

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

515 Silver Avenue – North Richmond, CA 944801

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

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. Board members present were: Don Gilmore, LaSaunda Tate, Henry Clark, Beverly Scott, Annie King-Meredith and Andrea Bailey.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

The agenda was reviewed and approved by all board members present. There were corrections made to the minutes. On page four of the minutes it read: Board Chairperson Don Gilmore asked Mr. Sen, what determines when a traffic light is necessary at an intersection. Mr. Sen answered, when necessary a traffic signal is to control traffic.

(It should have read: Mr. Sen answered, when it is necessary, traffic signals are used to control traffic). Upon correction board member Annie King accepted minutes for clarification and for any corrections. Board member Beverly Scott second, and all approved agenda by consensus.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Frazier/Director of the Northern California Breath Mobile Van: Mary announces that the program provides services from North Richmond to San Leandro. In West County they continue to serve Verde, Lake, Grant schools, and they will be adding Helms Middle School in the future.

Mary states that she is part of the Medical Reserve Team. This team met today and discussed that they will be getting ready for the flu vaccines. The asthma breath mobile will be used to administer flu vaccines. They are working on having the breathmobile to participate in any disaster that may occur in the area. Mary states that they are reaching out in an extra effort to bring services to the communities that they service.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Lt. Yates/ CCC Sheriff's Department: Lt. Yates is reporting for the month of March 2016. He reports that crime is down, it went down from eleven to four crimes. There is a new resident deputy, Officer Maurice Lewis. Lt. Yates states that some monies that public works utilize to clean up the area may no longer be available in this area.

Officer Chou/RPD: Officer Chou reports for the month of March 2016. Officer Chou states that crime stats are available on line. To obtain this web-site go to (crime mapping.com). In the North Richmond community there was a homicide in the 400 block of Gertrude Ave. The incident occurred on March 15, 2016, it is currently under investigation. Everything else is calm, for the exception that thefts and vandalism continue to occur. The department is making a conscious effort to have patrol officers out in the communities.

Officer Chou states that due to the concerns of the traffic problems in the area, officers are paying special attention to the troubled areas. Officer Chou shared a story about a traffic officer was flagged down by a Berkeley citizen. This individual was in the area of 7th and Hensley. He said someone had stolen his vehicle from Berkeley, and he decided to come out in this area in hopes of finding his vehicle. A half hour later the officer spotted the vehicle in Richmond. The vehicle was recovered and the suspects were taken into custody.

Board member Lashanda Tate told Lt. Yates that when she call into the departments non emergency number, the operators are rude on the telephone. Lt. Yates stated that the department have been receiving complaints about the conduct of the operators, and the proper actions are being taken to counteract their conduct.

PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations

EJ Shalaby, General Manager of West County Wastewater District/update on completion of Market Avenue sewer line project: Mr. Shalaby reports that the market Street sewer upgrade is completed. Two thousand feet of new pipe was installed. The old outdated 15 inch piping was replaced with 2000 feet of 24 inch new piping. Ten new manholes were installed, 33 laterals were reconnected and all new paint was done on the road markings.

The project was completed on time, costing \$800k. The work was performed in several portions. Three local hires from North Richmond was on the work crew. Board chairperson Don Gilmore urges continued import of local hire on all future projects.

Other future projects are located at: 4th, 5th and 2nd Streets. These projects will not go out for bid until early to mid 2017.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Zachary Mallet, BART, Better BART, Better Bay Area," plans for current and future projects:

Mr. Mallet presented a slide presentation on A Better Bart, Better Bay Area. He stated that capital needs are huge, unfunded. BART serves 450k passengers per day, up from 40k in 1972. Big 3 projects: train modernization (control system, allows more trains closer together), more rail cars, Hayward maintenance complex for storage and repair. Urges support of \$3 billion BART Bond on November ballot. Says BART improves value and living in Bay Area, fares only cover 76 percent of cost.

