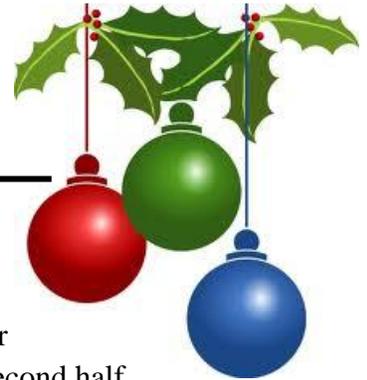




ON POINT

December 2011



Fellow Members,

The holiday season is always busy. Fortunately, we can take a little breather with PRNC topics. The PRNC will host a holiday get-together during the second half of the meeting. We hope this gathering will allow us to come together and just enjoy each other's company.

As discussed in the November PRNC general meeting, the PRNC board wrote a letter to CalTrans expressing the community's concern for the project proposal to repair the 580 East on ramp. The proposal will route traffic from Point Molate for an eleven mile round trip across the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge. The construction will last for approximately 2 years. For your convenience, the letter is attached to this newsletter (see page 3).

Happy Holidays and I hope we see you at the December Meeting.

Megan Bleckinger, *1st Vice President*
POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



IMPORTANT DATES

- ** Dec. 28** **Next Regular meeting of the PRNC**
- Wednesday** **7:30 pm, Point Richmond Community Center**

- **January 4th** **Last day to submit proposed projects to the**
- Wednesday** **Land Use/Design Review Committee**

- **January 5th** **Next meeting of the PRNC Board of Directors**
- Wednesday** **Call Megan Bleckinger for the time and place**

- **2nd Wednesday** **Next meeting of the Point Richmond Business Assoc.**
- 12:00 noon** **The Baltic Restaurant**

- Richmond City Council – meetings start at 6:30 pm**
- **January 10** **regularly scheduled meeting (no meeting Jan 3)**
- **January 17** **special meeting devoted to General Plan**
- **January 24** **meeting**



AGENDA



POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Wednesday, December 28th, 2011

Point Richmond Community Center

- 7:30 pm **Call to Order**
- 7:30 **Approval of Minutes from November 30, 2011**
- President's Report** by Sue Rosenof, 2nd V.P. 5 minutes
- 7:35 **Police Report** Officer Joe Anderson
(510) 621-1212 Ext.7145 janderson@richmondpd.net 10 minutes
- 7:45 **Report on Membership** Sue Rosenof (510) 599-1197 2 minutes
- 7:47 **Treasurer's Report** Louise Fender (510) 260-0309 2 minutes
- 7:50 **Committee Reports and Announcements from non-profit groups**
2 minutes each Up to 20 minutes
- Point Richmond Business Association, Margi Cellucci
Women's Westside Improvement Club, Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219
Knit and Such, Altha Humphrey (510) 232-2934
Arts of Point Richmond, Altha Humphrey
Red Oak Victory, George Coles
PRNC Safety Committee, Tom Brichta 510-620-6538
Friends of Richmond Tennis Committee, Gary Hurlbut glh@tia.org
Point Richmond History Association, Mid Dornan 510-234-5334
- 8:10 **Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee** Rod Satre
Items to be considered at the Committee's January 25th meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by January 6th.
Contact Rod at (510) 232-5059 or rdsatre@live.com
- 8:15 **Introduction to Flower Song**, Jan Cercone, Owner
- 8:25 **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 for consideration by the January 6, 2012 to Megan Bleckinger (510) 242-2288 or <http://www.pointrichmond.org/contact.cfm>
- Holiday Social and Refreshments
- Adjourn**

Mr. Bijan Sartipi, Director
Caltrans District 4
P.O. Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623

Mr. Sartipi,

On behalf of the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council (PRNC), I would like to express my concern about the proposed Western Drive and Schofield Avenue project (I-580 East bound on-ramp closure) for two reasons.

First, Caltrans did not consult nor solicit the community at large for comments when drafting the project prior to send out the proposal for bid. It is important for the whole community to discuss the hardship they might endure from a project of this complexity. For example, the San Pablo Yacht Harbor residents and their guests will be inconvenienced with an eleven mile round trip across the San Rafael-Richmond Bridge. I recognize that you spoke to the owner of the facility but he does not represent the residents. I recommend that Caltrans consult the entire community, and the PRNC welcomes you at one of our general meetings to give you the venue to do so.

Second, the current proposal to route traffic over the San Rafael-Richmond Bridge is undesirable due to the negative financial and environmental implications. Unfortunately, the financial burden will be placed on the shoulders of the residents of the San Pablo Yacht Harbor during their daily work commute. According to NHTSA, the corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) in 2011 is 33.8 miles per gallon. Therefore, the detour will cost \$1.25/trip (assuming \$3.86/gallon of regular gasoline) or approximately \$630 for the duration of the 2 year project. Not to mention the additional emissions from the travel across the bridge.

I want to encourage you to consider alternatives to the bridge detour or minimize the duration of the detour. Here are some things to consider:

- Is the on ramp wide enough to accommodate a car and construction work at the same time?
- How can the schedule be optimized to reduce the down time of the on ramp?
- Can construction happen only in the evening with the on-ramp open during peak commuting hours?

Please contact me if Caltrans wishes to attend and solicit community feedback during a PRNC meeting.

