

**Minutes of the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting
Point Richmond Community Center, March 29, 2006**

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 7:34 by President, Don Woodrow

Officers' Reports:

Treasurer: Scott Gillespie was ill, so Susan Elwell read his report as follows:

Accounts	Recent Activity	Current Balance
Bishop Alley Path	None	704.14
Ferry Point	None	632.92
Wig Wag	None	2,970.94
Scenic Overlook Planning Fund	None	150.00
General Account	+\$ 35.00 dues deposit -\$ 50.00 website fee +\$134.24 Richmond Refund	
		4,939.17
Total		\$ 9,397.17

Agenda/Minutes Review: The February minutes were approved as submitted.

President's Announcements: Don Woodrow announced the "View the View Points" event on April 8, 10 a.m. to noon, beginning at the Santa Fe viewpoint. Don also called attention to the "Train Horn Incident Report" copies of which were available.

RNCC Report: Margaret Morkowski reported that Police chief Magnus addressed the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Committee and reported on his ideas for a more geographic, neighborhood-policing oriented distribution of Richmond's police force. Margaret also mentioned that the Methodist Church will be holding its annual Junktique Sale on April 29. Margaret can be reached at (510) 234-4219

Design Review and Land Use Committee: Rod Satre reported that the Design Review and Land Use Committee needs two new members. If you are interested, contact Rod at (510) 232-5059 or Jeff Lee at (510) 932-3520. The committee meets at 6 p.m. at Interactive Resources on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Beat Officer's Report: Officer Brad Moody reported that the Richmond Police Department has been actively doing parolee compliance checks, not only in Pt. Richmond but in the whole city. He reported that in February there were 3 stolen cars, 2 auto burglaries, 2 commercial burglaries, 1 residential burglary, 5 suspicious vehicles, 7 suspicious persons and 150 total calls for service in the Pt. The March figures are 7 stolen cars, 4 auto burglaries, 1 commercial burglary, 3 residential burglaries, 5 suspicious persons and 123 total calls for service in the Point. Officer Moody can be reached at (510) 620-6642, and will hopefully soon have an email address at which we can reach him. For non-emergency calls the dispatch number is (510) 233-1214. For emergencies, obviously call 911. Jeff Lee reported some good news: his neighbor had his car stolen, but saw it on the street and was able to recover it with the help of the Richmond Police from someone who had attempted to change the VIN number. A member reported that two men stole gas from his son at the ARCO station but pumping it into their car after he had gone in to pay for it, and that the attendant did nothing.

Report of Crime Prevention Committee: Tom Brichta reported that there have been a series of strong arm robberies in El Cerrito, Berkeley and Albany in which two men follow people home from ATM machines and rob them in their driveways when they get home. Be alert after you leave ATMs and, if you notice anyone following you, do not go home. Drive to a police station, fire station or some location where there are a lot of people and try to get the license number of the car following you if possible. If you have concerns which you wish to have brought up at the monthly Crime Prevention meetings, you can drop them off to Tom at Marvin Gardens, 147 W. Richmond Ave. Suite A (between Santa Fe Market and Ginger Springs Day Spa), or email him at tom911r7@yahoo.com. If you email Tom, put "Crime" in the subject line so it won't get deleted.

Design Review Committee and Land Use: The Design Review Committee recommended that the projects at 40 Railroad Avenue and 260 Water Street be approved. It was so moved, seconded and approved by vote of the membership. The applicant at & Stairley was asked by the committee to come back next month with more information. No one showed up regarding the project at 999-A Canal Boulevard. The project at 312-314 Golden Gate Avenue was endorsed by the Committee but it was withdrawn from the consent calendar at the request of James Bottom so that it could be considered later in the meeting. The applicant and architect were asked to meet with neighbors affected by the project and its related construction issues. Mr. Bellows felt that the neighbors could

not support the project without further information. It was moved and passed to hold this project over for one month in order that the neighbors might discuss the project with the applicant and architect.

Old Business:

Trainmaster's Building. Jeff Lee reported on the continuing progress on the Trainmaster's Building. Missing wall boards are being replaced and the windows are being refurbished. The building will be primed next week, and colors for the roof will soon be approved. The doors have been ordered thanks to Kim Butt. Hopefully, the exterior of the building will be completed by the Richmond Historical Society's meeting in May. If anyone is interested in making a donation for some of the trees, call Jeff at (510) 932-3520. Jeff informed the Council that the name of the 501(c)3 entity designing and overseeing the project is the "Point Richmond Gateway Foundation."

New Developments at General Chemical: Richard Keenan, the new General Manager of General Chemical, reported on new developments at their site. He assured the group that General Chemical is committed to insuring the safety of their workers and of nearby residents. The main customer of General Chemical is Chevron. General Chemical is in the process of building a computer controlled plant to insure that there are no environmental releases. They are building a new unit to make sodium bisulfate which is used in photo plants and wastewater treatment. A member inquired as to what sodium bisulfate smells like, as we were told that although it smells like sulfur, there will be no emissions as it is an enclosed system. Mr. Keenan had a fact sheet on the Sodium Bisulfate Production Unit available for anyone interested, and if anyone has further questions, his contact information is (510) 232-7193, extension 226 or rkeenan@genchemcorp.com. We thank Mr. Keenan for taking his evening to give us this information and take our questions.

New Business.

Point Richmond Music. Sean Turner, (510) 672-3042, said that this year Point Richmond Music will have performances on Friday June 2, Friday July 7, and Friday August 4 from 5:30 to 8:15. An all-day event will be held on September 9 from 11 to 5. It was moved, seconded and approved that PRNC give \$500 to Point Richmond Music. We all look forward to the music this summer!!!

Public Forum:

Jessie West: (510) 232-4972, expressed her concerns about the "clear cutting" of the shrubs on the north side of the Plunge. The City had received complaints about homeless people sleeping under cover of the shrubs, and the City's response was to completely cut the shrubs down. The problem could have been solved by trimming the bottom of the shrubs so that they would not provide privacy, but when Ms. West asked the gardener if that was possible, he replied that his orders were to take the shrubs out. This is a loss; they had been there a long time, were attractive and provided shade.

James Bottoms: 327 Golden Gate Avenue, expressed his concerns about the proposed duplex at 312-314 Golden Gate. He and other neighbors had very little information about the project, and even that came very late. After discussion and a presentation to the group by Jay Betts, the architect, it was moved, seconded and approved that the owners and architect take the coming month to inform the neighbors about the project and discuss it with them. The project will be brought before the Design Review committee again next month.

Committee Reports:

Point Richmond Safety Committee: Joan Gatten voiced concerns over the possibility of an avian flu epidemic and her hopes that public health agencies will devise a plan for this possible public health disaster. She also announced the Pathways to Health event to be held April 1, 9 a.m. to noon at the Serra Campus. For more information, call (510) 215-4666 or check at www.wccae.info.

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

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

Tina Olton, local author and world traveler, will share her amazing adventures at the annual meeting of the Friends of Richmond Library on Monday, May 22, 2006, 7 pm, Whittlesey Common Room, Richmond Public Library, 325 Civic Center Plaza.

Using slides, Olton will recount her experiences sailing around the world with her husband on an 8-year odyssey aboard a 40-foot sailboat. Her book, "Always Another Horizon, A Journey Around the World", chronicles traversing 45,000 miles, visiting 61 countries, crossing 3 oceans, and countless waterway. For more information, call 510-644-6296.