

## **NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

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 5:06 p.m. The meeting started off as an unofficial meeting, due to lack of a quorum. Board members present were: Annie King-Meredith, Beverly Scott, Dr. Henry Clark and La Saunda Tate arrived later and the meeting was declared official. Don Gilmore, Andrea Bailey, and Aaron Morgan were absent.

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

Motion by Annie King-Meredith to approve agenda and minutes. Dr. Clark seconds, Scott seconds, Annie King-Meredith abstains because she was not present at the previous NRMAC meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cynthia Jordan, Intern/Northern CA Breathmobile/Asthma Program: Cynthia reports that the mobile van visits to the school sites are on hold during the summer. Staff are busy preparing for the up-coming school year. The program is currently opening up an office in East CCC. Medical staff is needed to staff the mobile van. Interested parties should call Mary Frazier at telephone number 925-238-6095.

Cynthia invites all to the North Richmond 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Music Festival, on July 14<sup>th</sup>, from noon to six. Dr. Clark founded this event nine years ago. He has been supportive to numerous organizations in the community. Cynthia feels that it is time to come out and show your support at this event. As a community united we stand together and divided we fall.

Kapris James/ Community Resident: Asking about the possibility of speed bumps and stop lights to be placed on Vernon and York Street. A response is that the county's public works department has done studies of various streets in the community, and the streets/intersections did not meet the criteria recommended for placement of the items that are being requested by Mr. James. However, a stop sign does appear to be missing at the intersection of York and Vernon.

Annie King-Meredith says that (5) years ago, York and Vernon Streets was reported as missing a stop sign. A bad accident occurred on that corner, and replacing of the stop signs, so far has not been implemented. Annie states that we should find something on record about the accident.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORT**

Officer Cumberson/CCC Sheriff's Department: Reporting for the month of June 2018.

Crime activity was relatively quiet for the month of June. There are many complaints about heavy traffic on Second Street. The department has worked closely with the code enforcement officer, in an effort to clear up troubled areas.

Annie King-Meredith says that the seniors on 5<sup>th</sup> Street, had a concern, but the sheriffs have helped to address the issue. However, the problem escalates back up once the officers leave the area. The sheriff's department says that they do have a plan to address the nuisance.

Dr. Clark asks about a homicide that occurred on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. He was told that it is an ongoing investigation. Joe Pulido says that the sheriffs seem to be around much more often and is doing a great job. Annie King-Meredith says that on Market and First Street, two individuals in trucks, come in every evening, park their trucks and sleep in them overnight.

\*Reopen public comment for community activist, Eleanor Thompson

Eleanor announces the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and festival, to be held on July 4<sup>th</sup>, the parade starts on Fred Jackson Way and concludes at the Shield's and Reid Park. There will be events and activities for the children, and lunch will be served. Parade starts at 10:00 a.m.

\*Motion to move item (6B) on the agenda, in place of (5A). Motion was accepted, all board members were in approval.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION**

Geary Ghilotti, President/Maggiora & Ghilotti, Inc.: Mr. Ghilotti presents for request for approval of contractor's yard in NR, at 2800 Radiant Avenue. NRMAC approved this plan last year, now he's back for a use permit now that the grading has been done. He says cap and fill is necessary due to contaminants on the property. A minimum of four feet of fill is required to cap the contaminants. There will be no haul off or disturbance. He says that he will be capping from (8) feet to (10) feet deep.

He also says that these improvements will increase the tax revenue and job opportunities in the area. Mr. Ghilotti says that he is bringing, unused property back to life. Truck traffic will be light, several per day and trucks will not pass through residential area. The entire project may take up to seven to ten years to complete.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION CONTINUED**

Geary Ghilotti, President/Maggiora & Ghilotti, Inc.: Mr. Ghilotti says that he donated to NR Earth Day Festival, and wants to continue to be a good partner in the community. When he gets the permit, he wants to come back to the community and host a Tonka Toy event day for the children of NR., using small tractors as toys. He has hosted this type of an event, in other communities.

Cynthia Jordan asks about marshland on the property, adjacent to the railroad tracks. Ghilotti says its dry during the summer.

Annie ask about the route that trucks would take. Annie also asked about the rise in sea level, or could the soil be re-contaminated.

Dr. Clark asked about, Robert following up to ensure that all the regulatory agencies approve that the site is safe for use. Dr. Clark asked about the CAP, being inspected or checked for toxics. Dr. Clark says that the cap will not work, if not done properly, and cap should be inspected periodically going forward. Dr. Clark states that we need to keep up with the project as it processes.

Mr. Ghilotti says that there are numerous agencies involved, that his company has to comply with, pertaining to this project. Ghilotti says (14) agencies, including fish and wildlife, EPA, State Departments, etc. Soil engineers do come out and test the soil every so often. Ghilotti says mandates for soil engineers and oversight is in place, and he promises to abide by it and that his company is of the highest integrity.

