

## **ON POINT**

September 2009

Even though the official deadline for public comment on the draft environmental impact report for the Point Molate Casino Project passed on September 17, there are rumblings that it may be extended. Whether it is or not, this is a big project, with a potentially big impact on Richmond and Point Richmond.

The proposed 1100 room hotel, 7500 parking places, casino with 3000 slot machines, 2500 seat theater, 30 to 75 retail shops and 400 housing units on the 266 acre site of the old Navy fueling depot and winery complex is a huge development with debatable ramifications.

John Salmon, from Upstream Point Molate, will present a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed project at our next meeting. Upstream Point Molate is a limited liability corporation that includes the Guidiville Band of Pomos, Berkeley developer James Levine, and a group of investors. In response, Danna Moore, from the Coalition to Save Point Molate, will make a presentation.

The project is supported by the City of Richmond, but is opposed by the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors and various environmental groups. The City supports the project because of anticipated shared revenue and the much needed jobs that the hotel and casino could generate for the people of Richmond. Opponents point to the downside of locating a gambling casino in an urban area, congestion from increased traffic, the affects of addictive gambling on families and individuals, and the potential for an increase in crime. If permitted, there could be three casinos in West Contra Costa County within a four mile radius of each other and 15,000 additional cars could crowd the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge corridor. This is your chance to hear both sides of the Point Molate Casino issue and ask questions of the presenters.

An announcement was made at the last Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council meeting that overcharging for sewer lateral repairs is again an issue in Richmond. Rich Davidson, the City Engineer, says that the repairs should be about \$4500. Prices of \$10,000 to \$12,000 are being reported. Even a price of \$40,000 was seen. Rich says that he is concerned that the contractors seem to be targeting single, more elderly women. If you see sewer lateral repairs underway, and you know the homeowner, he asks that you mention the problem. If you need repairs yourself, he suggests that you get several bids. He has a list of contractors who perform the work for a reasonable price.

A large flock of wild turkeys has been wandering the streets of Point Richmond for the past few months. Some of you find this charming, and are feeding them, but some are disturbed by the effect the large birds are having on landscaping and vegetation. It has been suggested that we refrain from feeding them.

I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Peter Minkwitz, *President*  
POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**AGENDA**  
**POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**September 30, 2009**  
**Point Richmond Community Center**

- 7:30 pm **Call to Order**
- 7:30 **Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2009**
- President's Report** by Peter Minkwitz (510) 232-3663 5 minutes
- 7:35 **Report on Membership** Sue Rosenof 510-599-1197 2 minutes
- 7:38 **Treasurer's Report** Art Mowry 510-215-0501 2 minutes
- 7:40 **Committee Reports and Announcements from non-profit groups**  
2 minutes each Up to 12 minutes
- Arts of Point Richmond, Linda Drake 510-234-3822
  - Point Richmond Business Association, Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219
  - Women's Westside Improvement Association, Margaret Morkowski
  - Knit and Such, Altha Humphrey
  - TRAC, Bruce Beyaert
  - Point Richmond Village, Linda Newton
- 7:52 **Police Report**  
Richmond PD Officer David Longacre  
Richmond Crime Prevention Commission  
Tom Brichta 415-686-1522 10 minutes
- Proposed Point Molate Casino Development**
- 8:02 Presentation by John Salmon  
For the Point Molate Destination Resort Project 30 minutes
- 8:32 Response by Danna Moore  
For The Coalition to Save Point Molate 30 minutes
- 9:02 **Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee** Rod Satre  
*Items to be considered at the Committee's October 28, 2009 meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by October 12, 2009.*  
Contact Rod at 510-232-5059 or [rdsatre@live.com](mailto:rdsatre@live.com)
- 28 Montana St.:** Renovation.  
Owner/Applicants Maureen and Jean-Michel Decombe 10 minutes

**Public Forum** 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 by October 12, 2009 to Peter Minkwitz 510-465-2527 (B) 510-232-3663 (H) to [peter@sanfranciscomarinesurveyors.com](mailto:peter@sanfranciscomarinesurveyors.com) or [peter180@comcast.net](mailto:peter180@comcast.net)*

**Adjourn**

## *Important Dates:*

- Wednesday, Oct 28 Regular meeting of the **Point Richmond Neighborhood Council**, 7:30 pm, Point Richmond Community Center, 139 Washington Avenue
- Wednesday, Oct 28 Regular meeting of the **PRNC Land/Use Design Review Committee**, Wednesday 6:00 pm, Offices of Interactive Resources, Park Place, Point Richmond.  
Contact Rod Satre (510) 232-5059
- Monday, Oct 12 Last day to submit proposed projects to the **Land Use/Design Review Committee**
- Tuesday, Oct 6 Regular meeting of the **PRNC Board of Directors**.  
Call Peter Minkwitz for the time and place (510) 232-3663.
- Saturday, Sept. 26 4<sup>th</sup> Annual **North Richmond Shoreline Festival**.  
11 am to 5 pm Point Pinole Regional Shoreline Park
- Friday, Oct. 2 **Meet-with-the-Mayor** 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Whittlesey Room, 325 Civic Center Plaza (the first Friday of every month)
- Friday, Oct. 2 **USO Dance**  
7 to 10 pm. Craneway Pavilion
- Saturday, Oct 3 **Homefront Festival**.  
11 am to 6 pm. Lucretia Edwards Park/Craneway Pavilion/Shipyard 3/SS Red Oak
- Saturday, Oct 10 **Historic Point Richmond Fall Fest**.  
10 am to 6 pm. Bands, pumpkin patch, Hayride, Arts and Crafts
- Wednesdays **Point Richmond Farmers' Market**. 4 pm to 8 pm.  
Downtown Point Richmond.



### **Thirteen Ways to Improve Neighborhood Safety Right Now**

- Report crime promptly.
- Take away the opportunity for crime.
- Reach out and meet the youth on your block.
- Make a list of the names and phone numbers of *every* neighbor on your block.
- Make a list of landlords in your area as well.
- Turn on your porch light.
- Walk around the block. Get to know your neighborhood.
- Drive slowly on neighborhood streets, and observe.
- Take ownership. Pick up litter and report dumping.
- Grow roots. Attend Neighborhood Council meetings.

**Minutes**  
**POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
**August 26, 2009**  
**Point Richmond Community Center**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:35p.m. by President, Peter Minkwitz

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the PRNC meeting of July 29, 2009 were moved, seconded and approved.

**President's Report:** Applications for membership are available at the meetings. There was no meeting of The Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council in August. The next meeting with the Mayor is 9/4/09 from 5:30-6:30 in the Madeline F. Whittlesey Room. Margaret Morkowski, David Dolberg and Peter Minkwitz went to the Richmond Museum regarding the currently non-operational WigWags. They have been non-operational for 4 years and the PRNC is working towards making them operational by the opening of the Plunge. A list of other ceremonial events at the Point will need to be prepared to enhance the need of a deadline for Wig Wag operation. Margaret Morkowski is working on the sign by the Fire Department.

**Report on Membership** Sue Rosenof 510-599-1197 There are currently close to 120 members who have paid their membership dues out of 379 members, 20 new renewals since the last meeting. