

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, April 2, 2015

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 5:13 p.m. Board members present were: Don Gilmore, Dr. Henry Clark, Beverly Scott, LaSaunda Tate, Annie King-Meredith and Aaron Morgan.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

The agenda and minutes were reviewed by the board members. Everyone was in approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Fraizer/Director Asthma Breath Mobile: Ms. Fraizer announces that the mobile van continues to come out to the Verde School location on a regular basis. The staff has had great success in treating the children of this community for their asthma related issues. The children and their parents continue to attend the asthma clinics for their treatments.

On March 27th Mary and Cynthia Jordan an intern that works with the program, attended a benefit breakfast at the Multicultural Senior Citizen Building. They made a presentation to the audience on the asthma project that is available to the community. They received great responses and helpful input, which will be taken into consideration.

The program is welcoming participation from the children and their parents of this community. Please feel free to contact Mary Fraizer at 925-899-7670 for more information on the program.

Thomas Summer/N.R. resident: Mr. Willard addresses the MAC with the issue of the need of more stop signs in the community. He is inquiring about the possibility of a stop sign being erected at the corners of Duboce Avenue and Fred Jackson Way. He feels that the intersection is very unsafe. He states that he has been working with Marina Brown, they have been discussing the traffic issues of the community.

Mr. Summer states that Sunset Market, located at the corner of 5th and Chesley Avenue is a nuisance to the community. He feels that the workers inside the store are rude to the customers. He also stated that the workers are selling alcohol to minors.

Lt. D.J. Watts commented on this statement, saying that they have been studying the problems and complaints about Sunset Market. Hopefully the issues will be resolved soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT CONTINUED

Abel Pineda/Field Representative for Tony Thurmond Assembly member, 15th District:

Mr. Pineda comes before the MAC to announce that Assembly member Tony Thurmond launches a satellite office in Richmond. As of April 1st, assembly district 15 representatives will be available to meet with constituents on a drop-in basis at Richmond City Council Chambers located at 440 Civic Center Plaza. Every 1st Wednesday, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and every 3rd Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Allison Mc Kee/CCC Public Library: Allison reports on the status of the library participation in the community. The library have plans of establishing a library in the community. Presently the plans are on hold due to lack of adequate funding.

The library will continue to bring programs into the community this summer. The Summer Reading Program will be offered at Shield's and Reid Park this summer. The mobile library continues to make regular visits to the community.

Sequoia Erasmus/CCC HSD: Sequoia makes an announcement about an upcoming Earth Day Event, to be hosted in North Richmond. The event is entitled North Richmond Community Block Party and Earth Day Celebration. The date is Saturday April 25, 2015. From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The location is at Giaramita Street @ Verde Elementary School.

There will be a creek cleanup, eco art activities, garden projects, DJ and dancing, performance by Pangea *ZUMBA*, and more. For more information call Carla Orozo at 510-776-7568.

Sequoia is also working on a project entitled Safe Routes to School. A grant has been submitted to construct a route from Fred Jackson Way, to the proposed Urban Tilth Farm. She will be collaborating with the local community based organizations.

Dr. Clark asked her what is the problem with the existing route. The answer was that the sidewalks are too wide and need to be reconstructed and narrowed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS

Lt. D.J. Watts/CCC Sheriff's Department: Lt. Watts reports for the period of March 1, -31. There have not been any armed robberies for this reporting period. Last month there were a rash of armed robberies. There was a purse snatching incident, the suspect is still unknown.

The CCC Sheriff's Bay Station had (3,165) calls, (439) were from the North Richmond area. At the Bay Station there were (66) arrest, (17) were from the North Richmond area. One domestic violence call was reported. There were three assaults with deadly weapons. In one of the assaults a bike frame and a tire iron were used as the assault weapons.

Lt. Watts was in a meeting with West Contra Costa County, the topics of these meetings are pertaining to the Summer Meals Program.

