

# ON POINT

April 2010

The Point will be busy next month. May begins with the Junktique Sale on Saturday, then the Bring Back the Natives Garden Tour, the Annual Stroll and return of the Farmers' Market on Wednesday, May 12, and finally, the Point Richmond Garage Sale on Memorial Day. All of this will be accompanied by the sounds of weed wackers and gardeners hard at work.

We heard from our Drive-By Mailbox Committee at our last meeting. After some discussion about the pros and cons of a site across from the Great American Hamburger and Pie Co., at East Richmond and Garrard, it was agreed that the search should continue. The committee was expanded to four with the addition of Artrese Morrison, the president of PROWL, which is the neighborhood watch group closest to the proposed site on East Richmond.

Victor Morales says that the committee is suggesting two other sites for consideration and a vote of our membership.

The first location would be next to the Post Office. George Coles suggested this location at our last meeting. It makes sense, and meets several important criteria. It is downtown, it would not impede traffic through town, and it has the advantage of being right next to the Post Office. However, it will require making Cottage Avenue a one-way street going up the hill to Sante Fe.

The second location would be on the island at the bus turnaround on Tewksbury at Castro. This wouldn't be downtown, but would be less expensive to implement, and would be easy for drivers to use.

Before our next meeting, please try to drive by each of these locations and imagine using them. We want to discuss what you think before voting.

We will hear from City Council Member Ludmyrna Lopez and other city representatives about the City budget for 2010-2011 at this meeting. Revenues are down in Richmond, and we are being confronted with some unpleasant choices.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Peter Minkwitz, *President*

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**AGENDA**  
**POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday, April 28, 2010**  
**Point Richmond Community Center**

- 7:30 pm **Call to Order**
- 7:30 **Approval of Minutes from March 31, 2010**
- President's Report** Peter Minkwitz (510) 232-3663 5 minutes
- 7:35 **Police Report**  
Richmond PD Officer David Longacre (510) 621-1212 x 7105 or  
dlongacre@richmondpd.net 10 minutes
- 7:45 **Report on Membership** Sue Rosenof (510) 599-1197 2 minutes
- 7:47 **Treasurer's Report** Art Mowry (510) 215-0501 2 minutes
- 7:49 **Committee Reports and Announcements from non-profit groups**  
2 minutes each Up to 13 minutes  
Point Richmond Business Association, Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219  
Women's Westside Improvement Association, Margaret Morkowski  
Knit and Such, Altha Humphrey (510) 232-2934  
Arts of Point Richmond, Altha Humphrey (510) 234-3822  
Safety Committee, Tom Brichta (415) 686-1522
- 8:00 **City of Richmond Budget for 2010-2011**  
Presentation by City Council Member Ludmyrna Lopez and city representatives
- 8:40 **Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee** Rod Satre  
*Items to be considered at the Committee's May 26, 2010 meeting must be  
submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by May 13, 2010.  
Contact Rod at (510) 232-5059 or [rdsatre@live.com](mailto:rdsatre@live.com)*  
**No projects were presented**
- 8:40 **New Business**  
No new business
- 8:40 **Old Business**  
Report from the Drive-by Mailbox Committee and vote on location

**Public Forum:** Please sign up. As many as 5 speakers—2 minutes each  
*Issues brought to the attention of the Council in the Public Forum cannot result in  
Council action at this meeting. Instead, the issue should be presented to Council  
President Peter Minkwitz for consideration by the PRNC Board as an agenda  
item at a future meeting. Must be submitted by May 4, 2010 to Peter Minkwitz  
(510) 465-2527 (B), 510-232-3663 (H) or email: peter180@comcast.net or  
peter@sanfranciscomarinesurveyors.com*

**Adjourn**

## IMPORTANT DATES

- \*\*May 26**      **Next Regular meeting of the PRNC**  
**Wednesday 7:30 pm, Point Richmond Community Center,**  
**139 Washington Avenue**
- \*\*May 26**      **Next Regular meeting of the PRNC Land Use/Design Review**  
**Wednesday 6:00 pm, Offices of Interactive Resources, Park Place,**  
**Point Richmond. Contact Rod Satre, Chair**  
**(510) 232-5059 or [rdsatre@live.com](mailto:rdsatre@live.com)**
- \*\*May 13**      **Last day to submit proposed projects to the Land Use/Design**  
**Monday Review Committee**
- \*\*May 4**      **Next meeting of the PRNC Board of Directors**  
**Tuesday Call Peter Minkwitz for the time and place (510) 232-3663**
- \*\*May 7**      **Meet-with-the-Mayor**  
**Friday 5:30 – 6:30pm**  
**Whittlesey Room, 325 Civic Center Plaza**
- \*\*May 12**      **Next meeting of the Point Richmond Business Association**  
**Wednesday 12:00 noon, Banquet Room, Hotel Mac**
- \*\*May 23**      **Annual Meeting Point Richmond History Association**  
**Sunday Point Richmond Community Center (time to be announced)**
- \*\*May 2**      **Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour**  
**Sunday 10:00 – 5:00**
- \*\*May 12**      **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Point Richmond Stroll and the first Farmer's Market**  
**Wednesday 4:00 – 8:00**
- \*\*May 1**      **Annual Junktique Sale**  
**Saturday 9:00 – 3:00 First Methodist Church**
- \*\*May 31**      **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Masquer's Point Richmond Garage Sale**  
**Monday 8:00 – 4:00**
- \*\*May 1**      **YOUR PRNC DUES ARE DUE FOR THIS YEAR**  
**New and Renewed Membership runs from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011**

