



ON POINT *August 2019*

Greetings from the PRNC.

We have a lot to cover in our August General Meeting

But first!

There was a big announcement about the project to revitalize the Masquers Playhouse!

As of 8/18 they've raised over \$400,000. And while Carl Smith didn't want to say when the Playhouse would reopen, he said it should be sometime within the next 12 months.

Join John Gioia and millions of volunteers worldwide in participating in this years' International Coastal Cleanup Day, on September 21st from 9am - noon. John will be at Shimada Friendship Park (off the Bay Trail) for his 29th Richmond Shoreline Coastal Cleanup. A free lunch is included for volunteers. For more information or to register a large group to volunteer, please [click here](#) or email coastalcleanup@thewatershedproject.org, or call 510-665-3430.

At this month's meeting, Genevive Paster-Cohen will explain Richmond's Community Warning System and Local Notifications.

Due to our full agenda this month, our current membership and treasurer's reports will be included here instead of being covered as an agenda item at our August meeting:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Currently our general fund balance is \$5,131.55 which includes \$1,105 in dues collected in August plus \$81.55 we received from Simms Metals from trash collected at our cleanup day in July.
- **Membership Report:** We have 96 current members. If you are not sure if you are current, please see June at the meeting.

In addition, some of the committee reports are also included here instead of being discussed at our general meeting:

Masquers Playhouse is thrilled to update everyone on the work to reopen the theater. Charlie Duncan of Interactive Resources has completed plans to reopen the theater, and the plans have now been handed off to Overaa Construction. Permits will be secured and construction will begin within the coming months, according to Overaa's construction schedule. The focus of Masquers Playhouse is now firmly on fundraising to pay for the project. To date, over \$400,000 has been raised toward the total goal of \$500,000. Masquers encourages everyone to visit their website to learn more about the project and donate to support it today! [\(click here to donate now!\)](#)

Hope to see you there!

Peter Thelin

President

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council

*The PRNC and LUDRC are advisory only capacity, and cannot approve or deny anything beyond "Recommendations for Development" to the City of Richmond. Our role is to mitigate conflict at the local level.



Point Richmond Neighborhood Council
Wednesday, August 28, 2019, 7:30pm
Point Richmond Community Center
PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com

-
- 7:30 **Call to order and approval of minutes from the July 31, 2019 meeting** 2 minutes
- 7:32 **Police Report, Richmond Police Department, Officer Joseph DeOran** 10 minutes
- 7:42 **President's Report, Peter Thelin** 5 minutes
- 7:47 **Community Briefs (2 minutes each)** 8 minutes
- **USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett, (510) 234-1045, <https://redoakvictory.us/>**
 - **Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut, (510) 547-8111 www.rta-ca.org**
 - **Point Richmond History Association, Bonnie Jo Cullison, <http://pointrichmondhistory.org/>**
 - **Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Margaret Jordan <http://richmondneighbors.org/>**
- 7:55 **Community Warning System and Local Notifications, Genevieve Pastor-Cohen** 40 minutes
- 8:35 **Land Use/Design Review Committee** 15 minutes
- **Ocean Ave Lot Line Adjustment (Undeveloped vacant lands between Ocean & Western), Tom Dougherty, Jr**
- Items to be considered at the LUDRC meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, rdsatre@live.com, (510) 232-5059, at two weeks prior to the General Membership meeting. **The LUDRC Committee meets monthly prior to the PRNC General Membership meeting at 6:00pm at the Point Richmond Community Center at 139 Washington Ave. Please plan to attend the LUDRC meeting and General Membership meeting at 7:30pm if your project is being considered.***
- 8:50 **Community Briefs (2 minutes each)** 8 minutes
- **Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani, <http://pointrichmond.com/wwic/>**
 - **Arts of Point Richmond, Mary Lee Cole www.artsofpointrichmond.com**
 - **Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding MagickLantern.org, magick-lantern@att.net, (510) 232-2559**
 - **Point Richmond Business Association, Scott Harris, www.pointrichmondbusiness.com**
- 8:58 **Public Forum: Please sign up. As many as 3 speakers (2 minutes each).** 6 minutes
- Issues brought to the attention of the Council in the Public Forum cannot result in Council action at this meeting. Instead, submit issues to Peter Thelin at pthelin1@yahoo.com prior to the next PRNC Board Meeting.*
- 9:04 **In Remembrance and Celebration/Adjourn**



Point Richmond Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 31, 2019
PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com