Lt. Watts states that currently there is an issue of selling alcohol illegally to minors at the Sunset Market. The CCC Sheriff's deputies are working on the problem with hopes of resolving it soon. The un-safe conditions at the Richmond Bart Station were discussed. There have been robberies and assaults at the station.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

DISCUSS, HEAR FROM STAFF and MAKE RECOMMENDATION regarding Panattoni Development: Francisco Avila/CCC Conservation and Development, Tim Schaedler/Panattoni Consultants and Eric Zell/Zell & Accociates:

This agenda item is being continued from previous meetings. The property that's being discussed is formerly known as the NOVAE Property. The purpose of the discussion is to seek the MAC Board members' approval of rezoning the property from multiple family/residential to light industrial.

The property was originally zoned industrial, at the time when Signature Housing acquired the property with intentions of building housing on the site, they had it zoned to residential. Unfortunately Signature Housing lost the property to Wells Fargo Bank.

Wells Fargo put the property on the market as residential, and they received no offers. The bank would like to bring the property back to light industrial, with hopes of attracting some type of manufacturing business. Such a project may create (80 to 200) jobs for the community. The application being submitted to change from residential to light industrial, with intentions of building a (530,000) square foot building to house some type of business.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION CONTINUED

Board member Aaron Morgan asked “what type of business would be on the property?” The answer was that the type of business has not been decided as of yet. Perhaps some type of battery powered vehicle company, or a food manufacturing company.

Board member Annie King asked about commercial/retail projects. She states that this type of service is desperately needed in the North Richmond community.

The answer was that research and study shows that there is not a demand for those type of services in the community.

Board member Dr. Henry Clark asked, if a concrete project is decided upon, will it be presented to the MAC board before construction of the project begin. He also stated that in terms of CCC County’s involvement, would they look into the options the Annie King mentioned.

Francisco says the currently we have a very specific proposal as light industrial. If any changes are made, the proposed project will be approved by the community.

Dr. Henry Clark says that he is not going to sit around and let the county or anyone else shove a project down our throats. He says that this is not going to happen. He states that he is not opposed to changing of the zoning. He is opposed to having a project established without the community not knowing what is being planned.

Mary Frazier says on behalf of the children of the North Richmond community with extremely high asthma, a project such as manufacturing is not a good idea.

Eric Zell says that we are defining the footprints of what would go on the property. He says that we could approve re-zoning but make restrictions of the use of the property.

Board chairperson Don Gilmore says that we need to make better use of the property. We are saying that we don’t want to limit our use of the property.

Dr. Henry Clark says that Signature Housing were not just talking about housing, they were speaking of the need of services in this community.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION CONTINUED

A question was asked, does light industrial allow you to do retail and commercial business. The answer was no.

Eric Zell stated that (10%) of the property could be retail. Don Gilmore asked how we can be sure that are wants, needs and concerns and the best interest for the community, are taken into consideration. The answer was that it would be up to the applicant, the developer of the property.

Mrs. Carr asked the audience and MAC board, why are proposals presented to us, and why we cannot make proposals of what we want.

Don Gilmore stated that we are trying to do a retail/plus market of the property.

Motion to approve change of the zoning from multifamily/residential to light industrial/warehouse with recommendation to explore other possibilities such as retail.

This item was moved, second, and approved/passed.

Bob Nisbet, Assistant General Manager at East Bay Regional Parks gives presentation of current condition of parkland in North Richmond and future projections. Mr. Nisbet comes before the MAC to give an up-date on the projects of the East Bay Regional Parks pertaining to North Richmond. There is a Salt Marsh Restoration Project underway at the Brunner Marsh, located at Point Pinole Regional Park. The project description is as follows: Project area (150) acre, tidal and seasonal wetland (65) acres, and coastal prairie (85) acres. San Francisco Bay Trail 1.5 miles, spit trail (0.4) mile, staging area with restroom, and picnic and overlook areas.

