



Get to the Point!

Your Point Richmond Neighborhood Update

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 26th at 7:30 pm

Point Richmond Community Center, 139 Washington Avenue

Welcome to our March newsletter, which contains the minutes from our February meeting and our March meeting agenda. Please make sure to read your minutes from February – we had three important resolutions come out of those meetings. One regarding the future of our shorelines and two regarding the future of Tiscornia Estates. Our March meeting will focus on Code and Ordinance enforcement, which has been a source of frustration and confusion for so many of us. So we hope to have lots of information and tips on how to make sure that codes and ordinances are enforced in our neighborhoods.

We will also be discussing the recent rash of mail thefts in the Point. This is a serious issue that Officer Silva will address in our March meeting. It can lead to the more devastating crime of identity theft. Additionally we can address the concerns about a cutting back in postal services in the Point. We will also talk about issues at the Spot, where there has been an increasing issue with guns and violence. Officer Williams will also come by if possible to talk about the work being done with establishments in the Point that are selling liquor offsite. We anticipate a panel discussion at our April or May meeting on the role of the County and the ABC in particular with several establishments in the Point.

Do the lights on the long wharf at Chevron impact you? If so please contact Kelly Baraka (kellybaraka@yahoo.com) who has so graciously offered to talk with Chevron on behalf of the impacted neighbors. Any input or information that you give her will give credence to her requests.

PLEASE JOIN SO THAT WE CAN CONTACT YOU! Membership fees are minimal and we'll grant a waiver of fees if you write the word "waiver" on your membership application. If you are a member, please make sure your information is current; ask your neighbors and friends to make sure that are PRNC members. When you share your information with us it is kept completely confidential. If emergencies occur we send emails and post the information on the community center doors.

KEEP INFORMED! As well as being a member of the PRNC you may want to stay locally updated by subscribing to the Mayor's newsletter by emailing mayornewsletter@yahoo.com, or visit Tom Butt's Forum <http://www.tombutt.com/e-forum.htm> or <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/> or www.pointrichmond.com. CHECK COMMUNITY CENTER DOORS FOR UPDATES FROM PRNC! Also Katherine Tam of the Contra Costa Times is providing excellent coverage of issues in our community and has written several recent articles: go to www.contracostatimes.com

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 9: **Last day to submit projects to the Design Review and Land Use Committee for their April 30, 2008 meeting.** Projects submitted after April 9th may be heard but action cannot be taken on them at this meeting. Contact Rod Satre at 510-232-5059 or rdsatre@netzero.net with your agenda item.
- April 9: **Last day to suggest topics for the April 30, 2008 Council meeting.** Submit suggestions to Robin Carpenter at balsora@aol.com or call 510-232-8175.
- April 30: **April Meeting of the Design Review and Land Use Committee** 6:00pm
Interactive Resources, 117 Park Place, Point Richmond
- April 30: ***April 2008 Meeting of the Neighborhood Council*** 7:30 pm
This is our annual meeting and it is important to attend if possible – new bylaws up for vote
Point Richmond Community Center, 139 Washington Avenue



**Robin Carpenter, President; Don Woodrow, First Vice President;
Chris Spencer, Second Vice President; Rod Satre, Secretary;
Margaret Morkowski, Treasurer**

PRNC AGENDA
Wednesday, March 26, 2008 7:30 pm
Point Richmond Community Center, 139 Washington Avenue

