



## ON POINT

*February 2012*

Fellow Members,

It is with sadness that I have unfortunate news to share with all of you. After a valiant struggle with lymphoma, Peter Minkwitz, President of our Point Richmond Neighborhood Council, passed away on Saturday, February 11. Peter's kindness, enthusiasm, intelligence, wonderful sense of fairness and commitment to our community earned him the utmost respect of all who had the pleasure of interacting with him. We will all miss him greatly.

### PRNC Board Changes

With Peter's passing there are some changes to the PRNC board. We're putting together a nominating committee to fill the vacancy of President. More information will be available at the next General Membership meeting on Feb. 29.

### PRNC General Meeting

A member of City Council will present info on the childhood obesity epidemic, and the voting referendum to install a penny per ounce tax on soda and fruit juices with less than 10% juice. According to health officials, 60% of Richmond's teens drink one or more sugary beverages a day.

Caltrans project manager, Cristina Ferraz, and District 4 public relations, Allyn Amsk, will be joining us to discuss the E-580 Scofield Avenue Bridge Deck Replacement project. This project as proposed has significant implications for residential traffic coming from Point Molate. Please join us since this may be the only opportunity for the greater community to ask questions of Caltrans.

I hope to see you at the February meeting.

Megan Bleckinger, *President*

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

*"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle.  
The other is as though everything is a miracle." Albert Einstein*



# AGENDA

## POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Point Richmond Community Center

7:30 pm **Call to Order**

7:30 **Approval of Minutes from December 28th, 2011 President's Report** by Megan Bleckinger, President 5 minutes

7:35 **Police Report** 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, Garry Hurlbut glh@tai.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 March 28 meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by March 10th. Contact Rod at (510) 232-5059 or rdsatre@live.com*

8:15 **Introduction to a New Business, MyPrinter!, Cesar Duarte**

8:20 **Childhood Obesity Epidemic, Member of City Council**

8:40 **Caltrans - E-580 Scofield Avenue Bridge deck replacement**

Cristina Ferraz (Project Manager) and Allyn Amsk (EB PR) 15 minutes

Questions and Discussion 15 minutes

9:10 **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 March 10th, 2012 to Megan Bleckinger (510) 242-2288 or <http://www.pointrichmond.org/contact.cfm>*

**Adjourn**

## **Richmond Neighborhood Council General Meeting Minutes**

**January 25, 2012**

**1. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm** (in the fire station since we couldn't get into the Community Center – thanks go to Capt. Terry Harris and his crew who generously let us use the station).

**2. Minutes of December 28, 2011 were approved.**

**3. President's Report (Megan Bleckinger, 1st VP)**

□ Report on meeting and discussions with community members on Caltrans proposed closure of the Western Ave on-ramp to 580 Eastbound. As currently planned, the closure would require cars coming from Point Molate, etc to take an 11 mile detour to Marin County and back. Caltrans is proposing to delay the closure to the summer of 2012. Currently Caltrans is considering the possibility of using the bike trail under the freeway for cars. Representatives will attend a future PRNC meeting.

**4. Police Report:**

- Officer Opdyke: E-mail him at topdyke@richmondpd.net to get on his notification e-mail list. Specify if you want to be on residential or business list. Panhandling (including standing on medians at freeway ramps) is protected free speech. Reminded us not to use e-mails to report crimes.
- Officer Josh Clark (jclark@richmondpd.net) E-mails go directly to his phone and receives them more quickly than calls to his phone at the police station. Recent burglaries have involved kicking in front doors after checking if someone is home. Most burglaries occurred between 10 am and 3 pm.

**5. Report on Membership (Sue Rosenof-510-599-1197)** Received 8 new memberships tonight. Renewals are due after April 1, the beginning of PRNC fiscal year.

**6. Treasurer's Report (Louise Fender-510-260-0309)** Balance Forward: \$6,025.70; Expenses: Holiday treats \$160; Dues collected: \$15, Bishop Alley Fund: \$711.06; Ferry Point Fund: \$1,989.58; Wig Wag Fund: \$2,970.94; General Fund: \$5,880.70 **Total Balance: \$11,552.22**

**7. Committee Reports and Reports from Non-Profits**

- Point Richmond Business Association (Margi Celluci) Next meeting will be 2/8/12 at noon at the Baltic. Last month's excellent speaker was Rich Hall who spoke on issues relevant to small business owners.
- Point Richmond Farmers Market (Margi Celluci) Margi can't continue with her responsibilities for the Market. There will be a meeting Friday, February 27, 8am at Edibles to see how the community can help. Specific tasks will be discussed, and hopefully assigned, to willing volunteers.
- Knit and Such (Altha Humphrey-510-232-2934) Meets first Wednesday (2/1) at the Community Center from 12:30-2:30. All welcome.
- Arts of Point Richmond (Linda Drake, President) The meeting format of the group has been changed for 2012. There will be quarterly exhibits opening on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the community center featuring 5-7 artists. The first exhibit "Art of Spring" will open on Tuesday, March 20.

