDATION regarding whether Contra Costa County and the City of Richmond should explore advantages and disadvantages of a possible annexation of Unincorporated North Richmond into the City of Richmond: Upon hearing this request Dr. Henry Clark, spoke out in opposition. He said that residents and concerned individuals in the community, have worked far to hard to establish the North Richmond community. He feels that it would be a shame to turn North Richmond over to the City of Richmond or any one else.

The board decided to explore other options, as to what can North Richmond become. LaShanda made a motion to explore the advantages and disadvantages of: a possible annexation of Unincorporated North Richmond into the city of Richmond/San Pablo, possible township of Unincorporated North Richmond, or Unincorporated North Richmond becoming its own city. The motion was second and approved.

PRESENTATIONS

Crude by Rail, Andres Soto, Communities for a Better Environment: Mr. Soto presents that last month when the Federal Railroad representative was at the MAC meeting, everyone had adopted the resolution. He also stated that Supervisor John Gioia was putting on the heat.

Mr. Soto states that last week a train derailed in Richmond. The Federal Government had to come out, and investigate the accident.

Luz will design and send a letter to the air district.

Henry says personally he does not buy into the argument, why we should be at risk by trains coming through North Richmond. Henry motioned that we support Mr. Soto's motion. The motion was carried over.

Don suggests that the MAC motion to extend the meeting to 8:05 p.m. This was motioned by LaShanda and second, and all in agreement.

Meeting ended at 8:05 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 14, 2014, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., 515 Silver Ave, Richmond, CA.

