



# ON POINT

May 2011

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The history of Neighborhood Councils in Richmond is a history of participatory democracy. Since 1956, the number of councils has grown to 41. Not all of them meet every month, or are as active as the PRNC, but they all have the potential to bring neighbors together to make decisions that affect their daily lives. At our last meeting, Ken Blonski, in his remarks as our outgoing Vice President, said that he thoroughly enjoyed seeing real democracy in action during his two year tenure. I agree.

If you haven't read Lucretia Edwards' marvelous "History of How the Neighborhood Councils Started", I encourage you to do so. It weaves the history of the councils into the story of Richmond since WW II. We usually have copies at the meeting, and it can be read online on the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council's website at [richmondneighbors.org](http://richmondneighbors.org). As Lucretia said, "this manifestation of democracy has great merit, in that it is a simple and pleasant method of bringing people together and getting things done, in which everyone can join according to his or her inclination and ability".

Which, in a roundabout way, brings me to my point. Our fiscal year begins this month, and our annual dues are now due. Even if you can't regularly attend the monthly meeting, your membership helps to cover the costs of the newsletter and contributes to improvements and events in Point Richmond. Rates are minimal--\$10 for individuals and \$15 for households.

I encourage all of you to renew your membership, or join if you aren't already a member. Bring a check to our next meeting, or mail one to the PRNC with the attached application. If you want to know whether you are current, contact Sue Rosenof, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and membership secretary.

Although I like the funkiness of the billboard of Point Richmond streets that is near the firehouse, it is tired and due for an update. The Women's Westside Improvement Club has been working on a design for a new map and billboard. It will be unveiled by Margaret Morkowski at this meeting.

As part of our introduction of local businesses, we will hear from Laurie Rolfe of Synergy International. I believe that they are the newest business in Point Richmond. They specialize in Eco-sustainable energy systems, cleantech innovation management, and green architecture. Their office will be at 124 Washington.

At our last meeting, Carla Bowman provided some very useful handouts to help neighbors map their neighborhood and coordinate a response to a disaster such as a severe earthquake. Working with your immediate neighbors to plan ahead and share abilities is critical in the early stages of a disaster. Fire, police, paramedics, and the utilities will be overwhelmed. We will be on our own for awhile. At this meeting we will hear how the Richmond Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is organized and how you can participate.

I hope to see you there.

Peter Minkwitz, *President*  
POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



# AGENDA

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## POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Point Richmond Community Center

- 7:30 pm **Call to Order**
- 7:30 **Approval of Minutes from April 27, 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](mailto:janderson@richmondpd.net) 10 minutes
- 7:45 **Report on Membership** Sue Rosenof (510) 599-1197 3 minutes
- 7:48 **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) 232-4219  
Knit and Such, Altha Humphrey (510) 232-2934  
Arts of Point Richmond  
Red Oak Victory, George Coles  
PRNC Safety Committee, Tom Brichta 510-620-6538  
Formula Restaurant Ordinance Committee, Marsha Tomassi 510-215-6133  
Point Richmond History Association, Mid Dornan 510-234-5334
- 8:10 **New Billboard with Map of Point Richmond**, Margaret Morkowski
- 8:15 **Introduction to new Point Richmond business**, Synergy International, Inc 124  
Washington, Laurie Rolfe
- 8:25 **Update on Veolia and the Waste Treatment Plant**, Maureen Decombe
- 8:30 **Community Emergency Response Team program (CERT)**, Kathy Branstetter and a  
City CERT instructor
- 9:00 **Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee** Rod Satre  
*Items to be considered at the Committee's June 29, 2011 meeting must be submitted to  
Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by June 15, 2011. Contact Rod at (510) 232-5059 or  
[rdsatre@live.com](mailto:rdsatre@live.com)*
- 1) **New residence** 125 Western Avenue (Kozy Kove) John Maniscalco, architect.  
Knox family, owners
  - 2) **Restoration of front porch and removal of chimney** 221 East Scenic Avenue,  
Tom Butt, owner

**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 June 15, 2011 [peter@sanfranciscomarinesurveyors.com](mailto:peter@sanfranciscomarinesurveyors.com) or [peter180@comcast.net](mailto:peter180@comcast.net)*

