

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, June 4, 2015

515 Silver Avenue – North Richmond, CA 94801

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. Board members present were Annie King – Meredith, Don Gilmore, Aaron Morgan, Dr. Henry Clark, and LaSaunda Tate.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

The agenda was reviewed and approved. There were not any minutes to review, for lack of a quorum at the previous meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maria Alegria/Field Representative/Tony Thurmond Assemblymember, 15th District:
Mary announces that Assembly District 15, representatives will be available to meet with constituents on a drop-in basis on certain dates and locations in West Contra Costa County;

Help is available in constituent services, state information and legislative services. For more information on meeting dates and locations please call Mrs. Alegria at 510-286-1400.

Mary Frazier/Director Asthma Breath Mobile Van: Mary announces about the grant that was allocated by Chevron Refinery, required for the program to put in economic development. As a result six registered nurses have been assigned to work in the program.

Mary has been meeting with the Alameda County Health Department to further their working relationship. The asthma van continues to service the Verde School location on a weekly basis.

Bishop Santiago/REACH International Fellowship: The Bishop would like to inform the MAC board that the trash project is a great success. The yards of abandoned property that is in despair is being cleaned up. Yards are being mowed and cleaned up of unwanted trash.

It has been rumored that the bagged up trash is not being picked up. Bishop states that you can rest assure that the trash is being picked up and disposed of properly.

Board member Annie comments on what a wonderful job REACH Fellowship is doing in the neighborhood.

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PUBLIC COMMENT CONTINUED

Eleanor Thompson/Social Progress Inc.: Eleanor makes an announcement about the 5th Annual North Richmond 4th of July Parade and Celebration. The event will be held on the 4th of July. The Parade starts at 10:00 a.m. at Kelsey and Alamo. The route ends at Fred Jackson Way, In the parking lot adjacent to the North Richmond Center for Health. Live entertainment, games, and lunch will be provided.

Eleanor has concerns about having electricity at such events. The outlets located at the Median, on Fred Jackson Way, has been without electricity since it was built. Eleanor has been trying to resolve this problem for five years. Eleanor says that the community garden that is located on Willard is in despair. The grass need cutting, and the garden needs to be tended to.

Mia Renauld/North Eastern University: Ms. Renauld is collecting oral history about the North Richmond Community. The purpose of this research is to understand how the Chevron Oil Refinery influences the daily life of Richmond residents. The aim of the study is to understand the impacts, positive and negative. For more information you may contact her at RENAULD.M@HUSKY.NEV.EDU

John Steere/CCC Water District/Public Works: Mr. Steere announces that a Green Project will be implemented in the community. There will be clean-ups going on in the community. Studies have determined that there is a great deal of trash and litter in the community. He will be working on this project closely with Supervisor's John Gioia's office.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS

Lt. D.J. Watts/CCC Sheriff's Department: Lt. Watts reporting for the time period of May – June. There was a strong arm robbery in the community. There was a carjacking on Central Avenue. An assault with a deadly weapon was reported. A transient individual was shot in the leg. One report of a robbery on Chesley Avenue, the victim was a black male; he was assaulted with a knife. A car was stopped on Market Ave, and 7th Street, a handgun was recovered from the vehicle.

Area of concerns from May 2014, to May 2015: There were (186) calls to 911. All of these calls were abandoned calls. There were (304) false alarms resulting in (101) work hours, vehicle stops (1,100) resulting in (522) work hours and (150) arrest. *See attached CCC Sheriff's Report.

The Office of the Sheriff, partners with Nextdoor.com, a private social media network for neighborhoods. The Office of the Sheriff will be using Nextdoor to facilitate virtual neighborhood watch and foster neighbor-to-neighbor communications regarding public safety.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CONTINUED

Residents in the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa should consider joining Nextdoor. The more who join, the more information can be shared, resulting in a safer, more well-connected and better informed community.

To learn more or to sign up, go to www.Nextdoor.com

Officer J. Cortez RPD: Officer Cortez reports that there were three stolen vehicles. The up-date on the big rig situation is as follows: The traffic division of the RPD came out into the community and did an assessment of the situation. The findings will be made available to the community in the near future. The RPD is in the process of creating new signage for the streets of North Richmond, they will be posted shortly. Public Works will come out to the MAC meeting to discuss the signage of the city streets.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

Sheriff's Officials/ CCC Sheriff's Department / Matt Schuler and Tom Schuler, discuss and make recommendation regarding proposed expansion of West County Detention Facility.

