

**Minutes of the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting
Our Lady Of Mercy Catholic Church, 301 West Richmond Avenue
November 30, 2005**

Don Woodrow, President; Rod Satre, First Vice President, Fred Frye, Second Vice President; Susan Elwell, Secretary; Scott Gillespie, Treasurer

Meeting was called to order at 7:32 by President Don Woodrow.

Don Woodrow announced that Jim Mallory will be coming to the January meeting rather than tonight's meeting.

Officers' Reports:

Treasurer: Scott Gillespie reported the following:

Accounts	Recent Activity	Current Balance
Bishop Alley Path Fund	None	\$ 703.70
Ferry Point Fund	None	632.52
Wig Wag Fund	None	2,970.94
General Account	+\$ 55 dues deposit -\$ 50 website fee	4,884.76
Total		\$ 9,191.92

Agenda/Minutes Review:

Bruce Beyaert of TRAC asked that the October minutes be corrected to indicate that Beverly Galloway, representing the Concerned Citizens of Point Richmond, asked "Can Toll Brothers relocate the road to abandon Brickyard Cove Road" rather than that question being attributed to Bruce Beyaert of TRAC. TRAC has no position for or against relocating Brickyard Cove Road. With that correction, the October minutes were approved.

Announcements: Don Woodrow's letter of November 19 to Mayor Anderson and the City Council members was read into the minutes. The letter sets forth a strong case for doing away with the fee the City has started charging for the neighborhood councils to meet in City buildings. Don has had no response so far. We should all contact the Mayor and City Council members in support of his position. The next PRNC meeting will be on January 25, and will probably be held in Washington School. Subsequent meetings may also be held in Washington School.

RNCC: Margaret Morkowski brought brochures from the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Committee on the following subjects: Our Watershed; the Plunge; Rosie the Riveter Tours on December 8 and February 10 from 8:30-10:30 (contact Betty Soskin at betty_soskin@nps.gov (510) 232-1547 or Naomi Torres at naomi_torres@nps.gov (510) 604-8382 by December 2 for more information); Annual Holiday Food Drive at Santa Fe Market November 29 through December 11th; Vote Yes for Libraries on June 6, 2006; 8th Annual Senior Ball on Saturday, December 10 at the Richmond Convention Center; and Disaster Preparedness & First Aid Training on Saturday, January 21, 2005 at the Point Richmond Community Center from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (call Margaret at (510) 234-4219 for more information). She also mentioned that the lights are back on at the Plunge, and it looks better and not so deserted. She also announced that Loni Hancock's birthday party will be held on December 15 at 712 El Cerrito Plaza. Admission is 2 cans of food for a food drive.

TRAC: Bruce Beyaert announced that help is needed and welcomed to help plant the Western Drive shoreline Mini-Park on Saturday, December 3 at 9 a.m. Bring gloves, shovels, sturdy trowels and rakes.

Beat Officer's Report: No one was present from the Police Department, but Todd Pratum asked to speak to the group about crime problems that have caused him to decide not to open a bookstore in the Point. He reports that crack dealing, prostitution, urinating in the street, sleeping on the street and living in cars go on routinely. Also, stolen property is frequently strewn around the picnic area of the Plunge. West Richmond Street is never swept. There is also a high concentration of sex offenders, at least 9 living in the Point.

Unfortunately Officer Jones was not present, perhaps due to our change of location. We missed having him, and hopefully he will be able to attend our January meeting. In the meantime, Officer Jones can be contacted as follows: email: Darrell_Jones@ci.richmond.ca.us, pager (510) 243-7118, hours, Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New Business: Rod Satre announced that there is an opening on the Community Advisory Board for General Chemical. It meets 4 times a year from 5 to 7 p.m.. Anyone interested should call Rod at (510) 232-5059.

Design Review Committee: Jeff Lee reported the following: 213 Bishop Avenue and 52 Scenic Avenue, the only two items before the Design Review Committee, were approved unanimously by the Design Review Committee. It was moved, seconded and approved that we accept these recommendations.

Old Business:

Trainmaster Building: Jeff Lee reported that the Trainmaster's Building has (hooray!) been moved! Much work remains to be done. The foundation is out for bid. The historically approved restoration, including roof, shingles and windows should be completed by March, then the community has to decide what to do with the inside of the building. It was discussed whether or not the remaining funds in the Wig Wag fund could be transferred to the Trainmaster's fund, but we were reminded by Margaret Morkowski that the Wig Wag funds are already earmarked for plaques.

Quiet Zones

Wayne Nishioka of the City Attorney's Office gave some information about the ongoing attempt to have Quiet Zones in 3 areas in Richmond. There are 3 proposed Quiet Zones: Central Crossing, Point Richmond, and South. Fred Arms is on the Quiet Zone Committee. You can contact Fred at (510) 232-2559. Wayne Nishioka reported that there are snags in the Quiet Zone implementation. Constant Time Devices, which are safety devices which could be installed at the crossings to shorten the time the whistle is sounded, cost \$117,000 apiece. Way Side Horns, which direct the noise at car level and prevent it from traveling as far, cost \$25,000 apiece. Pete Hamell of BNSF contends that the train horn length is regulated by the PUC regulations, and that he cannot instruct his engineers to use courtesy to the neighbors or common sense in considering that the trains are only traveling at 5 miles per hour.. He contends that the PUC regulations advocate blowing the whistle even longer than is currently the case (which is rather hard to believe, since that would be a continual whistle).

As an aside about BNSF, if unnecessarily long train whistles wake you up in the middle of the night, Pete Hamell's # is 231-2603 and Ron Russell's # is 231-2609. Of course you get a machine, but leaving a message is better than nothing.

It was also brought up that BNSF does not cut back brush on their land over the tunnel during fire season. Mr. Hamell said that he is not in charge of that, that it comes under the auspices of the Engineering Department of BNSF. Mr. Hamell was kind enough to contact Don Woodrow with a contact phone number for Wayne Morris, 209-460-6340. I will attempt to get an email address for him also so that the PRNC can voice its concerns about this continuing problem.

Port-a-Potty Issues: City Manager Bill Lindsey came to discuss the continuing issue of the ugly AC Transit Porta Potty at the gateway to Point Richmond. Scott Gillespie has been working for 2 years with AC Transit to try to find a better solution. Apparently, their contract with the bus drivers states that there must be a restroom at the end of the line. The Spot has kindly agreed to make their facilities available to bus drivers, but because they are not open during the latest bus run, this is not acceptable. Since the toilet is located on City land, Bill Lindsey indicated that he would try to negotiate directly with AC Transit to have it moved as it is a blight. Mr. Lindsey will contact AC Transit directly and explore several paths including shifting the end of the run to the fire station for the late runs and getting a side letter from the Union Steward allowing AC Transit to get an exception from the contract requirement. Hopefully now that Mr. Lindsey has gotten involved we will get some action. Thanks to Scott for all his hard work.

Public Forum: Jeff Lee made the announcement that Linsley Hall has changed hands. The new owners plan a Buddhist related facility.

Jeff also presented a letter which he has drafted to Mr. Lamont Thompson, Senior City Planner, asking that the City consider the view issues in the draft EIR for the Point Richmond Shores project. It was moved, seconded and approved that the letter be signed and submitted on behalf of the PRNC. Jeff has spent quite a bit of time discussing the matter with Mr. Thompson and touring the site to point out the view issues to him. Thanks, Jeff!!!

Committee Reports:

Point Richmond Safety Committee: Joan Gatten repeated the information which Margaret Morkowski already gave about the Disaster Preparedness Training on January 21. Joan also said that many people were confused on election day because the only polling place was in Brickyard Landing. Hopefully, when Washington School renovations are complete, the County will once again designate it as a polling place.

No further business was conducted and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m..