**Adjourn**

## IMPORTANT DATES

- \*\* June 29  
Wednesday**      **Next Regular meeting of the PRNC  
7:30 pm, Point Richmond Community Center,**
- \*\* June 15  
Wednesday**      **Last day to submit proposed projects to the  
Land Use/Design Review Committee**
- \*\* June 1  
Wednesday**      **Next meeting of the PRNC Board of Directors  
Call Peter Minkwitz for the time and place**
- \*\* 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday  
12:00 noon**      **Next meeting of the Point Richmond Business Assoc.  
The Baltic Restaurant**
- \*\* Every  
Wednesday**      **The Point Richmond Farmer's Market  
4-8 pm**
- \*\* 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Tuesday**      **Richmond City Council meets**
- \*\* May 30  
Monday**      **18<sup>th</sup> Point Richmond Memorial Day Garage Sale  
and benefit for the Masquer's Playhouse**

Be sure to check [pointrichmond.com](http://pointrichmond.com) for up-to-date details on all events

**Want an opportunity to be heard? Want to provide your feedback to city officials?**



You can take part in the 2011 Richmond Community Survey, available online at:

<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=2427>

Help them evaluate services, measure satisfaction, and help plan for Richmond's future. Feel free to contact the city at (510) 620-5458 with questions, comments, or to obtain a survey in Spanish.

**Your input can help make the City of Richmond a better place to live, work and play!**

**Minutes**  
**POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**April 27, 2011**  
**Point Richmond Community Center**

This is my last newsletter as Secretary for the PRNC. I want to thank you for the opportunity to report to you the news in our community as I heard it. It was not always accurate or spelled correctly; however, it was my heartfelt and best effort. Thank you and I welcome Margaret Jordan as your new Secretary.

**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 March 30, 2011:** Corrections to minutes include: Page 2 TRAC item, line 1 "...complete San Francisco Trail in Richmond". Page 3, General Plan: This should be the specific wording of the current plan PRNC wishes to retain: the 1994 General Plan Land Use Element, under Area Specific Guidelines for "West Shoreline", states, "ensure that additional commercial facilities at Point Richmond will be developed in a way that complements and preserves the historic, "village-like" appearance and character of the district.". Page 4, re: Maurice Doherty Shoreline access should read: "This request was presented by Ben Landon. Margaret Morkowski's correct phone # 232-4219 and correct name of Women's Westside Improvement Club. Add: "It was announced that there will be 2 additional Acoustic Music Concerts at the Methodist Church".

First sentence on PRBA needs to be changed to: "The PRBA will again sponsor the Point's Music Summer Concert Series. The 6 concerts will be held on second Friday of month, June through September, with last concert scheduled for third Friday of September". Corrections re: Smoking Ordinance -- to close loopholes in State law, and there are three parts to be considered. 1) Apartment landlords have been sent literature. 2) Smoking by doors to businesses does not indicate distance and still no signs. 3) Smoking in public parks -- no signs. Peter also said police have to smell the smoke to impose penalty.

Mid Dornan would like History Association to be listed under non-profits on agenda in future. Please accept my apologies for all errors and I pass the newsletter baton to my capable replacement, our new PRNC Secretary Margaret Jordan.

**President's Report by Peter Minkwitz (510) 232-3663** Peter presented an overview of the evening groups' presentations. He reminded us that there would be a City annual clean up for large items in August. Debris boxes will be provided. There will be more information upcoming.

**Police Report: Richmond PD Officer Joe Anderson:** [janderson@richmondpd.net](mailto:janderson@richmondpd.net) (510) 621-1212 x 7145. Officer Anderson, from North Richmond PD reported that this past month has been best month so far this year. There was one residential burglary (incident enticed by open garage door). One commercial building burglary netted no benefit to the thief; nothing was taken. One auto theft. Most calls were alarm calls-all false alarms. Please call if you see ANYTHING suspicious.

**Report on Membership** Sue Rosenof (510) 599-1197 The fiscal year starts May1st: \$10 single, \$15 per household and \$500 lifetime dues are the options. E-mail is the preference. Please join our council.

**Treasurer's Report** Art Mowry (510) 215-0501 Art reports \$5265.67 in the General fund, expenses of \$500 for the Point Richmond Summer Concert Series. Dues of \$66. The Bishop Alley Path Fund has \$711.06, the Ferry Point Fund has \$1989.58 and Wig Wag Fund has \$2970.94 . Total \$10,503.25.

**TRAC** Bruce Beyaert. Bruce provided two handouts: Wildcat Marsh and Landfill Loop Trail Guide and San Francisco Bay Trail Project map. A celebration this Saturday, April 30 will mark opening of three new miles on Bay Trail. East Bay Regional Parks will open another mile of trail within the year. Congrats to Bruce, his ongoing dedication to the TRAC project and his stellar results.

## **Committee Reports and Announcements from non-profit groups: (2 minutes each)**

**Point Richmond Business Association:** Margaret Morkowski (510) 232-4219. New organizational format will include 5-member Board of Directors, group will be committee-driven to increase involvement and meetings will be held once every couple of months or once every quarter. The Music Series as well as Farmer's Market need volunteers. The Fall Fest will be in October.

**Women's Westside Improvement Club:** Margaret Morkowski -- From Sept. to June the meetings are on first Tuesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. There will be preparation for Junktique at the Methodist Church in May and an election in June. Next two months the meetings will be on second Tuesday of month. Call Margaret with any questions.

**Knit and Such:** Altha Humphrey (510) 232-2934 Altha needs help with her job of generously providing cookies and coffee at PRNC meetings. The Knit and Such meetings are at Community Center from 12:30-2:30 on first Wednesday of the month.

**Arts of Point Richmond:** Altha Humphrey. The group is in its third year, have receptions for 2-3 artists at meetings, and meet on third Tues. of month from 7-9 p.m. at Community Center. Exhibits are displayed at Post Office and El Sol and Picante restaurants.

**Red Oak Victory: Jane Lundin** -- George Coles was out with dancing injury. We wish him a speedy recovery. Jane reminded us about the Red Oak Victory pancake breakfast for Mother's Day. She reiterated: "We need younger volunteers".

**Point Richmond History Association.** May 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the annual meeting date. Lois Boyle, who is responsible for the Red Oak being where it is, will be the speaker. Junktique collecting days are May 7th, Saturdays and Tuesday/Thursday evenings.

**PRNC Safety Committee:** Tom Brichta: Look around neighborhood for suspect/potential hiding places for thieves. Get to know neighbors, what cars go with which homes, and greet police when you see them in your neighborhood. This is to help police match citizens with dwellings.

**Kathy Branstetter-** Kathy spoke about CERT classes (Preparedness classes). She printed out the url's from City and State. There is a refresher drill Saturday, May 14 for CERT graduates. If you are interested in organizing your neighborhood, e-mail Kathy at Point Richmond Safety Committee: [pr.react.cert@gmail.com](mailto:pr.react.cert@gmail.com)

**Formula Restaurant Ordinance Committee,** Marsha Tomassi. A committee is putting together an ordinance. They will be looking at other city ordinances, write a version applicable to Point Richmond and make recommendations. The timeline will be 3-4 months max to get it out. Updates forthcoming.

**Introduction to a Point Richmond Business,** Up and Under Pub and Grill, Nathan Trivers, Owner. "This pub is the only Rugby Pub in North America". It opened 1/22/2010. The community and Council have been very helpful in overcoming obstacles arising with any new business. Nathan had a dream of having a pub on a corner, in a small, supportive community and that dream has come true. Nathan has recently created an outside dining area, and has a catering business on West Richmond. With help of Chevron he raised \$5,000 and saved music program at Washington Elementary School.

Nathan is starting a Food Program with a kick-off fundraiser netting \$1,200 to buy "cool green bags". Bags will be filled with non-perishable items and will be picked up monthly and distributed to food banks. We welcome his family to the Point along with his new addition, 6-month-old Tyler Caroline Trivers. Margaret Jordan expressed her support. "This pub is building so much community good will and spirit".

**Update on Veolia and the Waste Treatment Plant:** Maureen Decombe. Maureen is exploring "Where do we go from here?" and long-term solutions. She asked that we pass two resolutions, written for and passed by the City Council. She wanted a motion of PRNC support to increase validity and weightiness of approval and to show support from the community. For more info on resolutions, please the Treatment Plant serves 60,000 people in Richmond. West County and Stege serve the other 20,000.

**Report from Don Woodrow on Pipeline Safety Forum.** The RNCC met on 4/14 with 50 attendees. Five companies were invited/involved, but 23 companies actually own pipelines in our city. There was a handout with details of the meeting with contact numbers for EBMUD, P&E, Chevron Pipeline and Kinder Morgan. The purpose -- to have companies describe how they'll handle emergency events similar to San Bruno gas line explosion.

There are medallions in town indicating pipelines underground. Check your neighborhood. Chevron didn't show for meeting. Peter stated that water would be a major concern and suggests that we shut off water to our homes so that water in the home remains clean and available.

