



Get to the Point!

Your Point Richmond Neighborhood Update

Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 28th at 7:30 pm
Membership sign-ups and voting card distribution will begin at 7:00pm
Point Richmond Community Center, 139 Washington Avenue

Welcome to our May newsletter, which contains the minutes from our March and April meetings and our May meeting agenda. We will be sending out a draft of proposed new by-laws in the next few weeks and we will be voting on those at our June 25th meeting. We apologize for the agenda and minutes not being sent out prior to the April meeting – but the April minutes will catch you up on what is happening. Additionally we put off voting on the March minutes until May because of the delay. The PRNC was in the midst of changing some systems and timelines and we hit some glitches. Now for some great news.

Our 2007-08 star is Membership Chair and Second Vice-president Chris Spencer. He debuted our new website, www.pointrichmond.org, with an online, live projector presentation at the April meeting. This was a major undertaking by Chris and is a valuable resource for our community. And if Chris wasn't busy enough - he spearheaded an amazing growth in our membership. Our 2007-08 membership reached 263 members! This breaks our record high in 2003-04 of 193 members. In 2006-07 we were at 60 members plus 38 new member sign-ups at the library meeting for a total of 98 members. This is almost 300% growth. As we enter our renewal season we are at 150 renewals versus 28 renewals at this same time last year. Chris has done an amazing job – you can congratulate him at prncvp2@pointrichmond.org.

Our May meeting will be very exciting with a **Candidates for District 14 of the California State Assembly Panel**. **Tony Thurmond, Kriss Worthington, Nancy Skinner and Phil Polakoff** have all graciously agreed to come and speak with us and answer our questions. All of us know Tony Thurmond as our Richmond City Councilmember, but I can assure you that you need to hear from Kriss, Nancy and Phil as well. They all have information and viewpoints that you will find valuable in making your decision. We are fortunate to have such great candidates running for this important office.

Many of you have expressed a desire to know more about the purchase and renovation of the St. James Hotel by the **Neighborhood House of North Richmond (NHNR)**. **Barbara Becnel** is the Executive Director of NHNR and has been asking to come speak to us since early this year. We thank her for her patience and are happy to welcome her to our May meeting. I think you will all be pleased to find out their plans and their commitment to our community. So come with open minds, hearts and all your questions.

PLEASE JOIN SO THAT WE CAN CONTACT YOU! Information to join is on the last page of this newsletter. Current members, please make sure your information is updated; ask your neighbors to make sure they are PRNC members. Your information is kept completely confidential. If emergencies occur we send emails and post the information on the Community Center doors.

IMPORTANT DATES

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| June 4: | Last day to submit projects to the Design Review and Land Use Committee for their June 25, 2008 meeting.
Projects submitted after June 4th 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. | |
| June 4: | Last day to suggest topics for the June 25, 2008 Council meeting.
Submit suggestions to Robin Carpenter at balsora@aol.com or call 510-232-8175. | |
| June 25: | June Meeting of the Design Review and Land Use Committee
Interactive Resources, 117 Park Place, Point Richmond | 6:00pm |
| June 25: | June 2008 Meeting of the Neighborhood Council | 7:30 pm |



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

PRNC AGENDA
Wednesday, May 28, 2008 7:00 pm
Point Richmond Community Center, 139 Washington Avenue

7:00 **Note that Chris Spencer and Robin Carpenter will be in the Community Center at 7:00pm to handle membership renewals, new memberships applications and to distribute voting cards so that members may vote on any actionable items**

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| 7:30 | Call to Order | <i>1 minute</i> |
| 7:31 | Agenda Review and approval of the minutes from the March & April meetings-
Robin Carpenter | <i>2 minutes</i> |
| 7:33 | Membership report - Chris Spencer *New email prncvp2@pointrichmond.org | <i>2 minutes</i> |
| 7:35 | Treasurer's report – Margaret Morkowski | <i>2 minutes</i> |
| 7:37 | Police Department Report: Officer Silva 233-1214 or www.jsilva@richmondcpd.net | <i>5/5 minutes</i> |
| 7:47 | Barbara Becnel, Executive Director of the Neighborhood House of North Richmond
Introducing NHNR to us and to discuss their purchase and renovation of the St. James Hotel
(which will remain a hotel) here in Pt. Richmond | <i>5/10 minutes</i> |
| 8:02 | Candidates for District 14 of the California State Assembly panel
Tony Thurmond, Kriss Worthington, Nancy Skinner, Phil Polakoff | <i>20/20 minutes</i> |
| 8:42 | Fire Department Report - Shift Captain for the Point on Duty | <i>2/2 minutes</i> |
| 8:46 | Our representatives to the RCPC (Richmond Crime Prevention Commission)
Tom Brichta 415-686-1522 and Steve Spencer 510- 233-3050 | <i>2 minutes</i> |
| 8:48 | Representative to REACT and Richmond Emergency Services Report – Pat Pearson | <i>2 minutes</i> |
| 8:50 | Updates from other Neighborhood, City and PRNC Committees 1 minute each | <i>6 minutes</i> |
| | Community Center Report | |
| | The Plunge – Margaret Morkowski | |
| | Arts Guild and Knit and Such - Altha Humphrey | |
| | Point Richmond History Association (PRHA) – Mid Dornan | |
| | Women's Westside Improvement Club (WWIC) – Margaret Morkowski 234-4219 | |
| | Point Richmond Business Association (PRBA) – Marsha Tomassi 215-6133 | |
| 8:56 | Summary of Land Use & Design Review Committee recommendations – | <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.