Best Regards,
Megan Bleckinger
Point Richmond Neighborhood Council, Acting President
510-242-2288
mlr2001us@yahoo.com

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council

General Meeting

Wednesday, November 28, 2011

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

2. Minutes of 11/30/2011 were approved

3. President's Report (Megan Bleckinger, 1st VP, 832-493-1416)

- Neighborhood council will draft a letter to Cal Trans for 580 East onramp re:potential closure for construction from Point San Pablo (Point Molate). We'd like Cal Trans to solicit approval from the community before making plans, and to consider fiscally responsible options.
- Wig Wags – new abutment will be paid for by EBMUD

4. Police Report (Officer Joe Anderson, 510-621-1212 Ext 7145; janderson@richmondpd.net)

- Dave Longacre will be the new officer on night shift.
- With rainy weather, auto thefts typically pick up.
- Nights have been quiet this month in the Point. Had one drunk and disoriented person who had to be picked up.
- Walkway next to El Sol – there has been a homeless person hanging around. Joe suggested that we can call the police; the owner of the building has noted that the person is not welcome there.

5. Report on Membership (Sue Rosenof, 599-1197) 455 members. 138 have paid.

6. Treasurer's Report (Louise Fender, 510-260-0309)

\$ Balance Forward: \$5972.81; Expenses: \$0; Dues Collected: \$95; Bishop Alley Fund: \$711.06; Ferry Point Fund: \$1989.58; Wig Wag Fund: \$2970.94; General Fund: \$6067.31 **Total Balance: \$11,739.39.**

7. Committee Reports and Announcements from Non-Profits

Point Richmond Business Association, Margi Cellucci

Women's Westside Improvement Club, Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219

- December 6th (Tuesday) Party 11:30 in hall at Methodist Church. No meeting in January.
- Washington school having their Centennial 2012-2013. Have an opportunity to spotlight former students

Knit and Such, Altha Humphrey (510) 232-2934

- No meeting in December. Jan 4th 12:30 – 2:30 pm in community center.

Arts of Point Richmond, Altha Humphrey

- No meeting in December. Will have Christmas Fest Dec 10, 11 am – 5 pm in the community center. Christmas Cards and other.

Red Oak Victory, George Coles

- Veteran's day event was a great success and a great failure. Around 500 people. Food for 200. Gangway couldn't accommodate two-way traffic. Test of high volume.
- Battleship Iowa – have had requests to get on board. Ship is being prepared to become a museum. One of the last battleships made in the USA

Point Richmond History Association, Mid Dornan 510-234-5334

- Latest edition of Point Richmond history pamphlet is available at two corner markets. History Association is an all-volunteer group. They are adding plaques to various places around the Point to inform on history. Latest plaque going on the building that has Little China and nail salon.

8. Report from Land Use/Design Review Board

- No new items

9. Introduction to Norcal Gourmet (G. Ronald & Lorraine Thomson, Owners)

This Point Richmond business is located at 200 South Garrard, but they do not sell out of that location. They've been in the Point since March 2011. You can buy their artisan chocolates under the brand Truffili Di Pelligrini online at www.truffili.com. They import artisan chocolate from Switzerland and retail online and in 40 stores including Andronico's. Samples were given out at the meeting. (See what you missed if you were not at the meeting?)

10. Introduction to new Chevron Refinery Manager (Nigel Hearne)

From Wales in the UK. Brought up in an area where the refinery was the largest employer. Worked there for 15 years. Then moved to the El Segundo refinery in LA. From there he moved to San Ramon. Feels that the refinery's responsibility is not to be seen, smelled, or heard. Nigel's phone number is (510) 242-4400 and he can be contacted with questions. A question came in about driving through the refinery while the Point San Pablo roadwork is going on – Nigel explained that Coast Guard security rules would not allow the public to drive through the refinery unescorted, but they are welcome to come on a guided tour. He will work to see if there is a way that Chevron can help with the inconvenience.

11. Neighborhood Watch, Michelle Milam, Crime Prevention Coordinator for city of Richmond

Neighborhood watch is about watching the neighborhood for unusual activity, being aware, and calling the police. Neighborhood watch in Richmond is growing. There are now 104 groups throughout the city. One of the largest is in the Point with about 50 households. There are two in Brickyard Cove that are coming online now. Have been able to hold property crime down with the neighborhood watches. With the poor economy, there are people looking to make a quick buck.

Michelle can be contacted at: mmilam@richmondpd.net (510) 620-6538 to get help setting up a neighborhood watch group. What you need to do is be interested and get at least 5 households in your neighborhood involved to start a neighborhood watch. Online you can go to www.richmondpd.net – to pull up crime stats with locations.

Be on the lookout for “doorbell dash.” Some people in Richmond are ringing the doorbell to determine if anyone is home, then breaking in if no one is there. If someone comes to your door that you don't know, use your peep hole, and just tell them through the door if you're not interested. They will often pose as salespeople if someone comes to the door.

12. Public Forum

- Linda Newton -planting at the rose garden and under the trees 10 am – 3 pm December 3rd.
- Jean Womack–There's a beautiful overlook on Crest with a lot of traffic. Looking to get the street going up to the top repaved because it is crumbling away.
- Saturday the 17th 10 am – 3 pm, the Methodist Church is having a bake sale.
- Richmond Art Center hosting their annual sale Friday and Saturday.
- Next city council meeting next Tuesday, Veolia's contract renewal will be considered.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Submitted by David Bleckinger,

Who has no title in the PRNC but his wife drags him into everything. (Thanks Dave!)

PLEASE SUPPORT THE PRNC.

The dues help cover our administrative expenses and are minimal. Rates are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for a household. New and renewed membership covers the period May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012. Lifetime memberships are available for \$500. If the amount of the dues is a financial hardship, a waiver is gladly granted.



POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

New

Membership Application

Renewal

May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Bring dues to the next meeting or mail check and this application to:

**PRNC
P.O. Box 70386
Point Richmond, CA 94807**

Do you want to receive the Newsletter by mail ?

Yes No

Do you want to receive the Newsletter by e-mail ?

Yes No

RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD
COORDINATING COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 5508
RICHMOND, CA 94805

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