

## **NORTH RICHMOND ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Thursday, February 4, 2016  
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 5:10 p.m. The meeting started out as an un-official meeting, due to lack of a quorum. At 5:20 p.m. the meeting became an official meeting, a quorum was present. Board members present were: Don Gilmore, Beverly Scott, LaSaunda Tate, and Annie King-Meredith.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Frazier/Northern California Asthma-Breathmobile Program: Mary reports that the project is in progress as usual. They have established a better connection with Contra Costa College. Thus allowing more interns to work in the program, and help the interns to obtain jobs. This allows more medical help for the community, and opportunity for people from the community to work in the asthma program.

Princess Robinson/Urban Tilt Garden Project: Princess announces that Basins of Relations are having fun planting, cleaning and restoring Wildcat Creek. Volunteers are urged to come out and participate. The next event will be held at 1<sup>st</sup> and Market, in North Richmond, Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Food will be provided. Urban Tilt is in the process of looking for an organization to partner with them. For further information you may contact Princess Robinson at (510) 478-7808, [princess@urbantilt.org](mailto:princess@urbantilt.org)

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS**

Lt. Yates/CCC Sheriff's Department: Lt. Yates reporting for the month of January 2016. There has been a slow down on the shootings in the community. There was an incident on Grove Street, this afternoon, on a whole crimes are down. In December 2015 there were nine select crimes. In January 2016 there were thirty eight calls and four hundred and thirty calls for service. They mostly consisted of auto burglaries and petty thefts. Members of the sheriff's department were invited and attended the Neighborhood Green Meeting.

Don Gilmore inquired about the shootings on the I80 freeway. Lt. Yates replied that the shootings has been on the downside. Don also asked if they had a meeting with Neighborhood Watch. It is understood that they will be joining with the local Neighborhood Watch Program.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED**

Lt. Yates/CCC Sheriff's Department: Officer Carley a Sheriff's Specialist for the departments Neighborhood Watch Program, made contact with Annie King and they will be joining with the local Neighborhood Watch Program. Annie says that she talked to the contact person and explained to her about the North Richmond Neighborhood Watch Program. Currently there are thirty two members enrolled in the local Neighborhood Watch Program.

Lynetta Cooper/North Richmond resident asked Lt. Yates was there a raid in the neighborhood today. He replied that it was a high speed chase.

Officer Chou/Richmond Police Department: Officer Chou reporting for the month of January 2016. She do not have crime stats, basic calls for service can be accessed. Crime view is available on the City of Richmond Website. Officer Chou suggest that the community make their-selves familiar with Richmond Police Department-Crime Specialist Michelle Millan. Michelle is a resourceful and helping access in the department and to the communities.

The text to (911) Program is in effect. Thru this program staff will be able to obtain basic information and emergency providers will be able to come out to an address and administer emergency assistance.

Pertaining to the street signs in North Richmond, Officer Chou has been in contact with several people in the department, mainly the traffic unit. She is still in the process of getting some results and conclusion about the street signs in North Richmond. It is a work that is in progress, she is trying to contact the particular individual that initially received the work order.

Officer Chou is under the impression that the signs are intended to help direct commercial traffic. Board member Annie says no, it's about drivers of vehicles breaking the speed limit, coming down Fred Jackson Way. Annie states that it is necessary to locate and place traffic and speed limit counters in the community.

Board member LaShanda states that the traffic violators tend to occur during rush hour time on Market Street, between Fred Jackson Way and Rumrill Blvd.

Carlos Meza states that the traffic violations are occurring in the industrial area, off of Hensley by the Fire Station. He also stated that the area is a walking route for children that attend Peres Elementary School.

**PRESENTATIONS and PROCLAMATIONS**

PROCLAMATION honoring lifetime service of Catherine Stephenson Crane: NRMAC gave an award to Catherine Stephenson Crane, 83, earned for lifetime community service. Mrs. Crane was overcome with emotion and said, I love what I'm doing, and I've been very sick at times, but never stopped what I do in my community, and the LORD has blessed me to still be able to do it. She added, I also do it for my health, to keep these old bones from creaking up on me. Ms. Crane gets up early every morning, and sweeps the streets and cleans the curbs in the neighborhood, located near her resident.