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| 9:06 | Old Business: | <i>2 minutes</i> |
| 9:08 | New Business | <i>2 minutes</i> |
| 9:10 | 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 or questions answered during the speakers 2 minutes. If you have an action item, please contact a board member prior to June 4th to have it considered for the agenda of the Council's June 25th meeting.

9:26 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@pointrichmond.org

PRNC Minutes from Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Robin Carpenter, PRNC President, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. She apologized for the agenda and minutes not being sent out before the meeting and let everyone know that there were copies of the both in their chairs. The PRNC is in the midst of changing some systems and timelines and hit some glitches. Due to the lack of notice to everyone the meeting will be a little different than planned. The minutes for March could take any additions or changes that were apparent right then, but they would not be voted upon for finalization until the May meeting so that the membership at large would have the opportunity to review the minutes. A motion was made that approval of the minutes would be delayed until the May 28th meeting. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting, President's report – The president said that according to the current by-laws the annual meeting shall be held every April and the main order of business is the election of officers, reports of activities of the past year and to transact such other business as may properly come before it. Currently a quorum for the annual meeting shall consist of 10% of the membership. There are no elections for 2008 because we currently have two year terms in place all elect able in the same year, they might be a special election this year if we change the bylaws to stagger elections. Because the draft of the proposed new by-laws were only handed out to the board and membership at the meeting tonight we will not discuss or vote on them without two weeks notice to all parties. We will try to have that happen for a vote at the May meeting. So the focus of this annual meeting would be the reports of activities of the past year – this is why Chris Spencer is our star tonight. He will be debuting our new website, www.pointrichmond.org with an online, live projector presentation. And more importantly is that fact that Chris has spearheaded an amazing growth in our membership. Our 2007-08 membership reached 263 members this breaks our record high in 2003-04 of 193 members. In 2006-07 we were at 60 members plus 38 new member sign-ups at the library meeting for a total of 98 members. This is almost 300% growth. As we enter our renewal season we are at 150 renewals versus 28 renewals at this same time last year. Chris has done an amazing job.

Membership report - Chris Spencer Membership Chair and Second Vice-president, Chris Spencer, reiterated the numbers regarding membership from the Presidents' report and reminded everyone that it was renewal time and that you would also be able to renew or join by going online as well as by mail. Chris pointed out that the address to mail your application to was P.O. Box 70386, Richmond, CA 94807 – some of our applications were going to the return address on our mailers. This is the wrong address – it is the address of the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council who allows us to use their bulk-mailing permit. We will be changing our format on the newsletter to help prevent this. Chris asked that members sign up to help us man our table at the PRBA Stroll on 5/15 and sent around a sign-up sheet. There will be a board member at the table at all times and we would like volunteers to do some 30 minute shifts with us.

Treasurer's report – Margaret Morkowski The treasury balance is at \$6,700.

Community Updates: We received updates from other Neighborhood, City and PRNC Committees including The Plunge – Margaret Morkowski, Arts Guild and Knit and Such - Altha Humphrey, Point Richmond History Association (PRHA), Women's Westside Improvement Club (WWIC) and the Point Richmond Business Association by – Margaret Morkowski 234-4219

RCPC – Tom Brichta: Our representatives to the RCPC (Richmond Crime Prevention Commission) are Tom Brichta 415-686-1522 and Steve Spencer 510- 233-3050. Tom presented a handout on identity theft protections and shared what he had learned at a workshop he had attended on behalf of the PRNC. One valuable piece of information he learned was that the hotel key cards that you swipe to open your room door are encoded with your credit card information and everything else that the hotel has on file for you. These cards hold data for up to 10 most recent guests and are valuable to identity thieves, so don't return them to the desk take them home and shred them or cut them up. He also talked about the practice of "phishing" where you get emails from someone pretending to be your bank, your credit card company, a store, a gov't agency or paypal. Do NOT respond to these emails – call you bank, Credit Card

Company, etc... to verify they need something from you. We will post Tom's Top 10 Tips for Identity Theft Protection on our new website.