- | | | |
|------|--|----------------------|
| 7:30 | Call to Order. | <i>1 minute</i> |
| 7:31 | Agenda Review and approval of the minutes from the February meeting – announcements from the Executive Board by the President - Robin Carpenter | <i>4 minutes</i> |
| 7:33 | Membership report - Chris Spencer | <i>1 minute</i> |
| 7:37 | Treasurer’s report – Margaret Morkowski | <i>1 minute</i> |
| 7:38 | Representative to REACT and Richmond Emergency Services Report – Pat Pearson
Pat will report and we will have 2 minutes for questions | <i>2/3 minutes</i> |
| 7:43 | Updates from other Neighborhood, City and PRNC Committees 1 minute each
Community Center Report
The Plunge – Margaret Morkowski
Arts Guild and Knit and Such - Altha Humphrey
Point Richmond History Association (PRHA) – Mid Dorman
Women’s Westside Improvement Club (WWIC) – Margaret Morkowski 234-4219
Point Richmond Business Association (PRBA) – Marsha Tomassi 215-6133 | <i>5 minutes</i> |
| 7:48 | Police Department Report: Officer Silva 233-1214 or www.jsilva@richmondpd.net
Focusing on the recent mail thefts in the Point and feedback on shooting at The Spot | <i>10/5 minutes</i> |
| 8:03 | Our representatives to the RCPC (Richmond Crime Prevention Commission)
Tom Brichta 415-686-1522 and Steve Spencer 510- 233-3050 | <i>1 minute</i> |
| 8:04 | Fire Department Report - Shift Captain for the Point on Duty | <i>2/2 minutes</i> |
| 8:08 | Kelly Baraka kellybaraka@yahoo.com - Long Wharf Lights
Report on working with Chevron regarding the lights from the Long Wharf disturbing residents | <i>1/2 minutes</i> |
| 8:11 | Code Enforcement –
Everything you ever wanted to know about code violations , but were afraid to ask!
Sgt. Darren Monahan - Code Enforcement Supervisor 621-1279
Lorena Burciaga, CEO for Point Richmond 621-1277 - | <i>15/10 minutes</i> |
| 8:36 | Summary of Land Use & Design Review Committee recommendations –
Consent Calendar - Two projects have been brought to the committee this month:
442 Golden Gate Avenue –McCabe carried over from last meeting
Project at Terrace and Vine | <i>10 minutes</i> |

If you are aware of someone planning to construct or modify a building in the Point, please have them contact Rod Satre at 510-232-5059 or rdsatre@netzero.net to arrange a review by this Committee. They meet on the same evening as the PRNC, at 6 pm, in the meeting room of Interactive Resources, 117 Park Place, Pt. Richmond.

NOTE: It is important that applicants discuss their project with their neighbors before review by this Committee.

- | | | |
|------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 8:49 | Old Business: | <i>3 minutes</i> |
| 8:52 | New Business | <i>3 minutes</i> |
| 8:56 | Public Forum | If needed: <i>16 minutes</i> |

As many as eight speakers speaking for 2 minutes each. Please sign up at the meeting.

Note: Public Forum items are for public information only; no action can be taken on them. If you have an action item, please contact a board member prior to April 11th to have it considered for the agenda of the Council’s April 30th meeting.

9:12 Adjourn

For further information regarding the agenda, excluding Design Review and Land Use Committee matters, contact Robin Carpenter at 510-232-8175 or balsora@aol.com. PRNC members who provide an e-mail address will receive the Newsletter electronically and get email updates. Members who wish to receive the Newsletter by surface mail as well as email should make their wishes known to Chris Spencer at prncvp2@yahoo.com

PRNC Minutes February 27, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

Corrections to the minutes from the January meeting were: “designated accountant is Claudia Spenser” and that this is the correct spelling for “Altha Humphrey.” Minutes were accepted.

Membership - Chris Spencer sent word that we are at almost 250 members. This is a great increase from membership at 98 members in spring of '07. President, Robin Carpenter noted how important it is for us to have as many Point Richmond residents as possible signed on as members. It gives us more authority and credibility when we advocate and we can keep more people informed if they are in our database. She reminded everyone that you can get a waiver for the membership fee by just writing waiver on your application or renewal and then just mail it in or bring to the next

Treasurer - Margaret Morkowski - We have over \$7,000 in the bank.

Safety - Thank you to Joan Gatten for all of her hard work as head of our Safety Committee. While the PRNC updates its by-laws there will be no committees other than LU/DR. Pat Pearson has been asked by the board and has accepted the role of the PRNC representative to REACT and the City's Emergency Services. She will give regular reports. She can be reached at (510) 234-2532. This month's report noted that there will be free CPR training on March 8th in Richmond. Additionally that there would be a North Richmond and Richmond residents drill. Feb 28th is the orientation and March 5th for the actual drill, pets can also attend.