**Minutes**  
**POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**March 31, 2010**  
**Point Richmond Community Center**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by President, Peter Minkwitz (510) 232-3663

**Approval of Minutes from January 27 and February 24, 2010:** The minutes were not previously approved, as we cannot mention any City Council member by name. The minutes for both meeting were moved, seconded and approved.

**President's Report by Peter Minkwitz (510) 232-3663** Art Mowry brought voter registration forms. Altha Humphrey brought snacks. Contributions are appreciated. Two votes will be taken this evening: Up and Under hours and Post Office Box relocation.

**Police Report: Richmond PD Officer David Longacre: (510) 621-1212 x 7105 or [dlongacre@richmondpd.net](mailto:dlongacre@richmondpd.net)** Crime stats show 19 crimes, an increase from previous months, with auto theft still leading the stats. Two crimes of violence were reported. There have been more property crimes. Many burglaries are during the day. RVs have been reported and the laws re: their parking is: the vehicle needs to be moved every 72 hours. The offenders know these rules and move and return. Officer Longacre encourages steering wheel locks and alarm systems in the home as well. The thief will pass these obstacles up for an easier target. Frustration was expressed with the inability of receiving a police response. On line, access the Richmond Police Department, Southern District Beat Officer, call 911 or 233-1214 or group e-mail the officers as they can inform each other. Neighborhood watches are particularly effective as reported by members.

**Report on Membership** Sue Rosenof (510) 599-1197 There was 1 paid member and April is registration month. Applications are available at the meeting or at the Stroll May 12 at the PRNC booth.

**Treasurer's Report** Art Mowry (510) 215-0501 Bishop Alley Path Fund: \$711.06 (We are custodians of this money). Ferry Point Fund: \$1989.58 (Custodians). These funds are for the painting of the tunnel. Wig Wag Fund: \$2970.94 (Custodians). General Fund: \$4154.98. Expenditure: \$500 for the tree project. Total: \$9826.56.

**Committee Reports and Announcements from non-profit groups:**

**Point Richmond Business Association**, President, Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219 The Stroll will be Wednesday, May 12 from 4-8 pm and will coincide with the opening day of the Farmers' Market. Businesses will provide food and beverages. Crunchy Frog will entertain. The PRNC was thanked for the approval of landscaping funds. The next meeting will be a fundraiser "white elephant" sale and silent auction from 11:30-1:30 at the Methodist Church on April 5, 2010.

**Knit and Such**, Altha Humphrey (510) 232-2934 The meetings are the first Wednesday of each month from 1:45-3:45 pm. "Crafts, sit and talk, magazines and a nice 2 hours spent" await you at the next meeting, April 7.

**Arts of Point Richmond**, Altha Humphrey (510) 232-2934. This group is for artists, new artists and supporters. There is a speaker each meeting. The group is actively trying to exhibit work of poets, musicians, and painters. Refer to the sandwich boards in the Point. Next meeting: April 21 at Brasil Restaurant at 6 pm, 25 West.

**TRAC**, Bruce Beyaert No report.

**Point Richmond History Association**, No report.

**Safety Committee**, Tom Brichta (415) 686-1522. Residential break-ins are occurring between 9-3. LOCK YOUR HOME! Be vigilant. If you see people you don't recognize, call the police. "Be the squeaky wheel, our officers do respond and check things out". To prevent having your door kicked in -- put 3" to 6" screws into your dead bolt lock. You can buy alarms for your doors in travel magazines or travel oriented stores.

**Presentations by Point Richmond Medical Marijuana Dispensaries: John Clay, President, Pacific Alternative Health Center, 116-B Washington Avenue, Pt. Richmond** There are currently 7-10 Medical Marijuana dispensaries in Richmond. Mr. Clay is a licensed Clinical Social Worker with experience with the California Autism Association. The right to use medical marijuana was conferred by the State Constitution and voters voted on it. Oaksterdam, a college and an organization in Oakland, helps educate and distributes the product to the dispensaries. The City Attorneys Office imposed a "cease and desist" order against medical marijuana until regulations are developed. However, both groups who presented at the meeting continue to disperse their product. Doctors cannot legally "prescribe" marijuana but they can "recommend" it with a note for their patients.