The Brunner Marsh is located along the Richmond Parkway, between Rheem Creek and Point Pinole Regional Park. You may gain access to it off of Goodrick Ave, or through the park. The purpose of the project is to bring the marsh back to its original habitat. Save the Brunner Marsh was a project that was started by local North Richmond residents and activists.

The land was originally scheduled for light industrial, and thru hard work and demonstration, the property was purchased by the East Bay Regional Parks District. Now it is a part of the Point Pinole Regional Park. Originally this marsh was home to the Bay Area Model Airplanes Society and a former landing strip for one of the Bay Area's first sea planes the Clipper Rail.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

During a recent tour of the project area, it was discovered that endangered species and Native American Artifacts are located on the project site. There was a finding of several Peregrine Falcon nest and their habitat. There was also a finding of an Indian Shell Mounds.

In the future the marsh will undergo a name change, from Brunner Marsh to Dotson Marsh. Mr. Dotson/President EBRPD was very instrumental in advocating to save the marsh. He has worked as a local community activist for Parchster Village and North Richmond.

Phase one of this project has been completed. The land has been restored to salt marsh. The second phase of construction involves the parking lot, and nature trails. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the year of 2017.

A new bridge currently called the Atlas Bridge, located at the entrance of Point Pinole Regional Park is under construction.

Dr. Clark said that the Brunner Marsh Project should be a part of the North Green Program.

Mr. Nisbet states that the Miller Knox Regional Park will be undergoing improvements. The lake that is located in the middle of the park, will be redesigned, and made into a natural lake with moving water. Currently the water in the lake is standing water.

Terrance Cheung/Chief of Staff Office of Mayor Tom Butt: Terrance former long term employee of Supervisor's John Gioia's office has changed jobs. He is now working in the Richmond Mayor's office, under the direction of Mayor Tom Butt. Terrance comes to the meeting to give an up-date on what is going on in the City of Richmond.

Economic is a big priority. There will be several surveys conducted on how to get new business to locate in the City of Richmond. The city will be focusing on environment and a sustainability plan. Minimum wages will be raised in Richmond, currently Richmond has a very high minimum wage rate. The city will be beefing up its youth platform and social media.

A question was directed to Terrance, about the lack of female employees in the mayor office. Terrance admitted that presently there are no female employees in the mayor office.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS

Robert Rogers/District Coordinator Supervisor's John Gioia's Office:

Mr. Rogers reports on North Richmond Annexation. The mayor of Richmond has not shown any interest in annexation of North Richmond. This issue calls for an in-depth study. A consulting firm will be hired to conduct a study on what annexation would mean. Later this year a report may come out. Annexation is on hold until the study gets completed. It is a feasibility study.

Dr. Clark says that Mayor Tom Butts said that the MAC is interested in being annexed. Henry says that is not what we said, and that statement is a direct distortion of what the MAC stated. Henry said that he is not eager to be a part of annexation. Nothing has and was not being done for the better of this community until the Mac was established. Dr. Clark says that he is steady set of continuing to move under the leadership of the MAC.

Carla Orozco/Community Service Coordinator, NHNR: Carla reports that the North Richmond Green is hiring an ECO Captain, that will have the opportunity of learning about working on the Watershed Project. This individual should be age (55) or older. This is a ten week work program. Applicants will be able to apply for the position until April 10th. A stipend will be awarded to the employee as compensation.

The April 2015 edition of the North Richmond Green letter has been approved. For more information about the job opening contact Carla Orozco at 510-776-7568.

Tania Pulido/Urban Tilth Farm: Tania reports on the status of the Urban Tilth Farm. The environment study is still underway. A director has been hired, they will be present at the next MAC meeting. The farm project will be hiring people from North Richmond to work in Watershed Creek Projects. The farm will have a summer apprentice program. The age requirement for this program is (14 years) and up.

A motion has been made to adjourn this meeting at 7:15 p.m. All board members are in approval and the meeting is adjourned.

Next meeting:

Thursday, May 7, 2015

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

515 Silver Ave. – Richmond, CA 94801