Community Reports:

Save the Plunge Trust -Margaret Morkowski. Request For Proposals went out for Plunge, the Contract Award is scheduled for April Award, with May as the proposed start date, and construction is estimated to last for an 18-month period. 235-5779

The Women's Westside Improvement Club meets the first Tuesday of the month and is meeting 3/4/08 Margaret Morkowski at 234-4219

PRBA Point Richmond Business Association will meet at noon on 3/12 at the Hotel Mac Restaurant - \$15 Marsha Tomasi 215-6133

Point Richmond Landscape Advisory Committee; Free standing community committee - no report this month

PRAG and Knit and Such -Altha Humphrey. Point Richmond Artists Guild had its first meeting with 25-30 folks attending. They would like to extend an invitation to all Artists, including musicians and writers to attend the next meeting on Thursday, March 20th -7:00-9:00 evenings at the Community Center 232-2934. The Knit and Such Group meets the first Thursday of every month at the Community Center same hours 7:00-9:00 evenings. Altha Humphrey at 232-2934

Joseph McAlister Terminal Manager of BNSF Railway (510) 231-2603, Joseph.McAlister@bnsf.com. Joseph is recently new to this post and wanted to come to our meeting and let our community know that he wants to address our needs and be a good neighbor. He spoke to the group regarding the new Honda facility at the port. There were questions about the upcoming EIR and Joseph wasn't there to speak on that so we asked City Councilmember, Tom Butt, to let us know about the new port addition for Honda and the upcoming EIR. He told us of notice of preparation of Draft environmental report for Honda on March 5th at 7:00PM at City Council Chambers for Honda Port of Entry. The PRNC offered copies of the notice on our table at the meeting. It was mentioned that there will be twice as many cars coming into and out of the port area. We then continued with Mr. McAlister and he discussed concerns about rail traffic blocking the crossings. They will now will be loading and switching more on the other end. Another improvement is that cars will roll from ship to railcar with no street driving. Minimal impact on crossings is expected. Rail traffic will increase but switching will be directed to Canal not Cutting. The new switch engines that have been purchased for Richmond are to be quiet and energy efficient/lower emissions. They are the NREC N-ViroMotive ultra-clean locomotives. Joseph brought printed information on the new locomotives. For a copy call or email him. The new facility can handle 100 rail cars at the port & will be going about 300-400 feet right onto the rail car. Horns only blow when needed for safety reasons, otherwise quiet zones are respected. Commute time traffic hold-ups? Joseph said that City of Richmond says no to blocking between noon and 1:00PM and 5:00-6:00PM.

CESP Presentation - Citizens for East Shore Park: Patricia Vaughn Jones, Rich Walking presenters. They did a power point slide show and shared their mission to connect the shoreline with a necklace of shoreline parks and outstanding jewels of open space. Some of the information they shared was that parks and open space trails increase the quality of life and the environment. They help promote better health for our kids to getting them into parks, breathing fresh air and getting exercise. The largest eelgrass

bed in SF Bay is along the Point Richmond shoreline and is an important nursery for much marine life including Salmon and Dungeness crab. The marshes along our shores are amazing ecological systems - each handful of mud from these shores holds more than 40,000 organisms. These marshy areas are home of the red knot, the salt marsh harvest mouse and ospreys. In 1915 2000 acres of tidal marsh separated Potrero Point from the mainland. Much of that has been filled in. Over the next 50 years the seas could rise from 3 to 13 feet above the mean tide average along our shores. We saw slides showing the loss of shoreline. Why are they coming to us tonight? Because the Richmond General Plan (www.cityofrichmondgeneralplan.org) is under review and this is the time to take action, three options will be reviewed and the CESP is asking for the preferred alternative to be the one that is used. You can call 510-524-5000 or go to www.Eastshorepark.org for more information. Shirley Butt presented a motion in support of what CESP is asking and it was moved and passed unanimously.

Adopted PRNC Motion regarding the General Plan and our shorelines:

The Pt. Richmond Neighborhood Council recommends the following land use provisions in the updated General Plan for the North Richmond Shoreline and Point San Pablo Peninsula:

North Richmond Shoreline: Retain the current open space, recreation and park designations for the North Richmond Shoreline between Wildcat Creek and Point Pinole west of the Richmond Parkway and refrain from up zoning to higher land uses. Protect Wildcat and San Pablo Creek Marshes and their adjacent upland transition zones as open space.

