

**Minutes of the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting  
Point Richmond Community Center, January 26, 2005**

**Board Present:** Rod Satre, Fred Frye, Artrese Morrison, Gene Scott; Meeting called to order at 7:37 p.m. by VP Rod Satre

**Agenda/Minutes Review:**

The December minutes were approved as submitted.

**Officers' Reports:**

***For the President:*** Mr. Satre reported correspondence from EB Regional Park District indicating the Crest Trail project scheduled for this year will be a joint staff/volunteer undertaking and that staff vegetation enhancement efforts at Miller-Knox (esp. broom/pampas grass control) will be assisted with Measure CC funding. Those wishing to volunteer can contact Kevin Takei at 510-235-1631/miller@ebparks.org.

***Treasurer:*** Artrese Morrison reported the following:

<b>Accounts</b>	<b>Recent Activity</b>	<b>Current Balance</b>
Bishop Alley Path	+ .44	697.39
Ferry Point	+ .40	631.34
Wig Wag	None	2,970.94
General Account	+\$ 10 dues deposit	5,096.38
	-\$ 50 website Feb. fee	
	-\$ 40 RNCC ann.Dues	
	-\$123.57 mailing fees	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 9,396.05</b>

**Beat Officer's Report:**

No officer was present to report:

**Design Review Committee:**

240 Buena Vista & Buena Vista/no address: projects reviewed and will come back next month

325 Golden Gate; approval recommended; so moved, seconded and approved.

**Old Business:**

1. **"Welcome to Pt. Richmond" Signs Update—Scott Gillespie.** Mr. Gillespie, a local resident who has sponsored this idea, noted that a logo & sign design were being developed and hopefully would be available for review at next month's meeting.
2. **BNSF RR Operations in Pt. Richmond—Ronnie Russell,** Appearing for Pete Hamell BNSF Trainmaster, who had a family emergency. Mr. Russell indicated he would be the new Terminal Superintendent effective mid-February. He expressed willingness to look into issues raised by the community and had some general awareness, based on a working stint here some years ago, but had little concrete knowledge regarding issues raised. A representative synopsis of questions and Mr. Russell's responses follows:
  - Q:** Why is BNSF using the spur at the tunnel for switching w/a switching yard to the northeast and isn't this also a violation of the spirit of PUC General Order 32?
  - R:** That's not a BNSF switching yard; unfamiliar with General Order 32.
  - Q:** When the Richmond Parkway was built, an overpass was specifically added so BNSF could do switching to the east; why hasn't the RR kept its end of the bargain?
  - R:** Have to do some research and check that out. [Note: George Coles produced "An Agreement Between the BNSF and City of Richmond" d/8/18/99 that described a number of agreements that have not been honored. A copy is on file w/these minutes at the PRNC and were also forwarded to Mr. Russell.]
  - Q:** Why doesn't the RR better maintain the roadway on either side of its tracks better than the shocks-breaking situation at Cutting near Burger King?

**R:** The RR has a road crossing renewal project list but will check out local crossings.

**Q:** Appreciation expressed to Mr. Russell for attending; advantageous for the community and RR to work together for good relations—as well as both have to deal with the City. Have there been changes in regulations that require more horns?

**R:** 2 things have changed by FRA regulations: have to whistle at all crossings and 3/4 mile or so before crossings.

**Q:** Trains also are whistling after the crossing in into the tunnel.

**R:** They don't have to do that; they *do* have to whistle if there's anyone on or about the track (workers, homeless or whomever) & have to keep whistling till past the person. The individual engineer is now financially liable if there's an accident and the whistle rules were not followed.

**Q:** Why can't this be designated as a Quiet Zone?

**R:** Possible to do but tend to be very difficult to get. Petition the FRA for QZ status—lots of things need to happen and it tends to be very expensive for a city.

**Q:** This [W. Richmond x-ing] is only used for switching so the train rules don't apply—it's not a through-way.

**R:** Believe you would have to pursue QZ exemption.

**Q:** Isn't the RR responsible for the right-of-way behind the Plunge—needs maintenance.

**R:** Will check that out.

**Q:** To build stronger community ties, have a representative attend the Pt. Richmond Bus. Assn.

**R:** You folks have a lot of meetings; will explore this.

**Q:** Different engineers seem to have different sensitivities to horn blowing and it seems excessive by Parchester Village.

**R:** It is possible sometimes to have somebody just being a jerk but for the most part they're just being conscientious. Don't know where Parchester is and will have to check that out.

Mr. Russell's contact info: [Ronnie.Russell@bnsf.com](mailto:Ronnie.Russell@bnsf.com); 888-858-7243, 118734-Pager; he will be on site after 2/15/05 with local numbers.

**New Business:** There was no new business before the Council

**Public Forum/General Announcements:**

**Save the Plunge.** The public was strongly urged to support the Plunge by attending a City Council Study Session 15 Feb at 6 pm, City Hall, Marina Way. Privately raised funds are available that could make the building functional again but public support is urgently needed to keep the project from being sidetracked with higher cost but less-likely to be implemented plans. **For more information, contact Rosemary Corbin, 210-235-5779** and also contact City Council members.

**Richmond Community Crime Prevention Committee Liaison.** **Susan Elwell** is heading this activity; email her w/questions, reports of suspicious or illegal activity at [vse@msandr.com](mailto:vse@msandr.com) & put "crime prevention" in the subject line so you're not discarded as spam.

**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Pt. Richmond Valentine Making Contest and Easter Egg Coloring and Basket making Contest** sponsored by PRBA was described; it was moved, seconded and approved that PRNC would co-sponsor these events. Forms are available from Rod Satre (PRNC) and David Vincent (PRBA).

**Neighborhood/City/PRNC Committee Reports:**

**Pt Richmond Safety Committee:** 1<sup>st</sup> Aid class through Adult Ed 2/13;

**TRAC:** Pt. Richmond Shores [Terminal 1] project: met w/the City and Toll Brothers and while there have been some modest Bay Trail changes, the overall result is still unsatisfactory and Toll Bros. continues to be largely unresponsive.

**PRAM:** As this group now spans greater Richmond, its name has changed to: "Parents, Resources and More"; 2/15, 1-3 p.m. will celebrate its first anniversary of non-profit status with an Open House/Planning Session at the Richmond Fieldhouse; food and child care provided.

Pt. Molate Re-Use: 2/2, 7:00 p.m. Advisory Committee Meeting at the Library Conference Room; Terminal 4 and the Yacht Harbor are designated as a redevelopment area. City employees have yet to be assigned to the underground project.

Wig Wag: With the wig wags saved and operational for special events, it was determined that the PRNC should be the contact point to request their activation. The idea of using wig wag funds to designate their historical significance with an appropriate plaque or marker received enthusiastic support, as well as linking with the Historical Association. Action: Margaret Morkowski will organize a subcommittee, based on the sign-up sheet, which will choose a spokesperson and report back next meeting.

PRNC Nominating Committee: In order that a slate of PRNC board candidates may be presented to the membership in accordance with the Bylaws, a nominating committee was formed and approved as follows: George Coles, Margaret Morkowski Jeff Lee and Artrese Morrison.

**No further business was conducted and the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.**