- 1. Called to Order and Approval of Minutes:** Meeting was called to order at 7:19. Board members present: Peter Thelin, Dave Bleckinger, Buzz Baylis, Hilary Brown, June Hight, Charmain Tyler and Garry Hurlbut. Minutes from the previous meeting on May 29 were approved with no amendments.
- 2. East Bay Regional Parks, Update about Miller Knox/BNSF tracks, Eric Zell:** Eric is a consultant to EBRP on the BNSF issue and also lives here in Brickyard. For those unfamiliar with the recent history of this dispute, BNSF decided to reclaim the rail line that goes through the train tunnel, through Miller Knox and all the way to Ferry Point. In 1991, EBRPD acquired a major part of the rail line from BNSF through eminent domain and through a sale in which the parks paid BNSF for property including tracks along the shoreline. Due to environmental remediation, funding and planning delays, these tracks and the old railroad land could not be improved by EBRPD right away. In the last few years, these issues have been addressed by EBRPD, so they prepared a Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) and asked for public feedback. It was when the LUPA was issued that BNSF claimed they never gave up the rail line and they intend to run their trains through the park even though they were paid by EBRPD for the land. BNSF sued the parks over the Land Use Plan, then EBRPD sued BNSF over use of the track that the park district owns. Even though there is an active legal dispute, BNSF cleared the entire right of way against the EBRPD's wishes. EBRPD tried to get a restraining order to keep BNSF off the tracks, but BNSF cleared the entire tracks and removed trees that had grown through the tracks. BNSF claims they have "Federal Preemption" which is a Federal law that preempts state and local governments from interfering with railroads. Running trains through the park would be devastating to the park and would prevent public access to the shoreline. With the help of PRNC, TRAC, and other groups, we encouraged the City of Richmond and the County Board of Supervisors to unanimously go on the record in opposition of BNSF's actions and to direct the Congressional Delegation to take action to protect the park. Former Senator Miller and John Knox, the son of former State Assembly member John T Knox spoke in support of protecting the park. Representative Mark Desalnier is in support of protecting the park and is doing what he can. What can we concerned neighbors do? The parks will have an uphill battle in court because of Federal Preemption, but we neighbors can help fight in the court of public opinion. They are working on a press conference with Congressman Desalnier and we are hoping to get national media attention to the increased and longer train crossings on E. Richmond and through our park.
- 3. President's Report, Peter Thelin:** Welcome back! Hope everyone had a nice break in June and July. We are very pleased to report that the Wig wags are running again! We had a delightful celebration last weekend for the Wig Wags, we had our neighborhood Cleanup Day which generated \$89 from metal recycling, and the Richmond Bridge bicycle lane which will open soon, and we have a variety of updates to hear about tonight.
- 4. Police Report, Officer Joseph DeOran:** (jdeorian@richmondcpd.net) There was no police report tonight, however Jessie West, Block Captain of the Downtown Point Richmond Neighborhood Watch group gave a Crime Update: In prior years the website <https://www.crimemapping.com/> was available to the public to see what crimes were reported to the local police. A few years ago, police switched to new software and statistics were no longer uploaded to that website, however those software problems have been resolved and CrimeMapping.com is once again available for residents to get reports on local crimes. Anyone can go to that website and enter an address and radius from that address inside of which we can get crime alerts. Recent crimes reported locally: On 7/29 there was a carjacking with a dangerous weapon on Ocean Ave, and there was a residential burglary on Bishop Ave. On 7/25 there was a report of battery on a person on the 100 block of Chevron Way. On 7/15: vandalism was reported on the 200 block of Nevada, petty theft was reported on the 200 block of Bishop, and vandalism was reported on Railroad Ave. Jessie can be reached through the Nextdoor app.