The two officials are presenting a presentation to discuss the proposed application of expansion of the West County Detention Facility. This project has been in the works for many years, backed by Senate Bill (863). Funding for counties to design, renovate, and build structures. The name of the project is entitled: West County Reentry and Mental Health Treatment Facility.

Community involvement is encouraged. It must be demonstrated that we are replacing outdated and old facilities. It must be demonstrated that this is not a jail expansion. That this is a project to relieve the overcrowded Martinez Detention Facility. Six hundred people are housed at the Martinez Facility. This facility does not offer adequate program space. It was not meant to be a long time holding space. The inmates spend twenty-four hours in their rooms doing nothing. The only programs available to them are: Independent Study, Religion, and a Library Card.

This new expansion, if successful could open in the year of 2019. A Child Visitation Center would be a part of this project. Three hundred and eighty three people would live in this new facility. The estimated cost of the project is from eighty-eighty to eighty-nine million. The State would provide some of the funds.

The new facility will be given a new name, but it will be part of the West County Detention Facility. Male murder's will continue to stay at the Martinez Detention Facility.

Question was asked if there will be services provided for female inmates. The answer was yes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND /OR ACTION CONTINUED

DISCUSS and make recommendation regarding proposed expansion of West County detention facility following presentation by Sheriff's officials:

Maria Alegria asked how many inmates from Federal Marshals are housed at West County. The answer was – one hundred and ninety.

Don Gilmore asked if someone from the community could be on the planning committee as they go through the RPF. The answer is by all means, community should be represented.

PRESENTATIONS

Terrance Cheung and David Gray of Richmond Mayor Tom Butt's office discuss Richmond Promise Scholarship Program: Terrance and David presented to the MAC the Richmond Promise Scholarship program. The purpose of the program is to build college for our children. There will be two up-coming Richmond Promise Scholarship Community Workshops. The dates are June 8, 2015, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Bermuda room, Richmond Auditorium 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA the other workshop will be on June 18, 2015, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Multipurpose room, DeJean Middle School, 3400 Macdonald Ave. Richmond, CA 94805.

The workshops will focus on helping to craft the Richmond Promise to best serve the Richmond community and students. The needs of Richmond students and families will be discussed. How to prepare and support students to graduate from high school and pursue higher education. Please RSVP @ www.richmond Promise.eventvrite.com, for more information Call (510) 620-6512.

Eleanor Thompson states that North Richmond should of not been (not included). She says that it do not seem like this is (not going) to work out like it was promised.

Board member LaSaunda Tate would like to add to the minutes, to ask Supervisor John Gioia to send a letter to the City of Richmond to make sure that North Richmond was included in the Richmond Promise Project. After all North Richmond residents were the first ones to sit down to the table with Andrea Baily/Chevron Refinery. Terrance says that in the first meetings that , only air quality and solar was discussed pertaining to North Richmond. He states that the agreement can be opened back up now and brought back to the drawing table. Terrance also says that more focus has been brought back to North Richmond and its participation in the program. He assures us that this is going to go further. On July 28th it goes back to City Council for a vote.

Terrance and David saidthat the scholarship program is available to North Richmond Children and school students.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Whitney Dotson/President Director, Ward 1, East Bay Regional Parks District:

Mr. Dotson states that access to the Bay Trail from this community is difficult. You have to go through several stop lights and onto the Richmond Parkway, to access the trail. There is an over pass that is being proposed to be built at the entry gates of the trail.

Currently the issue at hand is to remove and make passage accessible at the current existing underpass. This underpass was built to allow access to the Bay Trail. Since the day that it was constructed it has been a failure. There is flooding during the winter, and the water just stands there and turns into silt during the more dryer seasons. Plus thrash has accumulated at the trail, and homeless and undesirable people have been known to frequent the area.

The Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA have been out and accessed the problems of the underground passageway. In their finding both have agreed upon that this underground trail is just not going to work out.

Mr. Dotson announces that jobs are available thru the park district for Intern Junior Park Rangers. The jobs are open to young teenagers and junior college age students. For more information please feel free to call the Human Resource, at EBRPD at (510) 544-2000. Mr. Dotson says that the jobs are precious, you can learn how a regional park is managed.