New PRNC Website Presentation

Chris Spencer (aided by Andy Olmsted as tech support and projectionist) presented our new PRNC website to the community (please note that Chris has a new email address at prncvp2@pointrichmond.org). The website at www.pointrichmond.org includes database management (all information from PRNC members is strictly confidential and never shared), a wonderful new system for doing our newsletters and a way for members to use Paypal (even if you aren't a Paypal member!) to pay for their memberships. The newsletter feature is particularly valuable because the current yahoo system we have used could take Chris up to 4 hours to send out newsletters or important community updates because he had to do them in small batches at a time. The new system is almost instantaneous. The PRNC took bids from 3 Richmond firms and went with Alexis Masters who lives in Richmond and whose son Eric lives here in the Point. The cost for the website, logo design, artwork, features, purchase of the domain, set-up, etc... was around \$2,500. Our annual maintenance will be around \$150 per year. Chris went live on-line to the website which was projected in large view to the room and then navigated the features of the site. The site is very user friendly and a work in progress – so any content that you would like to see can be recommended to the PRNC. Community calendar information can be sent to Chris at prncvp2@pointrichmond.org. Special thanks was given to David Moore at www.pointrichmond.com for posting our PRNC info for us the past several years and for assisting and supporting us in have a dedicated PRNC website.

New PRNC proposed by-laws: President Robin Carpenter reminded the meeting that because we had only just received the by-laws that the vote and in-depth discussion would be postponed until the May meeting.

Margaret Morkowski presented the proposed new by-laws to the meeting.

Police Department Report: Officer Silva was called out on a suicide attempt and his father, Captain Silva took questions from the floor. Reported huge increase in thefts for copper wire and other metals. Simms metals works with Richmond PD, but there are other places these thieves can take the metal to sell. He also said there had been an increase in car break-ins and urged us to not leave anything at all, not even spare change out in your car. A quick window break-in for a tray full of quarters or a shopping bag is highly likely in some areas – do not tempt fate. Officer Silva returned and continued to update us. Officer Silva 233-1214 or www.jsilva@richmondpd.net

Summary of Land Use & Design Review Committee – No actionable items were presented by the LUDR.

Public Forum

Enricka Garcia – Spoke regarding 443 Golden Gate and presented a petition for the PRNC membership. The PRNC had voted at the last meeting to ask that Historical guidelines be respected in regards to this construction and somehow the applicant was not accurately conveying that. After her public forum comments, the PRNC board advised her that we are happy to send a letter with the motion and the context of the discussion to the appropriate parties.

Virginia Fuller who is a Republican running for the State Assembly introduced herself and asked for our support and told us that as a nurse she was dedicated to making sure that health issues and health care were a top priority. She also expressed dismay at the corruption and lack of accountability in the government and wants to see this seriously addressed.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm

PRNC Minutes from Wednesday, March 26, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm by President Robin Carpenter.

Agenda Review and approval of the minutes from the February meeting – announcements from the Executive Board by the President – Change in minutes by Altha Humphrey.

Membership report - Chris Spencer 248 members as of today increase of over 97 from last year www.pointrichmond.org next month

Treasurer's report – Margaret Morkowski 6870.07 balance of general fund

Janet Heckman- Washington School This Saturday a 9:00 to 2:00 gardening program looking for volunteers Saturday and Sunday, lunch provided

Patricia V. Jones with CESP Citizens for East Shore Parks passed out brochures and an agenda of upcoming events, AA Extension on vote on Richmond Meeting on April 9th for EBRPD

Point Richmond History Association (PRHA) – Mid Dornan May 18th 2:00 for Point Richmond History Association has a meeting at the Community Center.

Representative to REACT and Richmond Emergency Services Report – Pat Pearson The Disaster Drill in North Richmond run by RED Cross, coordinated via churches. The drill was for practical use in drills for disaster. The drill

was very complete and thorough. This included animal rescue programs with rescue cages and proper cross-referenced ID's between the pets and people. Pat thinks this could be organized via Neighborhood Watch, also the PRNBA should be organized around this and is working on a Business Watch. Check the PointRichmond.Com web site for REACT training 234-2532

Updates from other Neighborhood, City and PRNC Committees The Plunge – Margaret Morkowski bids two to three bids, received mid March project completion 18 to 24 months the Valley Foundation provided a \$500K donation for Plunge. Arts Guild and Knit and Such - Altha Humphrey The Arts of Point Richmond; Altha Humphrey next Meeting April 9th Meets April 17th, last meeting over 20 attendees but the community center was closed after it was scheduled to be available call Pam Dewitt of Dewitt Gallery for more information.

Women's Westside Improvement Club (WWIC) – Margaret Morkowski 234-4219 Annual meeting April 1, 2007 Point Richmond Business Association (PRBA) – Marsha Tomassi 215-6133 STROLL May 15th 5:30 to 8:00PM

Police Department Report: Officer Silva 233-1214 or www.jsilva@richmondpd.net Focusing on the recent mail thefts they have been apprehended (two individuals) Thank you RPD!!! (Two white Males driving Burgandy Jeep). The alleyway by Annie's Café and the other building to the north. Fingerprints were found on a truck burglarized in Brickyard, Department of Justice does this checking. In the Point and feedback on shooting at The Spot, lingerie shows etc, if people witness and call in, the place can be investigated. Lurking/Loitering is a crime: standing in one spot or sitting, but doing nothing in general is a crime.

Kelly Baraka kellybaraka@yahoo.com - Long Wharf Lights Report on working with Chevron regarding the lights from the Long Wharf disturbing residents please send her an email if there are problems with lights bothering you at night.

Code Enforcement – Lorena Burciaga, CEO for Point Richmond 621-1277 – Point Richmond and Santa Fe area starting with code enforcement on Tewksbury, graffiti, overgrown, blight, vacant lots and properties. Tags on Blight violation, recycling bins are not to be out after 72 hours during pick up. www.ci.richmond.ca.us under Public Safety to report a violation Code Enforcement is working as a team with other Public Agencies. Call Lorena if there are problems including Cal Trans

RAP: Responsible Antenna Placement - Robin Carpenter- The city-wide emergency moratorium on any new cell towers or antenna is extended until the new ordinance is finished and approved by the City Council. This will be a model ordinance for other cities to look to for guidance. The new ordinance is modeled off other like placed communities [Cynthia] Sage Associates, an Environmental Consulting firm, concerned with the EMF issues in the country has consulted for free with the City at RAP's invitation. We will be allowed to use the language on City of Richmond guidelines. City and T-Mobile are working with RAP for the removal of the Water Street Antenna, building owners of 260 Water Street not favorable to removal. If there is no settlement, then a revocation hearing has been authorized by the City Council and will move forward.

Summary of Land Use & Design Review Committee recommendations –

442 Golden Gate Avenue – McCabe carried over from last meeting Enricka Garcia asking for the building to be more sensitive to historic codes and the issues of the Historic District. Asking for support in protesting this project based on failure to meet the Code in keeping with the historic district. The street is within the historic district and has certain considerations – Margaret Morkowski. Jesse West asked that we please stop building ugly buildings and that the district and the overlay in an Historic District are important. We need take a strong stand., Richard Lompa expressed that it's dangerous to tell someone what they can do with their property and people should have the freedom of expression of what they find attractive.

MOTION: Since the location of the property is within the Point Richmond Historic district, which is on the National List of Historic Sites, the design of the project needs to be within the historic context not only in size and scale of the immediate neighborhood, but also within the Historic context of the district and neighboring Houses. 27 ayes, 1 naye, 1 abstention. Plus voted to approve the previous request to lower the home, as designed five feet lower.

We invite you to join the PRNC and participate in our meetings when possible. Membership provides updates, newsletters and voting privileges. All are welcome at our meetings, but we do require you to be signed up as a member to participate in voting. Contact Chris Spencer, Membership Chair, prncvp2@pointrichmond.org for additional information. **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. You may also sign-up online at www.pointrichmond.org!**

New and Renewal Membership Application

May 1, 2008- April 30, 2009

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. We provide a place where ideas and information can be exchanged, problems studied and actions planned. Our end goal is an overall spirit of neighborliness. Your information is **never** shared and is strictly for PRNC contact!

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Phones _____

Newsletters via Email, Surface Mail or both? _____

Household/Individual _____

Signature & Date _____

Bring application to a meeting or mail to:

PRNC - P.O. BOX 70386

RICHMOND, CA 94807

***Please use the above address. Do not mail to the return address on this newsletter, it is for the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, which hosts our bulk mailings for us.**