



ON POINT *October 2018*

September and October were pretty busy for the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council.

Since Halloween, October 31st, falls on the last Wednesday of the month, we are moving the General Meeting to Wednesday, the 24th!

First up, BNSF has responded to the nuisance lighting complaints by completing modifications to 80 of its lighting fixtures; including angling the lights toward the ground, reducing the intensity and installing shields and filters. BNSF's letter to Mayor Butt explains that this is part of a "good faith effort" to address neighbor's concerns while maintaining employee and federal safety standards. While Don Maddy, Executive Director of State Government Affairs for BNSF doesn't explicitly say so, I can't help but imagine that our own June Hight and Hilary Brown's efforts didn't contribute to the response by BNSF.

Also, did anyone notice that the SureStay Plus Hotel by Best Western has also responded by angling their security lights towards the ground? Much more pleasant. Who do we write to say thank you?

Sadly, the Magick Lantern will not be showing a film in October. According to this email from Kate Spaulding;

"We regret to cancel the October show and reschedule the Short Film Competition finalists for Friday, Nov 16th. You can purchase tickets for the Nov 16th date on their website."

Kate will be out of action due to breaking her replacement hip and will be having surgery shortly. She and her husband are looking for volunteers to help run the film nights.

<http://www.magicklantern.org/>

And remember, Saturday the 20th, will be the ninth annual Picnic in the Point, from 12:00 to 5:00, at Judge G. Carroll Park. Join us for food, drink, face painting, jumpy houses and family fun with live music by Felsen and Bicletas Por La Paz

Peter Thelin

President

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council

*The PRNC and LUDRC are advisory only capacity, and cannot approve or deny anything beyond "Recommendations for Development" to the City of Richmond. Our role is to mitigate conflict at the local level.



Point Richmond Neighborhood Council
 Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 7:30pm
 Point Richmond Community Center
PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com

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- 7:30 **Call to order and approval of minutes from the August 29, 2018 PRNC meeting** 2 minutes
- 7:32 **Police Report, Richmond Police Department, Officer Ben Mendler** 5 minutes
- 7:37 **President's Report, Peter Thelin** 2 minutes
- 7:39 **Treasurer's Report, Buzz Baylis** 2 minutes
- 7:41 **Membership Report, June Hight** 2 minutes
- 7:43 **Community Briefs (2 minutes each)** 8 minutes
- **Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding** MagickLantern.org, magick-lantern@att.net, (510) 232-2559
 - **Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council – Margaret Jordan** <http://richmondneighbors.org/>
 - **Arts of Point Richmond, www.artsofpointrichmond.com**
 - **Richmond Smart Lighting Coalition (510) 697-2742, <https://richmondsmartlight.wixsite.com/website>**
 - **PRCert, Edie Sellers and Shaun Partlow <https://www.prcert.org/>, <https://www.facebook.com/prcert>**
- 7:51 **Land Use/Design Review Committee** 15 minutes
- Deck Remodel, 470 Western Dr. , Terry and John Lizarraga**
- Items to be considered at the LUDRC meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, rdsatre@live.com, (510) 232-5059, at two weeks prior to the General Membership meeting. The LUDRC Committee meets monthly prior to the PRNC General Membership meeting at 6:00pm at the Point Richmond Community Center at 139 Washington Ave. Please plan to attend the LUDRC meeting and General Membership meeting at 7:30pm if your project is being considered.*
- 8:06 **Officer Landi, Cyberbullying**
- Dane Rogers, traffic/intersection planning/bike path for Garrard** 15 minutes
- 8:21 **East Bay Regional Park District Measure FF Information, Mona Palacios** 10 minutes
- 8:31 **Community Briefs (2 minutes each)**
- **Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani**
 - **Point Richmond Business Association, David Schoenthal- www.pointrichmondbusiness.com**
 - **TRAC, Richmond Bay Trail, Bruce Beyaert, www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail**
 - **USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett, (510) 234-1045**
 - **Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut, (510) 547-8111 www.rta-ca.org**
 - **Point Richmond History Association, Bonnie Jo Cullison, <http://pointrichmondhistory.org/>**
 - **Masquers Playhouse, Kathe Kiehn, www.masquers.org**
- 8:45 **Public Forum: Please sign up. As many as 5 speakers (2 minutes each).** 10 minutes
- Issues brought to the attention of the Council in the Public Forum cannot result in Council action at this meeting. Instead, submit issues to Peter Thelin at pthelin1@yahoo.com prior to the next PRNC Board Meeting.*
- 8:55 **In Remembrance and Celebration/Adjourn**



Point Richmond Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 29, 2018
PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com