- Friends of Richmond Tennis Committee (Garry Hurlbut glh@tai.org). Bids are out to resurface courts at Nicholl Park. Gary and his wife have generously offered to fund resurfacing of the court near the Plunge. Jerry Anderson, Parks and Rec program director, will pilot the adult tennis program this year.
- Point Richmond History Association—Next edition of the Newsletter goes to press next week. All are invited to contribute. There is a digital picture frame in the History Association building where you can view historic photographs.

**8. Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee (Rod Satre)** Received report about the Iron and Brush, an Art Gallery and Tattoo Parlor located at 217 West Richmond. Joe Certa will be the resident artist. Tattoo work will be by appointment only. The committee is supportive of the business and suggested the following guidelines for hours: Tattoo business 8am-8 pm; Art Gallery 8am-10 pm. A motion was made to support the Committee's proposal. Community members expressed concern about the hours and supported not limiting hours. After discussion a substitute motion supporting the business without limits on hours passed overwhelmingly. Submissions for the March meeting or the Point Richmond Design Committee and the Membership meeting must be in by March 10. Call Rod Satre at 510-232-5059 to make arrangements.

**9. Report on Contra Costa County Hazmat Audit Results and Industrial Safety Ordinance (Don Nixon, CCC Hazardous Materials Program)** Mr. Nixon described the Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Program which oversees refineries and chemical plants to make sure that they are compliant with the county's Industrial Safety Ordinance which was created in 1998 and then amended in 2002 and 2006. The city adopted the ordinance in 2003, but has not accepted the amendments of 2006. Chevron and General Chemical are the two Richmond companies that are inspected under these regulations.

Detailed information about process and results of the safety audits of these companies as well as additional audits in Contra Costa County can be found at *the Richmond library*, on the Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Programs webpage ([cchealth.org/groups/hazmat](http://cchealth.org/groups/hazmat)) and by contacting Don Nixon (925-335-3223; [Don.Nixon@hsd.cccounty.us](mailto:Don.Nixon@hsd.cccounty.us)).

**10. Veolia Plant status update and public input request (Aaron Winer, Veolia Project Mgr.)**

The digester at the wastewater treatment plant is operational again and the plant is back to routine operations. Trucking of waste has been stopped. As part of a legal stipulated settlement Veolia is seeking community input with regard to placement of an additional H2S monitor which they have purchased. Given that there are several operational monitors in Point Richmond (although the only monitor that the plant responds to is the one at the fenceline), Brickyard is being considered as a site because there have been odor problems in this area. The original plan was that a vote would be taken at the February PRNC meeting. It was suggested that this would not give enough time to notify the community. The Board will discuss and vote on a proposal to postpone the vote until the March meeting.

Maureen Decombe expressed satisfaction with the current situation with Veolia with regard to meeting the stipulations of the settlement.

**11. Report on Progress of Formula Restaurant Ban Ordinance (Marsha Tomassi)** In the summer of 2011 the team researched ordinances from 22 cities and, based on 4 of these ordinances, created definitions for a Point Richmond ordinance. The results of this work were sent to the City Attorney in October.

The committee had expected to have a draft ordinance by December. That didn't happen and Marsha is continuing to work with the City. City Attorney would prefer that the ordinance be completed and go to the City Council as part of the General Plan. The moratorium will be extended until the issue is resolved. Starbucks and Extreme Pizza will be classified as "legal, non-conforming businesses".

## **12. Public Forum**

- Joe Puleo requested to discuss the question of Chevron self-monitoring. This will be discussed at the March meeting when Chevron representatives are present to discuss consideration of the question which has been raised in other areas.
- Margaret Jordan announced a public meeting on the Millionaires Tax.
- Zuhair Saadat of the West Contra Costa Education Fund asked for nominations for the district Excellence in Teaching Award

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Margaret Jordan  
PRNC Secretary  
510-412-3673

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**\*\* February 29th Next Regular meeting of the PRNC**

**Wednesday 7:30 pm, Point Richmond Community Center**

**\*\*March 10th Last day to submit proposed projects to the  
Wednesday Land Use/Design Review Committee**

**\*\*March 7 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**

**\*\*1st and 3rd Richmond City Council meets**

**Tue 6:30 pm**

**\*\*March 10th City of Richmond International Woman's Day Celebration,  
10 AM- 3PM DeJean Middle School**

**\*\*March 23 3rd Annual Washington Elementary School International Fair**

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

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