The language of the proclamation, signed by Supervisor Gioia and NRMAC President Don Gilmore, tells more of her story. Annie King Meredith of the NRMAC nominated Crane for the award and presented it to her, along with Corrine Sain of the North Richmond Multicultural Senior Center. NRMAC requested of Robert Rogers: Send Catherine Crane's report to Richmond Post for publication.

Bishop Santiago/PRESENTATION from REACH Fellowship on new community kitchen: REACH Fellowship presents a presentation on the opening of Four J's Restaurant. The training café is open for business on Monday's for special occasions and midday Tuesday –Thursday.

Each month a percentage (50%) of the proceeds, will go to a community based organizations. With proceeds derived from the eatery, REACH presented Corrine Sain/Director Multicultural Senior Citizen Program, a \$100 check for community services.

The café has received a tremendous amount of support from the community and public officials. The first day of business received such guest as: Robert Rogers, Supervisor Gioia's office and Representatives from CA State Assemblyman Tony Thurmond District 15 office. CHDC ordered lunch and had it delivered to the office.

John Steere/ County Watershed, PRESENTATION regarding Green Team Project and Cleaning Outreach: Mr. Steere announces for the Cleaning and Greening Program, that thirty five students were trained to work on the project in early January. Plants were planted at the Project Pride Site in North Richmond and at the Creekside Habitats. Mr. Steere recognizes and acknowledges Mrs. Catherine Stephenson Crane for her work and dedication in the community.

Mr. Steere announces that a request for proposals has gone out. They received three proposals to hire community people to do outreach and cleanup. All three proposals are good, the CBO's applicants that submitted RFP's were: NHNR, Watershed Project and REACH Fellowship. The goal is to identify other funds for the purpose of broadening the program.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION**

DISCUSS and make RECOMMENDATION regarding a 2016 retreat for NRMAC members:

Board chairman Don Gilmore leads the discussion pertaining to the NRMAC 2016 retreat.

Don says that they talked about a retreat, and Andrea Bailey has offered the Chevron Refinery Site for the retreat.

Robert Rogers did research of past retreats. Apparently contractors were hired to facilitate the workshops. He did not find out much information about the actual workshops. In the future, the format of the retreat will be geared toward more fruitful items of interest and helpfulness.

Board member LaShanda stated that our retreat should have time set aside for the NRMAC to come up with a plan or strategy. A portion of the workshop should be dedicated to enhancing public speaking skills.

Board chairman Don Gilmore stated that they need to see what the original purpose of the workshop was. He said they need to see exactly how they are operating. Need to be aware of issues that are coming up in the community, and there is a need to be more direct. He states that people are welcome to e-mail their comments, pertaining to the workshop.

Upon talking to Supervisor John Gioia, Robert Rogers stated that the supervisor wants skill building, and wants to talk to everyone as a group. Roger says that we have a good budget, he thinks that we could do quite a bit with that budget. And as previously mentioned, Andrea Bailey offered the use of the Chevron Refinery facilities meeting room as a place to hold the workshop, and it would be wise to take that offer.

The workshop offers an opportunity to spend one on one time with each other. Lastly the workshop offers the opportunity to develop a good professional working plan.

Board member Beverly Scott asked what date is the workshop scheduled for?

Roger moved to direct the board to set a date. It was motioned and second, and approved.

One action item: NRMAC voted 4-0 (Tate, Gilmore, King-Meredith, Scott) directing staff to begin planning retreat for a date in April. NRMAC specifies member skill building, public speaking, staff reports on issues in North Richmond, strategy development and time with Supervisor Gioia as priorities for retreat. Members Morgan, Clark and Bailey were not present.

Member of the audience suggested that NRMAC review what other MAC boards are doing throughout the county. It would be helpful and knowledgeable to know how other boards function in the county.

**OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS**

Robert Rogers, Supervisor John Gioia's Office : Robert echoes on John Steere's report. He states that John is doing a good job. He admires the work that they are doing. The short term work and the long term work.

Robert reports that the Sunset Market, located at 5<sup>th</sup> and Chesley Ave, is an ongoing issue. Everyone is familiar with the issues, and problems that have occurred at that establishment. This item will be on the NRMAC agenda next month. Robert reports on the annexation of NR. The City of Richmond has developed a (RFPF) for a contractor. Supervisor John Gioia is putting this item on the Supervisor Agenda, asking for the board to pick up (40%) of the cost of the study. The study is a go, but it is not official yet.