Facts: El Cerrito and Richmond stations have undergone improvements. A third of BART cars are at the end of their lifespan. They are the oldest train cars in the country. They will be introducing the fleet of the future. Every train line has been extended except the Richmond line. BART is unique because it is a train-only service. Train Control Modernization-wants to upgrade a communication based train control. BART has a count of (775) train cars, they actually need more than a thousand to adequately provide service to the BART riders.

Outreach meetings will be conducted in the Bay Area communities in the future. A scheduled Public Workshop/Contra Costa Transit Study in Richmond will be held on the 14th, Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Location Richmond City Hall. Mr. Mallet suggest that citizens help support the BART bond: (Measure J in Contra Costa County).

Board member Dr. Clark asked about the bond measure. His concern is that there are a lot of bad publicity about BART. He also stated that it seems that BART may have trouble dealing with the media, there have been one incident after the other. Mr. Mallet answered that there is definitely going to be a problem.

Board member LaShanda Tate asked Mr. Mallet: How can you convince people to put more money into BART.

Board member Annie King asked: Do they have plans of lengthening the trains. The answer is that the trains will have to stay the same length as the platforms. Annie also asked what is the passenger capacity of one train. Answer is: one hundred and fifty people per train car.

Board member Dr. Clark thanked Mr. Mallet for making his presentation this evening.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

Robert Rogers/District Coordinator Office of County Supervisor John Gioia, DISCUSS and make RECOMMENDATION regarding NRMAC letter urging action on Sunset Market at Chesley Avenue and Fifth Street: Robert Rogers delivered a report on Sunset Market, tracing genesis of action. NRMAC and public receptive, skeptical of market's future. Dr. Clark says they operate this way in this community out of disrespect, says owner should come before NRMAC. Beverly Scott urges intervention, reopen the store with healthier foods. Cynthia Jordan states that the store have been given too many warnings to comply with standards and regulations, and they continue to do as they please. LaSaunda Tate says there must be concerted effort involving police and sheriff's to address conditions outside the store .

Mr. Rogers states that he has received several complaints pertaining to the market. Recently the director of the museum of the City of Richmond, visited the store and encountered an unpleasant incident. Environmental Health was contacted by Supervisor John Gioia. Upon inspecting the store they found vermin feces and drug activity. The store was ordered closed and a fine was leveled upon the store. Public Health and Code Enforcement is being asked of the store proprietors. It was reported that the store was open today, and Supervisor John Gioia was not notified of the re- opening. NRMAC is being asked to sign a letter in support of closing the store.

Board member Dr. Clark states that the people that operate that market are scandalous. They do un-heard of things here in this community, that they would not do in their own community. Board member Beverly Scott states that perhaps an intervention to make the store more viable. She would like to keep the store in the community. Don Gilmore Chairperson states that sometimes you have to do something to stop their actions. Dr. Clark suggest that we invite the management of Sunset Market to the NRMAC meeting. Robert Rogers states that the store will shut down or comply to County needs. Board member La Shanda Tate asks who is responsible for controlling the loitering at the store. The answer is that the CCC Sheriff's Department is responsible for controlling the loitering at the store. Lahanda also states that she do not think that compliance is going to work.

In conclusion the store management is being asked to comply with the health and public safety code. The CCC Sheriff's Department to work in compliance. Mitigating un-safe conditions at Sunset Market. Dr. Clark moved to support a letter from Supervisor John Gioia. Annie King second, all was in favor.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

Robert Rogers/District Coordinator, Office of County Supervisor John Gioia:

Robert Rogers reports on the annexation of North Richmond. He states that five companies have put in proposals to do the study on the North Richmond Annexation. They will be writing a full document. The study will be paid for by the City of Richmond and CCC County.

A date is yet to be set. The board will consist of members from the Mayor's Office, City Managers Office, Supervisor John Gioia Office, members of LAFCO and two members from NRMAC. Dr. Clark states that they should look at other options other than annexation.

Mr. Rogers reports that the Reading to Kids Program is on-going at the Shield's and Reid Park. The recent renovation of the park looks great. A meeting was held with the staff of the Urban Tilth Farm, they are working on the intra-structure of the farm.

Don Gilmore/Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC):

Mr. Gilmore reports that free income tax preparation is still being offered until April 15th.