5. **Treasurer's Report, Buzz Baylis:** We have \$3,745 in the General Fund. The final accounting for the Wig Wag Fund is still being completed, but we anticipate having enough money to cover all costs associated with the repairs and celebration. Thank you to all members who generously donated to restore our Wig Wags!
6. **Membership Report, June Hight:** Currently we have 48 paid members. If you are not sure if you are current or if you would like to pay your dues for the new year, please contact June.
7. **Department of Children and Youth Oversight Board; David Padilla:** The Kids First initiative was passed by voters in 2018 to help Richmond youth. That initiative started the new Richmond Department and Fund for Children and Youth. Currently there are 8 members of the team, plus interns. They are trying to introduce the department to the public and to start working in the community. In addition, they are also building a 15 person oversight board made up of Richmond and North Richmond members. Members of the oversight board can include anyone including youth members. Almost anyone over the age of 15 can serve and they hope that about half of the board will be made up of youth members. More information and an online application is available at www.RichmondYouth.org David can be reached at 510-620-6523.
8. **Ferry to Bridge to Greenway, Bruce Brubaker and Abe Sheppard:** Bruce a Point Richmond resident and a member of TRAC. He is also a Principal at Placeworks, an urban design and planning firm that was hired to design "complete street" connections to the new Richmond Ferry, Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, and the Greenway. Complete streets are streets used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and cars. The scope of his firm's design work and the scope of tonight's discussion is about making connections to existing regional infrastructure. His firm is not involved with ferry operations, which is operated by WETA, or with the bicycle lane on the bridge, which is a CalTrans project. CalTrans plans to open the bicycle lane on the bridge in November 2019 and the ferry is already operational and is expanding to weekend service imminently, following weekday ridership that has exceeded expectations. Connecting these regional transit resources on our local streets involves informing the community of concept ideas, evaluating infrastructure, collision demographics, existing transportation, and land use, and then coming up with a plan. Currently we need input from you: what are some of the issues you see with local infrastructure? What ideas do you have, how do you think we should proceed? To learn about the projects, view upcoming events, sign up to receive project updates, or to take our survey, please visit our website at <https://ferry2bridge2greenway.com/>

Some current related projects include:

- A new bike trail will open at Tewksbury & Castro in a separate safe lane at Stenmark Drive to go either across to the Point Molate beach or to go up and onto the bridge. Golden Gate Transit and other public transit options are available at the start and end of the bridge, so someone could take a bus in one direction and bike or walk across the bridge one way if they did not want to go round trip. This could be a really great opportunity for tourism and also a commuting option.
- Currently the Bay Trail runs along Cutting then goes to Garrard. We already get a lot of bike traffic into the Point from Cutting, and many Point residents bike out to the Ferry, which keeps cars off the street. What is the best way to route bike traffic in the downtown Point area? The downtown area is busy and there is not a lot of space for bicyclists, on the other hand traffic is slow which could make it easier for bikes and cars to share road way.
- A team of planners from MTC introduced the concept for new street striping on Tewksbury about a year ago, and the initial feedback we got was that it was best for the bicyclists to stay on level ground rather than routing cyclists up over the hills. The recent improvements that were installed include stop signs and a speed bump to slow traffic. The challenging part of Tewksbury is near the bus turnaround and the entrance to the freeway. The design as it is currently installed is new and a lot of people have concerns about it; although this design has been used in Europe and in more bike friendly areas.
- Cutting BLVD east of Garrard is a four lane road, but it does not appear to have enough traffic to justify four lanes. We are considering whether it would be appropriate to make a separate, dedicated bike lane on Cutting similar to what was done on Garrard and Tewksbury.

Public Q&A:

- Comment: I love the temporary work on Tewksbury; I ride my bike on that path because it seems safer. The debris in the bike lane on Cutting is scary and the sidewalk seems safer to me.
- Q: How much money is being spent to convert to bike lanes? Has a survey been done on bikers during weekend and weekdays? A: The cost of the interim projects was around \$200-\$300,000 for

local street bike lanes throughout the city. Note that MTC, the Bay Area Toll Authority, and CalTrans are responsible for the bridge bike path, and that is beyond the work of Richmond or our local firms.

- Q: We would like more frequent updates about these types of projects here at the PRNC meeting; we heard about this plan about a year ago but then nothing until things started happening. A: We understand the concern; any concepts that come out of this process will be presented again here before anything gets written into the plan.
- Q: Parking is a problem in the Point; people come to carpool to other places and leave their cars here all day. Also, bike lanes are crazy.
- Q: I'm an avid bicyclist and really excited to have bike access to Point Molate. However, the protected bike turn on the corner of Castro & Tewksbury blends in with the sidewalk and several people have hit it. I believe that island should be removed since it creates a hazard for drivers and provides little value to cyclists.
- Q: I live on East Richmond, and would like to suggest E. Richmond as an alternative route into town, although school traffic could make for challenging traffic patterns. Also, I hope to see some green infrastructure like street water runoff that is incorporated into planning.
- Q: Getting cars off the bridge and off streets is great; I think adding Ferry service to Marin where Golden Gate Transit goes would be a huge local benefit.
- Q: 1. It is not clear why the bike lanes are directing cyclists where they are directing them. 2. Delivery trucks do not use the expanded yellow zone on W. Richmond & Park, they just double park. Bicycles are being directed all over town. 3. The unmarked cement island on the corner of Castro & Tewksbury needs reflective devices and should be painted red; also the new island narrowed ingress and egress. 4. Currently there is no turn on red onto Castro at I-580, and the island makes it worse for cars just trying to go straight on Tewksbury. 5. Bike traffic on Cutting: many bikes do not use the bike lane and instead take over the second car lane. Also, there is no posted speed limit there and drivers go to fast coming down Cutting and onto Garrard. 6. On Garrard at the PR Social Club the bike lane is on the retail side of the street, so now anyone in a car who wants to stop for a coffee has to cross a lot of traffic. 7. There is no stop sign for cars exiting the driveway at the Point Apartments. 8. People drive too fast and most of our speed limits are at 25 mph, which is too fast.