Point San Pablo Peninsula: Implement the San Pablo Peninsula Open Space Study, including designating Point San Pablo former site of Terminal 4 as Recreation lands for a regional shoreline park and completing the planned Bay Trail route. Development at Point Molate should be consistent with the Reuse Plan developed by the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee and adopted by the City Council. **This will be sent out to the General Plan Committee and the City Council by the PRNC**

Richmond PD - Officer Silva's Report

His hours of duty are 2:00 pm to 2:00 am. Currently there is a slender built white male suspected of burglaries of businesses along Railroad Avenue business areas. This past month no residential or auto burglaries occurred. How does petty theft get curtailed? This is handled by the fraud protection division, if you have a case or certain information on a crime case, Officer Silva asks to be contacted for follow-up, there is a short staff for follow-up so please be patient – but he will check into it for you. “Crime view” will be limited but open to the public for crime scene actions. It was brought up that there was shooting at The Spot last Friday. No one was hit, but the person who was chased out by customers was shot at and his car was hit. Concerns about The Spot becoming a problem were expressed and Officer Silva will look into the matter. Contact Officer Silva at [www.jsilva@richmondpd.net](mailto:jsilva@richmondpd.net).

Richmond Fire - Captain Rick Abercrombie from the Point Richmond Fire station. Now fully staffed 365days. 80 calls during the month with no fires. A new fire engine should arrive in June, 2008. Rick says it will be beautiful. He invited anyone to go ahead and knock on the door to visit. This is a social station and open to the community. It was suggested that perhaps a pancake breakfast/party be held in the community for the arrival of the fire engine. The PRNC offered to co-host a community welcoming event with the fire station.

Tiscornia Presentation: There was a scheduled a presentation on the agenda to be made by Leonard Gross. Due to health issues, Mr. Gross didn't show up to the meeting. He did appear at the earlier Land Use/Design Review meeting of the PRNC. Rod Satre (PRNC Secretary and member of the LU/DR) said that Mr. Gross has proposed for six lots at the top of Santa Fe Bowl and Mr. Gross has said that this has always been on the plan. It was said that Mr. Gross was also requesting that the city vacate a 10-foot strip along Pacific and currently the Planning Department has not agreed to that. John Mengshol who represented a group of PRNC members living in Tiscornia asked if he could come forward and make a motion in the absence of Mr. Gross' presentation.

The motion was:

1. The proposed Tentative Map filed by the applicant, with the modifications and conditions recommended in the Agenda Report dated February 7, 2008 prepared by Joe Light, Senior Planner, is approved by this Council, subject to the conditions set forth in items 2, 3 and 4 below.
2. Development of the building sites contained in the map shall be subject to the development standards set forth in the 1986 Tiscornia Estate Specific Plan (City Council Resolution 223-86).
3. Applicant shall be required to confirm the binding effect of the 1986 Tiscornia Estate Specific Plan (City Council Resolution 223-86) on him, including confirmation that the six building sites contained in the Map constitute all of the remaining building sites allowed under the Specific Plan and that no additional building sites in the Plan area will be allowed.
4. All of the lots designated as open space under the Specific Plan, i.e. all of the remaining parcels not designated as buildable sites, shall be reserved in perpetuity as private open space, by all of the owners of the lots, either by recording

a deed restriction so providing, or in the alternative, by the owners conveying the parcels, subject to such restriction, to a homeowners association to be created by Specific Plan residents.

