

Minutes
Point Richmond Neighborhood Council
March 25, 2009

President Don Woodrow called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He then asked Bruce Beyaert to report for the Nominating Committee. The slate of nominees is:

President: Peter Minkwitz

First Vice President: Ken Blonski

Second Vice President (membership): Sue Rosenof

Secretary: Louise Fender

Treasurer: Art Mowry

Voting for these positions will take place at the April meeting.

It was announced that a free, CPR training class will be held at the Fire Training Center, 3506 Cutting Boulevard, Richmond on Saturday, May 2. Call 510-620-6866 for more information.

A series of concerts will held again this summer. Watch for announcements in storefronts and on the various websites.

Minutes for the February, 2009 were approved as submitted.

Margaret Morkowski being involved with car troubles, there was no Treasurer's report.

Safety Committee - Pat Pearson reported on the CPR training to be held in May and CERT training which started earlier in April.

Knit and Such and Arts of Point Richmond - Altha Humphrey noted that K and S meets monthly in the Community Center, that it is a lively group, and that all are welcome. Check the PRNC website for dates. Altha reminded us that a show of the work of local artists is on display at 25 West.

Point Richmond History Association - Mid Dornan reported that nominations for preservation "recognition awards" are being accepted. Forms are available from the PRHA and the City Clerk.

Women's Westside Improvement Association - No report

Point Richmond Business Association - PRBA President Marsha Tomassi reported that the Point Richmond Stroll will be held on May 13 and that it will include a farmer's market. The market is planned as a weekly event to be held along Washington St. on Wednesdays, 4-8 pm starting May 13 and continuing until October.

Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council - Police Chief Magnus reported that although crime overall is down in Richmond, burglaries are up 30% over the previous year. He also reported that as way to cut County costs, the number of sheriff's deputies will be reduced as will be the District Attorney's staff. The effects of these cuts is uncertain.

Tunnel Portal Design Committee - Don Woodrow and Altha Humphrey reported that

voting was proceeding to select a design. Those who have not already done so were urged to vote at this meeting where the designs are on display.

Officer David Longacre reported on scattered crimes in The Point. A camping vagrant was reported as a continuing problem but that it is likely to be resolved very soon. As part of the police report, Tom Brichta urged everyone to be careful about locking doors and windows, being vigilant about strangers in your neighborhood, and being watchful about your surroundings generally. Calls to the police should be made to report strange activities.

Port of Richmond Honda Port of entry Project - Alex Macgregor and Ari Niemi of TransDevelopment Group, consultants to the Port of Richmond, and Jim Matzorkis, Director of the Port of Richmond, presented the project. Copies of power point slides were distributed. This is a major project. Dockage facilities will be improved and a new system of railroad tracks will be installed to serve the Port. To be constructed: a parking area for visitors and users of the Bay Trail, connections with the Bay Trail, a new truck-loading area, renovation of existing track age beside Canal Boulevard, and new petroleum-product pipelines under Canal Boulevard, among other things. Questions were raised about noise, increases in railroad traffic, and air pollution. A suit speaking to the latter two issues was recently settled with further mitigation promised and the setting up of an advisory group to watch progress on those issues.

County Supervisor John Gioia then joined the meeting. With the County facing declines in tax revenue after years of revenue growth, budget stress was expected. Among the many budget cuts made, staff reductions will be made both in the District Attorney's staff and in the number of sheriff's deputies. However, without going into specifics, none of these cuts will be as severe as initially reported in the press. Some cuts were made up by using the County's "rainy-day" fund. In addition, the County is considering a utility tax for those living in the unincorporated parts of the County. Discussing the County's role in saving Doctor's Hospital, Supervisor Gioia made it clear that closing the Hospital to close would have had in major, negative impacts on the remaining hospitals as patients moved there. Further, patients themselves would have been forced to drive longer distances for care and to have endure longer ambulance rides with greater risks resulting.

Rod Satre, reported for the Land Use/Design Review Committee that the project proposed for the house at 302 Santa Fe was approved unanimously by the Committee. A motion to accept the Committee's recommendation was passed by the Council unanimously.

Public Forum

Sue Rosenof and Joan Leopold invited everyone to a meal at the Point San Pablo Yacht

Harbor on April 3.

Mister Philips introduced himself as a candidate for the County Board of Supervisors.

President Woodrow adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm.