



The broken water main and sink hole on West Richmond Avenue is a reminder of the fragility of our infrastructure--especially as it ages. The two events may not be related, but there was a 3.3 earthquake in Berkeley the morning of the water break. Its also possible that the 69 year old cast iron pipe was just tired and due. Seeing one of our beloved wig-wags in a sink hole was a sorry sight.

After the arrival of the automobile, wig-wags were installed across the country to warn motorists and pedestrians of oncoming trains. The West Richmond Avenue crossing is special because it was the last automobile crossing before the transcontinental railroad terminated at Ferry Point. While in operation, our wig-wags maintained a perfect safety record, with no major accidents or recorded injuries.

Some wig-wags operated with the flag below the axis (lower quadrant type) and some with the flag above the axis (upper quadrant type). Our two wig-wags are believed to be the last remaining examples of paired upper quadrant wig-wags in the country. I hope they remain a pair. As you know, BNSF wanted to remove them, and they were only saved after a concerted effort by the community.

The wig-wag in the hole was the older of the two. It was built in Los Angeles sometime after 1914 by the Magnetic Signal Company. I understand that BNSF has removed it to their yard for safe-keeping.

Victory Morales, the chair of our Wig-Wag Restoration Committee, has been trying to sort out the legal issues to make the wig-wags operate on special occasions. Identifying the agencies and companies with jurisdiction has not been easy. If there is any benefit to the catastrophe, it will be that the responsible parties are likely to surface. I imagine that EBMUD, the City, BNSF, and PG&E are all likely to get involved.

Dean O'Hair, from the Richmond Chevron refinery, spoke at the last meeting of the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council about the proposed upgrade of the refinery and the planned new hydrogen plant. At this meeting, he, or another representative from the refinery, will give us an overview of the project and its possible effect on our community.

With summer in full swing, Keller Beach has been active. As some of you may know, a recent study rating Northern California beaches for pollution gave the beach a "D". This has been a concern. We have invited Matt Graul, East Bay Regional Parks Water Manager, to speak at our next meeting and give us an explanation of the problem.

Our Veolia-managed waste treatment plant was recently in the news because of another stench event. The City is either in the process of installing, or already has installed, monitors. What they mean for us, and how effective they will be in helping reduce the problem, is unknown. Maureen Decombe will give us a report on progress at the plant.

This promises to be an interesting meeting. I hope to see you there.

Peter Minkwitz, *President*
POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



AGENDA

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Point Richmond Community Center

- 7:30 pm **Call to Order**
- 7:30 **Approval of Minutes from June 29, 2011**
- President's Report** by Peter Minkwitz (510) 232-3663 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 16 minutes
- Point Richmond Business Association
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
Formula Restaurant Ordinance Committee, Marsha Tomassi 510-215-6133
Point Richmond History Association, Mid Dornan 510-234-5334
- 8:10 **Update on Veolia and the Waste Treatment Plant**, Maureen Decombe
- 8:20 **Chevron's Application for New Hydrogen Plant**
- 8:35 **Toxics and Pollution at Keller Beach**, Matt Graul East Bay Regional Parks
Water Manager
- 9:00 **Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee** Rod Satre
Items to be considered at the Committee's August 31, 2011 meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by August 17, 2011.
Contact Rod at (510) 232-5059 or rdsatre@live.com
- 1) Construction of a two-level deck on rear of house,**
261 Washington Court. Mark Adams, owner. Meredith Bressie, designer.
Interactive Resources, engineering
 - 2) Vacating a street next to 222 Martina St.** Ted Cuzzillo, applicant
- 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 to Peter Minkwitz (510) 465-2527 (B), 510-232-3663 (H) by August 17, 2011 peter@sanfranciscomarinesurveyors.com or peter180@comcast.net*

Adjourn

Minutes
POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
June 29, 2011
Point Richmond Community Center

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Minutes of 5/25/11 were approved.

2. President's Report

- Wig-wag—Victor Morales and City Attorney's office sent letter to BSNF for approval and guidelines to get wig-wags operational. The goal is to complete the project by Fall.
- The Richmond Historical Museum on Nevin Ave. requests volunteers to help maintain the museum landscape.

3. Police Report: Officers Dave Longacre /Todd Opdyke

- Ten residential daytime burglaries between 5/10 and 6/14. Forced entries, kicking in doors. Possible perpetrators observed—3 black males in early 20's driving a late model small silver car (Toyota Corolla, Honda Civic?).
- Measures to avoid burglaries—install an alarm system linked to the alarm company (use your cell phone as the one number the company calls before calling the police) increase visibility of the house (prune shrubs, etc). Emphasized importance of reporting ALL suspicious activity in timely manner.
- Mail stolen from mailboxes on 300 block of Western 6/25/11.

4. Membership Report: Sue Rosenof (510-599-1197)

Currently 421 are receiving the newsletter (1/2 e-mail). Sixty-eight people have paid dues for 2011-2012. Members are encouraged to receive newsletters via e-mail to save money and trees.

5. Treasurer Report: Report Louise Fender (510-260-0309)

Balance forward: \$5226.67, expenses: \$149.87, Income from dues: \$450, leaving a balance of \$5526.80. Bishop Alley Fund: \$711.06, Ferry Point Fund: \$1989.58, Wig Wag Fund: \$2970.94 with a grand total of \$11,198.38.

Purpose of PRNC Funds: Ferry Point—for mural on south side of tunnel to be completed after planned work on the tunnel; Wig-Wag—for abutment and to contribute to plaque: Bishop Alley—to maintain historic path between Bishop Alley and Belvedere. Originally for legal fees associated with maintaining right-of-way. Megan checking into Volunteer for Outdoor California for assistance with restoration; General Fund—operating expenses, fund projects endorsed by members.

6. Committee Reports

- Westside Women's Improvement Club (Altha Humphrey): Next meeting in September.
- Knit and Such: (Altha Humphrey) Meets Wednesday July 6, 12:30-2:30 pm in Community Center.
- Arts of Point Richmond (A. Humphrey) Next. Meeting July 19,-7-9 pm in Community Center. All welcome. New post office exhibit going up.
- Red Oak Victory Ship (George Cole) 359 attended June breakfast. Red Oak going into dry dock this month. When work complete will cruise around bay. Movies Thursday nights, dancing Friday nights.
- Safety-(Tom Brichta--415-686-1522; e-mail:tom911r7@yahoo.com) Emphasized importance of making house visible (shrubs no higher than 3 feet). Enclosed courtyards increase vulnerability. Lawn furniture can be used by thieves to get to second story windows. Contact Tom B. for help in setting up watch group.
- Formula Restaurant Ordinance (Marcia Tomassi) Committee reviewing 22 existing ordinances and preparing to talk to the municipalities. Will prepare 1st draft of local ordinance by August for review by PRNC, RNCC, City Attorney. Seeking to expand C-1 Historic Designation to include area west of RR tracks on W. Richmond.
- Historical Association Office open Wed. 4:30-7, Thurs 11:30-2. Welcome contributions to "This Point in Time". Plaques will be in place in historic buildings by October.
- Friends of Richmond Tennis Committee (Gary Hurlbut) Working with Parks and Rec. Met with Friends of Richmond Recreation on Monday for endorsement of project to refinish courts here and Nicholl Park. Discussion of past problems/concerns when tennis courts open—noise complaints from neighbors when people played soccer on courts at night, issues related to kids using courts for skateboarding. Need volunteers to serve on committee. If interested e-mail Gary at glh@tia.org.

7. Introduction to new Business--Synergy International, Inc. Unable to attend meeting.

8. Update on Veolia No new developments. Waste is currently being shipped from the waste water treatment plant by truck.

9. Report on Farmer's Market: John Silvera, Director, Stephan Robinson, Marketing, Gloria Baker, Market Manager: Bottom line is that the Market is operating at a sustainable level, with 16-17 farmers/day and average of 600 customers. Typically attendance drops 30% from its grand opening. Customers are doing "grocery shopping", not just buying a few items. As farmers diversify their crops, fewer farmers come to each market. Ten years ago would have had more specialty growers. Discussion: Suggestions—fresh eggs—talking with Cassie Farmgirl, Point Richmond resident, to see if she can become part of the market; Mariposa Bakery (non-gluten bakery in Oakland); honey. Contact Margi Celluci if non-profit and want to have a booth margicellucci@comcast.net.

10. Report: Land/Design Review Board *Items to be considered at the Committee's July 27, 2011 meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by July 13, 2011. Contact Rod at (510) 232-5059 or rdsatre@live.com*

- **Construction of a two-level deck on rear of house**, 261 Washington Court, Mark Adams, owner, Meredith Bressie, designer, Interactive Resources, engineering. Design Review Board recommended approval with 5 conditions. Moved and passed to approve the project with the following five conditions: 1) No trespass during construction, 2) Maintain trees as screen on Adams property, 3) Move hot tub, 4) Rail on SE side opaque or translucent to maintain privacy, 5) Set up story poles to assess privacy and if not satisfied, return to design review committee in July. These 5 points to be sent to City Design Review Board.
- **Vacating a street next to 222 Martina St.** Ted Cuzzillo, applicant. This item was held over.

11. Open Forum

- Clara Elizabeth requested PRNC make a donation for students at Center for Performing Arts. Peter recommended that these be individual donations.
- Margaret Jordan announced Rally/Town Hall to welcome/invite Lawrence Berkeley National Lab to Richmond. Thursday, July 21, 6 pm Richmond Auditorium.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm in memory of Ana Schwartz (longtime resident of Point Richmond who at one time operated a small movie theater in location of current vegan restaurant). We also honored the memory of the daughter of George Coles.

Submitted by Margaret Jordan
Secretary, PRNC



IMPORTANT DATES

- ** August 31** **Next Regular meeting of the PRNC**
Wednesday **7:30 pm, Point Richmond Community Center**
- **August 17** **Last day to submit proposed projects to the**
Wednesday **Land Use/Design Review Committee**
- **August 3** **Next meeting of the PRNC Board of Directors**
Wednesday **Call Peter Minkwitz for the time and place**
- **2nd Wednesday** **Next meeting of the Point Richmond Business Assoc.**
12:00 noon **The Baltic Restaurant**
- ** Every** **The Point Richmond Farmer's Market**
Wednesday **4-8 pm**
- **1st and 3rd** **Richmond City Council meets**
Tuesday
6:30 pm
- **August 12** **Summer Music Festival, Downtown Point Richmond**
Friday 5:30-8:00 pm **The Dave Crimmen Band and Lloyd's Garage**
- **August 27** **Annual large item trash drop-off day.**
Sat. 7am-11am **Next to Washington School**

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Membership 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 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