- 1. Called to Order and Approval of Minutes:** Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. Minutes from the meeting on July 25, 2018 were corrected to reflect that the report for the Women's Westside Improvement Club was presented by Margaret Jordan rather than Linda Newton. It was then moved, seconded and approved that the Minutes be accepted with that correction. Board Members present: Peter Thelin, June Hight and Charmain Tyler. Susan Elwell was acting Secretary in Hilary Brown's absence.
- 2. Police Report:** Officer Ben Mendler (BMendler@RichmondPD.net) was not present; no police report.
- 3. President's Report, Peter Thelin:** The President's report was a brief greeting as the evening's agenda was so full.
- 4. Discussion for Magick Lantern Funding Request, Kate Spaulding MagickLantern.org, magick-lantern@att.net, (510) 232-2559:** The City of Richmond has approved the Magick Lantern's proposal for a manually operated Roman shade so that films can be shown during the months when it is too light until too late. \$1,575 of the required \$2,000 cost has been donated to the Magick Lantern, which is a 501(c)(3) entity for tax purposes. \$425 is being requested from the PRNC in order to fund the purchase. The installation of the shade will also enable other community groups to have audio-visual presentations during daylight hours. The shade can be installed within 6 weeks, and the cost of installation is included in the quote. In Buzz Bayliss' absence, June Hight reported that the current balance of the General Fund is \$4,252.41 and that \$300 in dues was received this past month. Discussion from members was favorable to this project, which is enjoyed by local folks. Peter called for a straw poll which was unanimously in favor of funding this request.
- 5. Land Use/Design Review Committee:** In the absence of a representative from the LUDRC, June Hight had notes from their meeting prior to the PRNC meeting. The LUDRC meeting did not have a quorum, so the item on its agenda was presented to the general PRNC meeting. Tim Manhart who runs Catahoula Coffee on San Pablo Avenue presented his proposal for a coffee shop/beer bar "social club" in the 1,100 square foot commercial space under The Point Apartments at the intersection of Cutting and Garard. He proposes to sell coffee in the morning, "quick serve" lunch in the afternoon and locally brewed beer in the evening. It will be called Ridgeback Brewing, and will serve local brewed beers as there will be no actual brewery. The patio will be dog friendly and smoke free. Concern was voiced that there will be no dedicated parking for this project and the corner is already extremely tricky because of bank parking, bus parking across the street, the school crossing at the end of the block and the poorly marked lanes. Suggested conditions from the LUDRC included refusal to serve double parked customers, restricting parking in front of the Plunge to 2 hours and requiring the Thai food truck on Cutting to move every half hour, although it would be impossible for a business to make or enforce these requirements. After group discussion it was moved and seconded that the PRNC advise the City that they accepted and welcomed the project to the Point with the caveat that serious consideration be given to the consideration of parking issues. The motion carried with one nay vote.
- 6. Presentation by Nicholas Traylor, Executive Director of Richmond Rent Control:** Mr. Traylor introduced Paige Russa, his deputy director. His presentation first focused on the main goals of the Richmond Rent Control Ordinance: to set the maximum allowable rent for covered units; to administer rent adjustment petitions which are adjudicated by a rental board judge; to ascertain that tenancies are only ended for one of 8 just causes; and to administer the relocation ordinance, which dictates the amount an owner must pay a tenant \$3,500 to \$9,000 if the owner wishes to move back into his property or up to \$16,800 if an owner wishes to get out of the rental business. Full rent control controls multi unit buildings built before 2/1/95, when Costa-Hawkins became law. Only the just cause portions of the law control multi-unit buildings built after 2/1/95, Section 8 rentals, single family homes and condos. Units are fully exempt if the owner shares a kitchen and/or bath with the tenant and, in some cases, a small second dwelling or in-law if the main house is owner occupied. Under Costa-Hawkins, owners are allowed to raise rent on their property when it becomes vacant, however this will no longer be the case if Prop 10 repeals Costa-Hawkins. The relocation provisions require landlords to pay \$180 per day to tenants if units are uninhabitable due to major renovations. An owner may rent his home for up to a year without paying the \$3,500 to \$9,000 relocation fee to move back into his home if a one year contract to that effect is signed before the tenant moves in. The Rent Control agency provides counseling and informal mediation, provides referrals to legal services for low income tenants, and provides monthly workshops for tenants. The Rent Control agency has paid back the \$1.5 million it initially borrowed from the City, and is now operating in the black, partially as a result of having only 2 employees for the first 6 months of its existence.
- 7. Richmond Smart Lighting Coalition about new Nuisance Lighting Ordinance, June Hight:** At the July meeting, Hilary Brown of the Richmond Smart Lighting Coalition made a presentation on the "permanent dawn" caused by the

extremely bright blue LED lights pointing straight up into the sky which BNSF has installed and how harmful they are to Richmond residents. The City has now sent notices, with penalties if they do not comply, to BNSF and other offending businesses under the Nuisance Lighting Ordinance, ordering them to adjust the lights so that they will not blind drivers and cause harmful effect to residents. BNSF is claiming that it is not bound by Richmond laws. The RSLC has made appearances at other neighborhood committees to seek their support in this matter. June requested that the PRNC send a letter to the City requesting that they continue to vigorously pursue BNSF to remedy this egregious situation. June will write the letter and Peter will sign it on behalf of the PRNC and send it to the City.