During this time it was noted that the six building sites comprise the last allowable building sites in the plan and that builds out Tiscornia. Yet it is also said there are two more building site north of Tiscornia and these lots fill out the buildable lots. It was said that Gross has noted that he will try to get two more sites later, after this subdivision map is approved. And that he will push for two more lots that will be built on Pacific. In addition, all of the open space is designated open space. When things are built out, the open space will be privately owned and in perpetuity they will be owned by a homeowners association and take over the ownership and will take over the open space. Concern about the open space being controlled by a homeowners group was expressed. Concern about a homeowners group keeping public access and concerns in the forefront was expressed. It was asked if the PRNC as a non-profit could oversee the open space to alleviate concerns about a homeowners group controlling the space. Another idea was whether the green zone could be deeded to the city. Concerns by people living near Pacific were expressed concerning Pacific becoming so narrow that it would merely be an alley and that it is pretty much a one-way street now. Concern over view loss at the beautiful walk along Pacific. It was noted that Leonard Gross at the Land Use and Design Review had agreed to no view blocked and a limit of building no higher than 4'-10" from grade of pavement regarding Pacific Avenue. It was noted that there was some expression of support and some opposition by the city attorney as to this program. PRNC president, Robin Carpenter, asked if the two groups concerns (Tiscornia group led by John Mengshol and other neighbors) might not be more powerful if merged together and more persuasive to the Planning Commission, the City Council and the City Attorney. And that even if the City Attorney says this current request must be considered independent from other Tiscornia issues – this might be a point at which things could be resolved on all fronts. There was a friendly amendment that attempted to bridge the two groups of concerns asking that verbage be withdrawn approving the six lots based on “getting something” but on the basis that the remaining Tiscornia be open space and to keep 2,3 and 4 the same. The friendly amendment failed – 8 ayes 18 nays 8 abstentions.

The resolution as noted above was called to be voted upon and was passed as proposed – 16 ayes 3 nays 8 abstentions.

A separate resolution with different concerns was put forth.

The motion was:

1. No parcel of the applicant's development shall have driveway access from Pacific Avenue. All lots/parcels shall be accessed only from Santa Fe Avenue.
2. To preserve views along Pacific Avenue the applicant agreed at the Land Use/Design Review subcommittee of the Neighborhood Council and the Neighborhood Council confirmed and states that no part of what will be built in the applicant's development shall exceed a height of 4'10" from the highest portion of the grade of the pavement of that portion of Pacific Avenue that is contiguous to each parcel of the applicant's development.
3. 9900sq feet will be the maximum lot size of the six lots.

It was so moved and was passed. - 11 ayes 5 nays 14 abstentions

Both resolutions are separate yet address parallel issues and the PRNC President expressed the desire that they can each contribute to an outcome that is positive for Point Richmond.

Both Resolutions will be sent to the Planning Commission by the PRNC.

Consent Calendar of the LU/DR Committee –

It was moved that 442 Golden Gate be removed from the consent calendar, seconded and passed.

The project at Terrace and Vine was continued.

442 Golden Gate Avenue discussion off of the Consent Calendar – The LU/DR feels that the project is ready to move forward. The next-door neighbor has asked that it be continued because there are concerns regarding property lines and the survey she has commissioned has not come in yet. Approval was withheld and it was moved that this item be continued until the March meeting. It was seconded and passed – 10 ayes 2 nays 4 abstentions

No new business, no old business

Public Forum: Pat Pearson announced that she and Mid Dornan will be presenting a short history of Point Richmond as part of the WCC Adult School “Fabulous Free Friday” series. The presentation will be at the Community Center at 1:00 pm this Friday.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47pm.

We invite you to join the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council and participate in our meetings when possible. Membership provides you our updates and newsletters. By signing this you agree to our statement of purpose, which is to serve the people of Pt. Richmond in a non-partisan, non-commercial manner and to work cooperatively with local, state and federal governments. To help residents determine important needs and problems of their neighborhood by providing a place where ideas and information can be exchanged, problems studied and actions planned. Our end goal is an overall spirit of neighborliness. We urge you to become a member! All are welcome at our meetings, but we do require you to be signed up as a member to participate in voting. **Dues are set at modest levels and cover our administrative expenses. \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a household. Those for whom dues are a concern - you may simply ask for a waiver by writing "waiver" on the application. New and Renewal Membership Application for May 1, 2008- April 30, 2009. New member? Join now and April 08 is free!** Bring application to a meeting or mail to: PRNC, P.O. BOX 70386, RICHMOND, CA 94801

Name _____

_____ Mailing Address

_____ Telephone E-Mail New or Renewal

_____ Signature Date

**RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD
COORDINATING COUNCIL
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