Questions from the audience included: "Is there smoking inside the premises?" Yes, in John Clays establishment. No in Ms. Vasquez' business. "Do the two businesses pay taxes?" Yes, they pay taxes on the product, but currently have nowhere to pay the taxes due to the City's "cease and desist" order. "Is there any control for the venting of the smoke? Is it filtered? Do

you allow smoke to go to the neighbors?" Mr. Clay does not open the windows, and there is "not that much smoke". "What are your hours of operation?" Mr. Clay's hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., however, he does not possess a business license. For safety, there are 12 cameras "going all the time", with "no cash or product more than a grocery store". Fire extinguishers are present in both premises. The Fire Department and Building Inspector came and approved Ms. Vasquez' business. Mr. Clay states: "It's a worthwhile business with no burden to the community". There are 2 new members per day.

**Rebecca Vasquez, Holistic Healing Collective, 221 Tewksbury Avenue, Point Richmond.** Ms. Vasquez is the President of her organization. She was previously an attorney. Her business is non-profit and she sells herbs and herbal supplements as well as her medical product. She is an advocate for "safe alternative medicine". Her main goal is to provide safe access for her patients and to open a line of communication with the City as the "industry is clouded." She has a business license and a seller's permit. "Vendors bring the product in from the Bay Area and Mendocino. They are certified growers." There is a limit on the amount that can be sold to individuals: Ms. Vasquez- 1 ounce, Mr. Clay- ½ ounce. A question was raised: "If there is supposed to be a "cease and desist" order in place by the City until everyone figures it out, why are these two groups continuing to operate?" Ms. Vasquez stated that her Attorney says it is OK to operate. Regarding the age limitations, "You can't be under 18". There are currently over 300 patients in her collective who come from Richmond and Point Richmond.

***These presentations were merely informational in nature; if you have any questions, please contact the City Council.***

**Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee. Rod Satre** *Items to be considered at the Committee's April 28, 2010 meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by April 12, 2010. Contact Rod at 510-232-5059 or [rsatre@live.com](mailto:rsatre@live.com).*

**Report on Plunge Medallion Review:** The committee came up with the recommendation of adhering to the historical theme. The City has expanded the timeline and allows for possible location of photographs of the medallions for another month. There is an urgent request for any old pictures of the medallions. Recommendations of the committee included: 1) try to replicate the historical medallions, 2) if they are not available use a technique called "trompe l'oeil" (fool the eye) or 3) wait until further notice. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### **New Business:**

**Vote of the membership to support extended hours for the Up and Under Pub and Grill to 12:00 a.m. weeknights and 1:00 a.m. on weekends.** There was a vote of support to extend the hours. A planning meeting at City Planning was to take place the next night to request hours 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. which is an application "for what everybody else gets" as per Nathan Trivers, owner. He currently employs 23 Richmond residents and would be able to increase that number with the new hours. A suggestion was made to explain a "process" if there becomes a problem with the extended hours. Nathan was responsive to that request. Mr. Duncan, a resident near the Pub, also a member of the Planning Commission, spoke in rebuttal of the extended hours. He suggested that ABC set the hours of operation and they could not be adjusted for a year. Discussion ensued. The issue was brought to a vote to extend the hours originally requested. It was moved, seconded and approved. 25% of the group opposed extending the hours from 7-2a.m. and 75% supported it. Nathan would serve food until 1 a.m. and then start to close down if customers were still there.

**Vote of membership to support drive-by mailbox at East Richmond and Garrard.** Lengthy discussion followed re: the proposed location from the affected neighborhood. It was decided that more discussion was merited, and an expansion of the committee was established to include neighbors. A report from the expanded committee will be presented at the next meeting.

**April 11<sup>th</sup> marks first Red Oak Victory Breakfast of the season.** Please join George Combs after 9 a.m for breakfast/ \$6.

**Washington Elementary PTA** announced an April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Earth Day International Fair/Fundraiser, in the Washington School Multipurpose Room, 4/8, 6:30-8:30p.m. Each class will represent a country. Come and support our local school.

**Public Forum: Please sign up. As many as 5 speakers- 2 minutes each.** *Issues brought to the attention of the Council in the Public Forum cannot result in Council action at this meeting. Instead, the issue should be presented to Council President Peter Minkwitz for consideration by the PRNC Board as an agenda item at a future meeting, Must be submitted by April 12, 2010 to Peter Minkwitz (510) 465-2527 (B) 510-232-3663 (H) or to [peter@sanfranciscomarinesurveyors.com](mailto:peter@sanfranciscomarinesurveyors.com) or [peter180@comcast.net](mailto:peter180@comcast.net)*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Fender, Secretary (510) 260-0309

**Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.**