9. Wig Wag Celebration and Updates, Charmain Tyler: Thank you to everyone who came out and celebrated our Wig Wags on Sunday! It was a long road to get our Wig Wags back into operation, and we marked the occasion with a celebration. Commemorative posters of the Wig Wags were designed and donated by local artist Betty Tarre; we are selling these posters for \$20 and there are still some available. Thank you to the people who organized and helped with the celebration: Tom Piazza with Point Richmond History Association, Victor Morales, Sue Rosenoff, Karen Buckanan, the PRNC board, and the star of the show: Dan Furtado who did all the repairs to the wig wags and made them operational again! We had a number of tables from local organizations, we had many volunteers, the celebration featured a barbershop quartet, a person who played the rag piano, and a ukulele group. We enjoyed hearing the wig wag chimes multiple times! The Wig Wags themselves are manually operated and are not connected in any way to BNSF; they need batteries in order to operate. We will need Dan to come back to make them operate for any future special occasions. The next step is to hand ongoing maintenance to the Point Richmond History Association. The PRNC did some fundraising at the event, and we are still waiting for invoices from vendors and suppliers and we expect the final accounting to be completed in the next few weeks. Comment: Victor Morales did so much to organize getting the Wig Wags back, and it was Victor who got Dan Furtado involved with the repairs. Victor engaged with the city, he kept Dan interested, and Victor worked for years and years to get the wig wags together. Suggestion was made to the PRNC board to make a special award or recognition for Victor, perhaps a plaque on the wig wags.

10. Land Use Design Review Committee: The project discussed tonight involves plans to extend a deck on the back of a house at 527 Washington. One of the neighbors of the project spoke in support of the plans. LUDRC voted in support of the project as planned 6-0. A motion to approve the deck as approved by the LUDRC was passed with unanimous approval and no opposition.