Board member LaShanda asked about will she and Don be able to view the RFP. Roger says yes.

The situation of the stop sign, at Alamo Ave. and York Street: Traffic engineers will come to the NRMAC to make a report.

Reporting on the street cameras: Cameras are located at the end of Castro Street, the end of Grove Avenue and Battery and Alamo Streets. These cameras are functional and up and running. Board member LaShanda asked about cameras on Market Street.

Roger reports on the huge dumping problem at Silver and Giarameta Streets. That issue has been cleaned up and resolved.

Board member Annie King, hosted a committee meeting for the NR Historical Committee.

Don Gilmore, Director, Community Housing and Development Corporation: Don announces that the Cap and Trade application was released last Friday. He will be submitting an application for the proposed development of projects located on Chesley Ave. and Fred Jackson Way, and the housing units located on Fred Jackson Way.

The Income Tax Program is being offered at CHDC. The Community Housing Development Corporation Office, located at 1452 Fred Jackson have undergone some improvements.

Workshops are being offered for First Time Homebuyers. The Home Foreclosure Workshops are being offered.

**OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS**

Carla Orozco-Mitigation Fee-funded/Neighborhood House of North Richmond:

Carla reports that a flyer for the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> Annual North Richmond Green Festival and Earth Day Celebration has been created. A planning committee consisting of twelve individuals has been formed to organize the festival. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at 515 Silver Ave. North Richmond, CA. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 2016. For more information you may contact Carla at (510) 229-5000.

There are two green banners falling off of the street light poles in North Richmond. The company that installed them has been notified. The company plans to remove the banners by Friday, February 12, 2016, free of charge. Much discussion was held among the NRMAC board members. It is being suggested that there is a need for new banners. It was suggested that the banners need a new look. A look that reflects the community, and the natural environment that the community is composed of. Discussion was taken into consideration and Carla will relay the information to the mitigation fee funded program.

Work will be accomplished to identify eco workshops and clean up/beautification projects that boys and girls ages (4-14), who register to participate in this year's- North Richmond Green Little League Program can participate throughout the season. Registration ends on February 15th and the season will begin in March 2016.

The North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church is open to the idea of residents conducting a drought resistant planting project of succulent plants, in the planter boxes, located in front of the church. After a planting project is implemented the Pastor Rev. Mitchell, of the church has agreed to identify someone to keep up with the watering and maintenance of the plants.

Community workers led an eco-workshop at the Project Pride Community Center on Wednesday, January 20, 2016. The workers informed (32) children known as Eco Scouts about air quality, and how it relates to community health and illegal dumping. They participated in a couple of hands on activities that highlighted factors that threaten air quality, how poor air quality affects us, and what we can do to improve air quality in our communities.

On Wednesday, February 3, 2016, community workers led a native planting project at the Project Pride Center. They planted plants, creating a community Native Habitat Garden at the center.

NHNR was one of the organizations selected to receive a \$1000 "Love Your Block Grant". NHNR submitted an application for a Community Based "Neighborhood Community Garden Project. They plan to hire seven community workers to maintain the Native Plant Community Garden, located at the Senior Center 515 Silva Street. North Richmond, CA.

**OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED**

Rochelle Monk/City of Richmond Love Your Block: Rochelle reports the final list of Love Your Block Grantees in this community are as follow: Carla Orozco-Earth Day Event, Marena Brown/Annie King-Meredith-Community and Denise Carey-Lucky A's Baseball Field. Orientation meeting will be held at 450 Civic Center Plaza, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the date is to be announced.

Annie King-Meredith/NRMAC History Committee: Annie announces that twelve out of eighteen committee members attended the first planning meeting. They discussed brain storming, the setting actually was like a reunion. The elder residents of the community had not seen each other in years.

A discussion topic was to look at a structure in the community, and a landmark. It was suggested that several structures and landmarks be erected throughout the community. A question was asked, where the finance is coming from. East Bay Regional Parks District is high on the list of hopeful funding. Robert Rogers added that Annie really brought together a group of historians from North Richmond. Next meeting to be announced.

Beverly Scott/NRMAC board member: NRMAC requested that potential change of meeting day be on next agenda to facilitate better attendance.

Meeting adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 3, 2016  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
515 Silver Avenue – Richmond, CA