LaSaunda Tate restates that you bought a piece of large land, to be leased out to various companies to conduct business? Ghilotti says that he wishes to lease long term. Land currently contaminated and unusable, but will fill it in and cap it. Ghilotti says there is no downfall to capping.

Tate motions to approve, with stipulation, that he reports annually about the cap condition, whether he will sell or lease the property, and will support community events. Meredith seconds with addition of expectation that business will be open to making community contributions, provide jobs, and be a responsible local business. Applicant agrees to all conditions.

NRMAC votes 4-0, Unanimous approval of project.

**PRESENTATIONS and PROCLAMATIONS**

5A) James Mc Gee not present to make his presentations.

5B) Stephanie Ny/Love Your Block: Stephanie reports on various projects in the community, including helping seniors with home improvement projects. Also beautified vacant county housing projects and empty lots. Mulched and used art projects and new plants on the sites, including near Verde School.

Clarence and other resident leaders did a great job. Annie King-Meredith thanks the group for the work on her property. Joe Pulido compliments as well. Great job and very impressive, demonstrating for residents.

Cynthia Jordan says North Richmond hasn't always had this blight problem, while growing up in the community, we were proud of our properties, beautiful yards and gardens, the insides of our houses, hosted the latest of fashion/design in furniture. We worked hard, we played hard, and strived for the best in life.

LaSaunda Tate announces that she is resigning from the NRMAC due to job demands and personal concerns. She has greatly enjoyed her service and wants to continue to stay engaged. She is happy to step aside and open opportunity for new leadership to step up as well. Dr. Clark thanks her for her service. Cynthia thanks her for her great work, and acknowledges that this has been a learning experience for LaSaunda, and thanks her for her great work.

5C) Not present, Lashonda White, Robert Rogers reports that annexation public meetings have occurred and have gone well, and ballots should go out this month.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION**

Jeff Valeros and Jason Yee of County Public Works/Market Street Improvements:

Four Alternatives:

1. Keep road as is. Parking allowed on both sides of street. Sidewalks aren't ADA compliant, and no street trees, curb extensions or bike lanes.
2. Priority of sidewalk and parking, promote downtown feel, new and wider sidewalks, with bulb outs for pedestrians, but no bike lanes, but could have arrows painted to bring attention to sharing with bikes.
3. Remove parking on one side of Market, and have a bike lane. New sidewalks. No parking on north side of Market. Sidewalk not quite as wide as option one, and bulb outs on one side of street.
4. No parking on Market, widened new sidewalks, street trees, no bulb outs. Bike lanes

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION CONTINUES**

Jeff Valeros and Jason Yee of County Public Works/Market Street Improvements:

Annie King-Meredith wonders if the streets are wide enough to do these pedestrian and bike options. Engineers say yes. She also says the area around the railroad tracks needs improvement.

Cynthia Jordan says that Market Street is wide enough for the improvements, a bike lane would be nice. She also states that if you ride two blocks over, bikers would be linked to the walking/riding Bay Trail, that runs parallel to Verde School, and Ball Field.

Clarence Gilmore states that Market Street is too narrow, for some of the suggested improvements. He states that there are too many big trucks traveling on Market Street.

Princess Robinson says she likes the sidewalk and parking priority option because it makes it safer for children to walk, to and from school.

Karen Garcia wonders why it only goes to Fred Jackson Way.

Annie King Meredith says there needs to be redevelopment of Las Deltas.

An informal vote of all NRMAC members and all members of public present at meeting, and most people like option (2). A few like option (3). Option two would have arrows for bicycle riders as well.

\*Robert announces that REACH Fellowship International is at the Mexico border serving our most vulnerable undocumented families and regrets being unable to join us tonight. They are doing amazing work and representing us well. Also says Love Your Block work attracted other residents to help.

\*Dr. Clark adds that Whitney Dotson has been honored for his community service and leadership. He will be receiving a Humanitarian Award in Sausalito, this Thursday.

**OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS**

Tania Pulido of CHDC/Mitigation Fee Funded: She has been working with the railroad company to clean up by the railroad tracks. They will be doing a street sweep on Second Street. Annie King-Meredith says she is concerned about outsiders dictating Las Deltas, and that the board of CHDC put together should be leading it.

**NRMAC MINUTES/JULY 15, 2018**

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**OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED**

Princess Robinson/Urban Tilth: Urban Tilth is embarking upon service projects at the NR Urban Tilth Farm, and all is going great. Fourth Saturday is community build days. CSA is open for new sign-ups for the fresh fruits and vegetables. The farm has installed a drip irrigation system, they now will be able to water their crops more adequate and efficiently.

Every Tuesday members of the garden give out free produce, from one to three, across the street from the NR Center for Health.

\*There will be discussions about Verde School, proposal to be an elementary and partial middle school-combined.

Dr. Clark has asked to invite Verde School officials to come to meeting and present on why it is going to expand to 7<sup>th</sup> grade at that school.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 7, 2018**

**5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.**

**515 Silver Avenue – Richmond, CA**