11. Community Briefs

- **PRBA, Cordell Hindler and Peter Thelin:** The speaker last month was Nicholas Trailer who gave an update about Richmond Rent Control. The PRNB with help from the PRNC is planning a “Fall Fest” which was formerly known as Picnic in the Point. Save the date! It will be on October 5th and will have lots of fun activities for the whole family.
- **Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding:** No movie is planned for August, but we are returning to our regular schedule in September. Also, we will start an optional 10 month membership option at the end of September; members can buy 10 months of movie tickets in advance if they choose or those who prefer can continue attending single movies.
- **Arts of Point Richmond, Mary Lee Cole:** There is a new exhibit at the Post Office by a violinist with art featuring a whimsical, upbeat violin that is almost a character. The new exhibit at El Sol features art from AOPR members. We had a table at the Wig Wag party last weekend and many people purchased those little cards of historic Point Richmond scenes by Linda Drake. The Gallery at El Sol is dedicated to Linda Drake; she is the deceased sister of the woman who runs El Sol.
- **Women’s West Side Improvement Club, Diane Diani and Maureen Decombe:** Work continues at the Map Garden with weeding and cutting back poppies. Gordan Hirano recently installed a glass case on the back of the Map Garden display and interpretive signage is going to be installed. This is still a work in process, but we hope to mount signs in the next 6 weeks. Thank you to everyone who helped us, including Jordan who helped move some giant stones so you can stand to look at the map.
- **Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding:** There is a new lightweight curtain in the window that is much easier to maneuver, it will block the light allowing us to continue showing movies, and it will lower the heat in the room in the summer. The city will install a valance that will block light from the 2-3 inch gap from edge of curtain to ceiling. Some people have had difficulty finding our building, so we have asked the city to put new numbers up outside the community center. Last month’s film “My Life as a Dog” had great turnout from people saw the movie 25 years ago and wanted to see it again. On May 17 at 7:30 we are showing an Icelandic movie called "Virgin Mountain" about a man in his 40s who still lives with his mother. He takes ridicule with kindness and as the movie progresses audiences like the character more and more. This movie was not released in the US. Tickets are available at <https://www.magicklantern.org/>.
- **Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Margaret Jordan:** There is no RNCC meeting in August. Since the last meeting, the new City Manager was fired; we were hoping he would come to an RNCC meeting but he refused to attend one. There has been a long discussion about developing a corridor from Richmond to San Pablo so busses can get through without cars getting in the way. The next RNCC meeting is September 16th at 7pm in council chambers. The topic will be from Tom Butt’s office about a discussion of the 2020 census. Sept 16th the topic will be from Tom Butt’s office, a discussion of 2020 census. 7:00 9/16 city council chambers.
- **Point Richmond History Association:** Thank you for helping put on the wig wag event, and thank you to Charmain for all your work on planning the celebration.
- **Richmond Tennis Association, Garry Hurlbut:** This past July was very exciting; we took 55 elementary school aged kids on a bus to a tournament and we had a side trip to see a four hour match with Roger Federer. The league championship was last month, and now we have 6 new teams getting started. We had 232 kids throughout the city playing tennis in April, and we plan to start up again in the fall when school starts. We are planning to start tennis outreach at the Washington School with games here at the Plunge courts this coming year.
- **Masquers Playhouse, Fran:** We have been closed for several years now, but we have been working with creative architects and we finally have a concept we can present to the City. We are going to put in steel plates on either side of the structural beam. We are getting back on track to reopen! We are in the silent part of our capital campaign and we are about to open to the public to ask for donations. The Gateway Foundation has indicated they plan to donate to the theater, and currently we think we may be able to reopen in February!
- **Red Oak Victory, Graham Perrett:** We will have our Pancake Breakfast on August 11th from 9-12:30. Two movies are playing in August: August 8th we are showing “Age of Darkness,” a Norwegian resistance movie and August 22 “The Fighting Sullivans.” Movies start at 7pm, boarding starts at 6:30; we ask for \$10 donations and we also sell beer at the bar!

12. Open Forum

- **Cordell Hindler:** 1. Dave “Shaving Cream” Schoenthal is moving and we had a going away party for him. There were 50 people including the current PRBA president. 2. The July PRBA meeting last week featured a speaker from Nextdoor.com. 3. The next PRBA meeting is on August 29th from 12-1:30; the featured speaker will be Kathleen Sullivan who will talk about the history of grip. Luncheon is at Hotel Mac; tickets are \$32. 4. Suggestions for next month’s agenda: a representative from AC Transit to talk about their projects, Ariel Mercado from Bart could talk about Bart projects, 5. There will be a community meeting on August 13th at 5pm at City Council Chambers, topic will be the Interim City Manager.
- **Michelle Brandt:** There is a planned development at 80 Belvedere that will impact everyone who lives on Belvedere and Bishop Alley. A developer bought two empty lots that have an easement on them, but the development of the lots were approved by the LUDRC and subsequent city committees. The easement is an old path that takes people right up to the top of the hill, and we are hoping to get people together to preserve the vacant land. The old right-of-way was declared not a legal easement, and the establishment of the easement appears to never have been legally established. A group of us is exploring options to buy 80 Belvedere in order to preserve the vacant land, or alternatively to ask East Bay Regional Parks to buy the lot. We heard the developer has now gotten all plans approved by the city and now plans to sell each separate lot for \$600,000, however the current listing is only for \$240,000.

13. In Remembrance and Celebration/Adjourn: Maureen’s aunt Betty Groff passed away; she was an amazing person and had a distinguished career as a diplomat and she helped establish the UN. She will be most fondly remembered.

14. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Hilary Brown, PRNC Secretary; “hilarybrownie “at” hotmail.com” (510) 326-5946



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND PAY YOUR DUES! The dues help cover our administrative expenses and are minimal: \$20 for individuals and \$25 for a household. If this is a financial hardship, a waiver is gladly granted. Lifetime memberships are available for \$500. Bring dues to next meeting or mail check and application to:
PRNC; P.O. Box 70386; Point Richmond, CA 94807.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Household |

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Date _____



***Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting:
August 28, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Point Richmond Community Center***

POINT RICHMOND
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
P.O. Box 70386
Pt. Richmond, CA 94807