At the Heritage Point location the old Neighborhood House building was demolished.

Funding has been applied for thru Cap and Trade. They will know by the end of the month (of acceptance), if so a full application can be submitted by August. Construction could start by 2017 if accepted. Don notes that a store is in the design as part of the project. Legacy Court was not successful in getting funding from the City of Richmond.

Don reports that the former Youth Build/presently Healthy Richmond has moved from the 1452 Fred Jackson Way, they are currently located, within the City of Richmond.

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

Carla reports on the North Richmond Green Outreach. The NR Green Newsletter April edition has been completed and residents will be hired to distribute the newsletter throughout the community this month.

Posters were created and printed to assist with outreach efforts for the upcoming 6th Annual North Richmond Green Festival and Earth Day Celebration. The information pertaining to the festival will be displayed on the marquee board, at the City of Richmond on Mc Donald Ave.

An exploration of how much it would cost to recreate and install new North Richmond Green Banner designs has taken place. So far, a quote has been received from the company who originally installed the first set of banners. They estimate that the project would cost approximately \$4,000. Additional steps will be taken to coordinate the creation of new designs to replace the existing ones that demonstrate the meaning of the NR Green Campaign, and that also reflect environmental community events that occur on an annual basis in North Richmond.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED

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

The next planning committee meeting for the 6th Annual North Richmond Green Festival and Earth Day Celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., at the Neighborhood House of NR Multicultural Senior and Family Services Center.

The committee is currently organizing volunteers to help out before the festival begins from 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed to pick up trash at the Wild Cat Creek and/or to participate in garden activities at the Verde Partnership Garden. Interested volunteers are asked to report to Verde Elementary School to register, for breakfast, tools, and assignments. The committee also need volunteers to help out at the festival from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The 2nd Cohort of the North Richmond Green Team Project is scheduled to begin from Tuesday, April 26, 2016 to June 30, 2016. In partnership with the County Watershed Program, resident workers will learn about the importance of a clean and healthy watershed. Issues impacting North Richmond such as litter, blight, and illegal dumping will be discussed, and residents will lead eco workshops and projects to help combat these issues in the community.

Neighborhood House of North Richmond was one of three applicants selected to help implement the County's "On-Cleanup and Outreach Program." This program will be funded for three years.

Dr. Clark stated that Carla should not be using the name Earth Day for the upcoming Earth Day event. He says that Earth Day Events in North Richmond, was started by a local community group that he steer-headed, several years ago. They held the first Earth Day in North Richmond at Shield's and Reid Park. In the future a way should be devised to honor the original event, in conjunction with the events that Carla may plan.

Kiana Ward/Love Your Block Program: Maria reports that a big event will be held on the 31st of this month. They will be hosting a public lunch on the 11th. For more information on these events, you may contact Maria at (510) 620-6553.

Bienvenida Meza/Verde School Garden Project: Ms. Meza reports that at the garden, free vegetables are available, every last Friday of the month, from 5:00p.m. -7:30 p.m. There was an Easter Egg Hunt at the garden this month, more than (160) students attended the event.

Maria Hernandez/Urban Tilth Garden: Maria announces that the garden located at 1st and Market Street, have plenty of free plants to give away to the community.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUES

Annie King-Meredith/NR Historical Planning Committee: Annie reports that she has talked to Dr. Clark about planning ideas. Annie has made acquaintance with Taylor Lee, a student at the U. C. Berkley Campus. He is interesting in doing a documentary on North Richmond.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board member Annie announces that she has officially resigned from working with the Contra Costa County/Social Service Department.

FUTURE ITEMS

City of Richmond rep on Sister Cities/Green Job Development. Report from Healthy Richmond on what they accomplished in North Richmond in light of their recent move to another location; Report from Health Center on activities in North Richmond; City engineering re: traffic concerns on city side; proclamation retirement and service of Annie King Meredith; John Steere report on Clean and Green Program; AOB presentation by Mary Halee; FJW electrification presentation by Susan Cohen.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

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

515 Silver Avenue – Richmond, CA 94801