8. **Bruce Beyaert - TRAC, Ryan Shafer - NCE, Ryan McClain - Fehr & Peers; Input on Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes through Point Richmond Accessing Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Bay Trail:** The RSR Bridge bike and pedestrian is scheduled to be open by March 2019. Ryan Shafer, NCE and Ryan McClain, Fehr and Peers, are looking for routes to provide a safe path through Point Richmond to connect bikers to the bridge from the ferry, Richmond Parkway, the greenway and BART, as well as from the bridge through Pt. Richmond to the Plunge, which is the hub of the Bay Trail. They have a quick turnaround to gather input and a budget of \$500,000 to implement the City of Richmond project. Although most experienced bikers will take the route that is most expedient and most flat, they are trying to provide a safe and protected bikeway for inexperienced bikers or those unfamiliar with the Point. Four routes are contemplated: All routes begin on West Richmond, at the Plunge. Route A will proceed either down Park Place, which has access to the business district but busy traffic, to Cottage Avenue, which is hilly and narrow, then on to Tewksbury. An alternative on Route A would be to use Delfino, which is quieter but has multiple turns. The Delfino route does avoid Tewksbury. Route B would go down Washington Ave. through the business district to Tewksbury with its higher vehicle speeds and buses. Route C is a direct route down Railroad which also has high vehicle speeds and perpendicular parking which will be dangerous for bicyclists and for drivers who cannot see the cyclists when they back out. Route D would proceed down West Richmond to Santa Fe which is a quieter street but is hilly and has a blind hill and dangerous intersection with Cottage. Route D would require removal of 7 parking spaces on Tewksbury. PRNC members opined that if the bicycle lanes slow down traffic that would be a good thing. They were interested in knowing how many cyclists we are talking about, but that is not known. Hopefully the bike path and bridge access will encourage more bicyclists and pedestrians. One proposal is a 4 way stop sign at Santa Fe and Tewksbury for cyclists safety. Car drivers should also be given plenty of easily seen signage so they will look for bikes. Concerns were expressed that in the morning when the neighborhood is inundated with cars directed through by their apps, bike lanes will further snarl the already impossible traffic. Comment cards were given out so that members could express their opinions about routes A, B, C and D before August 31st.
9. **Open Forum**
 - **Monroe Benschop:** Mr. Benschop who lives on Washington is concerned about the trees which are never trimmed and are in bad condition, not just on Washington but all over the City. Many of them cause blocked visibility for drivers. He has complained to the City with no result, although he says that one tree was removed and he is not sure what criteria were used to choose that particular tree. It was noted by a member that PG&E trims if trees touch power lines. The City Parks Department is responsible for tree trimming.
 - **Cordell Hindler:** Jovanka Beckles will be the lunchtime speaker at the PRBA lunch meeting at the Hotel Mac tomorrow. The RNCC meeting will be held on September 17 in the City Council Chambers. The Awards banquet will be held on the 20th, and nominations, if any, should be turned in quickly. Cordell suggested the head of the Contra Costa College Foundation Board as a speaker for the PRNC and Peter said he would follow up.
 - **Philip Rosenthal:** Asked to which City Agency he could go to for relief for an unpermitted studio apartment with a loft which his neighbor built on Nicol. The project was red-tagged twice during construction, but both times after a pause, construction resumed and now it is occupied. The permit was originally only to remove and replace the siding, but now when Mr. Rosenthal contacts the City to find out how this happened, he is told that it was fully permitted and he is passed off to another department. He wants to find out how he can get to the bottom of this and stop being passed from one department to another with no department accepting responsibility. Other issues include no parking provided for the unit and the fact that it is in the Historic District.
 - **Dave Schoenthal:** There will be a candidate forum tomorrow evening at Hilltop, and another, sponsored by the PRNC, on September 17 from 6 to 8 at East Brother. Also, don't forget the Picnic in the Point on October 20, 12-5 at Judge Carroll Park, which is a fundraiser for local groups. The PRBA will sponsor a lunchtime talk by Jovanka Beckles tomorrow at the Hotel Mac. You can order lunch online. Also, you can come listen to the talk without buying lunch.
10. **In Remembrance and Celebration:** Dave Schoenthal honored the memory of Senator John McCain and of Aretha Franklin, both of whom are huge losses to everyone everywhere. Ending on a happy note, Dave announced the birth of his cousin's baby boy, Theodore. Welcome, Theodore!
11. **Meeting adjourned** at 9:25 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Elwell, Acting Secretary; "vselwell9@icloud.com" (510) 234-1783



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND PAY YOUR DUES! The dues help cover our administrative expenses and are minimal: \$20 for individuals and \$25 for a household. If this is a financial hardship, a waiver is gladly granted. Lifetime memberships are available for \$500. Bring dues to next meeting or mail check and application to:
PRNC; P.O. Box 70386; Point Richmond, CA 94807.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Household |

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
Telephone _____ e-mail _____
Date _____



***Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting:
Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 7:30 p.m.
Point Richmond Community Center***

POINT RICHMOND
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
P.O. Box 70386
Pt. Richmond, CA 94807