**Disaster Preparedness,** Carla Bowman. Carla delivered a presentation on **Map Your Neighborhood, a Neighborhood Disaster Preparation Plan.** Contact her at [carlab4343@yahoo.com](mailto:carlab4343@yahoo.com). Also Catherine Selkirk, with CERT at 510-620-6866 or e-mail [catherine\\_selkirk@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:catherine_selkirk@ci.richmond.ca.us) and Michelle Millam, a Crime Prevention Coordinator, at 510-620-6538 or Richmond City website. There are 9 steps listed in handout. The first 6 steps are done in your home -- how to get yourself safe and how you work with neighbors. Put the list under your bed and have shoes, hardhat, leather gloves and flashlight nearby. Carla presented her plan in these emergency items of clothing.

The first hour is the "Golden hour" and first responders will be overwhelmed. Create a neighborhood care center and see "Who knows what?" and "Who has what?" Don't turn off gas unless it is hissing, you smell gas or dials are spinning. Turn off water. Electricity will probably already be off. Have extinguishers checked and filled. Preparedness should be number one concern for our community looking at our proximity to Chevron and number of pipelines running through city.

**Election of PRNC Officers:** Jean Womack has withdrawn as a Vice President candidate. Megan Bleckinger is the remaining candidate. She has been liaison to Chevron for 2 years and has attended every PRNC meeting since 12/2009. She lives at Sea Cliff, volunteers in soup kitchen at Greater Faith Church and makes a mean tuna casserole. She has already offered help with website and archives. We welcome her as our new First Vice President.

Margaret Jordan has lived on Bishop Avenue since January 2007. After living in Detroit for 35 years, she's glad to be back to the Bay Area where she was born. Margaret is active in Richmond affairs and has never been as happy living anywhere as here in the Point. She works with Carla Bowman on Preparedness, is active in Casino issue and is a member of Richmond Progressive Alliance. She will have a tape-recorder that talks to her computer. Thank goodness for her advanced skills and talents!!

Sue Rosenof continues her work on membership (as Second Vice President) and makes people laugh. There was a motion to approve the officer slate. It was moved, seconded and approved.

Peter gave Victor Morales a beautiful plaque in honor of establishing our new mailbox. He has recently volunteered to get the wigwags up and running, and if anyone is up to this task, it is Victor. We thank him in advance for his hard work.

Appreciation was given to Ken Blonski, our outgoing Vice President. "It was a pleasure to see democracy in action at this level". He saw the group as having "camaraderie and purpose". It was a good forum for public debate and it was impressive to look back on what was accomplished over the last two years.

Art Mowry, our outgoing expert Treasurer, has brought a sense of history to our group. He thanks Peter for doing a marvelous job. "I have never known an individual who puts as much time and effort into making this work". Art did a capable and accurate job as our Treasurer with utmost integrity.

**Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee.** Rod Satre *Items to be considered at the Committee's May 25, 2011 meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by May 11, 2011. Contact Rod at 510-232-5059 or [rsatre@live.com](mailto:rsatre@live.com).*

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Zuhair Saadat from the West Contra Costa Public Education Fund and a Point Richmond resident since 2010 is helping raise money for school district. Last year \$17,000 was raised for dance and music. Please purchase tickets at 217C West Richmond Avenue 8-4 daily or go to [edfundwest.org](http://edfundwest.org). There will be an Excellence in Education Banquet on May 20<sup>th</sup>

Sue Rosenof invites us to a crab feed at the San Pablo Harbor on May14 at 6 p.m. for \$30.

Merv Fernandes, Brickyard Cove resident, is planning to open an Indian Restaurant on 221 Tewksbury. They are hoping to get support of the community. They will bring plans to the Design Review Committee and will present their progress to us.

Margaret Jordan reminded us of Cinco de Mayo parade from 24<sup>th</sup> and Barrett down to San Pablo Avenue. Many people ask if Point Richmond is in Richmond. Margaret suggests that the communities come together, and what better place than a parade?

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Fender, Secretary (510) 260-0309

**Our next meeting will be 5/25/11 at 7:30 p.m.**

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## **WE URGE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER!**

Dues help cover administrative expenses and are minimal. Rates are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for a household per year. Lifetime memberships are available for \$500. Membership dues are waived if the fee poses a financial burden. **Dues cover May 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a new or renewal membership? (check one):     new                       renewal

Please send newsletter to me via (check one):         email                       US mail



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

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