

Minutes
Point Richmond Neighborhood Council
Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Treasurer's report: general fund \$6,505.37 total of all funds \$10,878.22

Review of minutes: Accepted as presented.

Announcements; Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council (RNCC): there are 19 new hires for Richmond Police Department; looking for more recruits. The RNCC convened a panel discussion regarding combining the City of Richmond Design Review Board with the Planning Commission. Panelists were: Councilpersons Butt and Viramonte and Planning Commission Chair, Virginia Finlay. There was a genuine sense that the combination was a bad idea. RNCC sent a letter to the Mayor and City Council expressing that opinion.

Beat Officer; Officer Leah Thomas: Distributed some bulletins on quality of life issues and dropped off her business card. Officer Thomas reported that graffiti is a big problem in the city, especially on weekends, and there are no solutions yet. Corey Court at Brickyard is getting some break-ins within the gated community. Vandalism, graffiti, suspicious persons and assaults are all in double digits in the City this month. There was a question regarding handicapped access to the sidewalk along West Richmond Avenue when cars block the sidewalk. The Police Department will investigate this situation. People zooming downhill through the stop sign at West Richmond and Castro should be expecting a moving-vehicle citation.

Carole Woodrow made a statement for uses of community center, **President Don Woodrow** expanded on the subject: DRAFT of Proposal to Create a PRNC Subcommittee of use of the community center: **Pt. Richmond Community Center Program Planning Advisory Committee**

Purpose of committee:

- 1) to suggest programs of community interest to the City of Richmond Library, Parks and Recreation Departments for the Point Richmond Community Center
- 2) to initiate connections with a variety of community groups, organized and otherwise
- 3) to enable programming topics, classes and lecturers be solicited representing the interests of all members of our community

Suggestions for program topics might include: Local History; Nature; Health ; Safety; Culture; Children's programs; Exercise; Community Resources; Business Issues; Seniors programs;

In summary, the committee would: Suggest programs of interest to this community to the City of Richmond Library, Parks & Recreation Departments; Network with organized and informal groups and individuals in the neighborhood

The goal would be to provide more participation and activity for residents of our community's downtown thus bringing more life to it.

Acting President Don Woodrow appointed the committee with Joan Gatten and Carole Woodrow as co-chairs.

Don Woodrow noted that potential new candidates for a replacement president will be available by next month.

Summary of Design Review & Land Use Committee recommendations (No items)

Old Business:

Disposition of PRIDE funds: **Don Woodrow** led a discussion based on a written report prepared by David Vincent of Point Richmond Business Association: The film production company of "Patch Adams" provided a \$50,000 grant for non-profit use in Point Richmond. The PRIDE funds were established to channel and funnel matching grants to worthy actions: \$1,900 spent on the Envision Point Richmond think session; \$1,900 Friends of the Richmond Library; \$7,000 for an information Kiosk and Plaques by Women's West Side Improvement. Most of the plaques are installed and the kiosk will be near the Gateway project. (The Train Master's Building area); \$5,000 to Masquer's Playhouse for awnings and façade improvements; \$12,000 for a playground for Washington School which was installed, then modified by Richmond Unified School District; \$6,100 for Golden Gate Railroad Association for new fencing; Some money contributed to a \$100,000 grant to the City of Richmond for completion of Boat Ramp Street will be fixed up for car top, *no-trailer*, boating access to the inner Richmond harbour. This is a walk-in public access to the water; \$9,600 for upgrading the field house near Washington Elementary School; \$7,800 of other funds were expended but not matched to any specific action. **Don Woodrow** noted there is no more information on the distribution of funds.

Interest of about \$1,000 went towards the restoration of the Plunge.

Update by RAP4Richmond. Robin Carpenter briefed the Council on the issues for Responsible Antennae Placement for Richmond. Installation at 260 Water Street must comply to code or be removed. They are asking for a oratorium for 60 days to review policies and codes, The city should map all antennae. The code is good, but Planning

department is not following the code. The city of Richmond paid \$160,000 for a report (the Zucker report) that notes the Planning Department does not adhere to code, and actions by the city need more transparency. We as a community should accept information and public participation and not reduce public participation and voice of the public. [We don't want to be left in the dark]. This item will be on July 31 City Council agenda. A RAP organizing meeting will be held next Saturday at Robin and Andy's on High Street.

Attorney Kathleen McKinley, Esq. speaking for Jerry Feagley spoke against the www.RAP4Richmond.org web site and claimed the web site is an attack on the Feagleys. T-Mobile was the applicant, the city was the decision maker, but installations are the decision of the city. She stated that Jerry does plan to install solar power panels on his roof. She continued stating that the nature of this installation is not high powered, not 12 units, but smaller, 6-antenna units of minimal power. Under questioning, Ms. McKinley was unable to identify the source of the alleged "solar power" panels he is planning to install and that Jerry was planning to install solar power for pool heating. Rod Satre, Chair of the PRNC Land Use Committee, noted that Jerry had stated he was going to install photo-voltaic solar panels. Typically, panels for swimming pool solar heating would be an application of water solar power, not photo-voltaic. This discrepancy was pointed out to Ms. Mckinley but she was not able to respond.

New Business:

PRNC Night Out. Margaret Morkowski; The National Night Out/ Crime Prevention Party will be on Tuesday, August 7th. Free hamburgers and hotdogs will be free for the first 100 people. Food purchase costs for the rest of the attendees plus chips and sodas will benefit the concessionaire, the Police Activities League (PAL.)

DISCUSSION OF MEASURE G IN SUPPORT OF WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PROJECTS.

Charles Ramsey, School Board Clerk **and Karen Fenton,** former school board member, presented the following information on Measure G: This measure updates and replenishes measure B which expires July 1, 2009. If passed, Measure G will expire in 8 years. Measure B was 7.2 cents Measure G is 11cents/square foot of livable space. In 2004 the decision was by mail ballot. Your filled-in ballot must be received before the deadline of August 28th which is when the announcement of polling results will be made. The ballots will be mailed next week. This is a 2/3rd's vote requirement. Measure G information can be found at www.childrenofwestcounty.com
By motion and vote, the PRNC endorses the support of Measure G.

Landscaping and tennis courts.

Tony Norris, City of Richmond, 231-3073, introduced **Lisa Grahams, and Carroll Holthouse**-park supervisor who will be working on landscaping in the Point Richmond community. Lisa and her two additional team members will be focused on Point Richmond. They are recruiting 4 journey-level gardeners. Please let people know of this employment opportunity. The PRNC and Point Richmond Business Association (PRBA) are sponsoring the **Pt Richmond Landscaping Subcommittee** to advise the city horticulturist Lisa Graham. Call Margaret Morkowski 234-4219 with questions.

Norris went on to state that current plans for the tennis courts behind The Plunge are to keep them closed as contractor's staging areas. Repair of The Plunge will begin in 2 months with facility back in use in 2009. If the contractor does not need the southerly court space, it will be reopened. If the contractor does use this court space, after completion of the renovation, they will resurface both courts and get them in good playing condition.

Public Forum: There is a "Read Aloud Program" at Washington School for K to second grade on Thursdays for one hour. Please help a child develop a joy and love of books. Margaret Morkowski is the coordinator of this program.

REPORTS OF NEIGHBORHOOD & CITY COMMITTEES

Point Richmond Safety Committee Joan's number is 234-0707

PRAM – Tony Norris of Richmond Recreation and Parks is working with PRAM for a new park.

Reports of Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Committees

Point Molate Reuse Committee – *no report*

Underground Utilities committee – *no report*

IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR PRNC DUES!