Mr. Dotson announces that the North Richmond Shoreline Festival is scheduled for October 3, 2015. Last year over 1,500 people attended. The festival will be held at the Point Pinole Regional Park, Pinole CA., for more info contact Lana Husser. (510) 219-1571.

Mr. Dotson states that work is being conducted at the Bruner Marsh, the restoration of the Wetland Habitat/Wild Live and Endangered Species Conservation is in progress.

The Brunner Marsh was a privately owned land and was destined to become an industrial park. One day advocates from North Richmond conducted a walking trip from North Richmond via the Richmond Parkway, onto the marsh site, and kicked off the campaign (Save the Brunner Marsh) as a result the marsh was purchased by the EBRPD and saved. In the future the name will be changed to the Dotson Marsh.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Carl J. Roner, P.E./Associate Civil Engineer, CCC Flood Control & Water Conservation District: Mr. Roner presents to the MAC the Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks levee Remediation Project. He states that the CCC Flood Control and Water Conservation District has applied for and received two million dollars' worth of grants from the California Department of Water Resources to investigate, design, and construct the Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks levees.

The project includes raising the flood walls at the sewage treatment plant. This levee repair project will reduce the risk of flooding in the North Richmond Community. It will also keep homes in North Richmond from being designated as flood-prone. FEMA states that if the levee walls are not the right height, the area will be designated as flood-prone. Property owners would be required to have flood insurance. The project will also help train and employ local youth in environmental and community improvements efforts.

Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2016. The first phase of the project will begin with the pounding, in of the sheet pile. During the process non-native species will be removed from the creek beds and levees.

Don Gilmore asked Mr. Roner will first source hiring take place within the project. Mr. Roner replied that they do have a local hire clause in their contract. Mr. Rogers stated that Urban Tilth will be leading the community hire.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact the District's Project Manager, Carl Roner, at (925) 313-2213 or at crone@pw.cccounty.us

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS

Robert Rogers/ Supervisor John Gioia's Office: Mr. Rogers announces the Fourth of July celebrations that will be sponsored by Social Progress Inc. The date is July 4, 2015, location the Median on Fred Jackson Way. A parade will start at Alamo and Kelsey at 10:00 a.m., and proceed on to Fred Jackson Way. For more information please contact Robert Rogers at (510) 231-8686.

Mr. Rogers announces that on the weekend, volunteers, Richmond Fire Department and members of Supervisor's John Gioia's Office were out in the community installing smoke detectors/ fire alarms. Through this combined effort one hundred and fifty were installed.

Don Gilmore/Community Housing Development Corporation: Don announces that next week is Community Awareness Week. There are festivities and workshops scheduled during the week. Healthy Cooking Demonstrations will be taking place, and many more activities. For more information please contact Don Gilmore at (510) 412-9290.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Carla Orozco/Community Services Coordinator-Mitigation Fee-funded, NHNR.

Carla announces that the illegal dumping continues to exist in the community. She is asking to contact her, if you see any illegal dumping in the community.

You may call her at (510) 776-7568.

Carla says that she is working with the Mitigation Program. This month project participants went on an ECO Field Trip. They went to Alvarado Park, exploring and learning about nature and conservation. There will be a cleanup of Wildcat Creek scheduled for June 10, 2015.

Participants will meet at Shield's and Reid Park at 2:00 p.m. A tour is planned for the West County Integrated Management Facility. The event is scheduled for June 22, at 1:30 p.m. All interested people should meet at Shield's and Reid Park.

The issue of abandoned property in the area was inquired upon. Carla says that due to the high turnover of code enforcement officers, some things have gone neglected.

Tania Pulido/Urban Tilth Farm: Tania announces that the farm has received (88) applications for the Summer Apprentice Program. There is a Stewardship Program available, they are looking to hire eight youths for this program. The staff has been working in the community doing outreach. Five proposals on the farm design have been received. They have been narrowed down to three applicants. New maps of the farms design are available for public viewing.

There will be a Neighborhood Garden Celebration. The date is June 7, 2015. Location will be at (next to) 1876 1st Street, Richmond CA. Time is 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Come out and take part in the festivities. There will be music, grilling, bike smoothies, planting in the herb spiral bed, harvesting of chocolate mint, potatoes, face painting, art activities and much more. Contact the Urban Tilth Project/Tania Pulido (510) 253-9221/ tania@urbantilth.org

The MAC meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, July 2, 2015

515 Silver Ave.

Richmond, CA 94801

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

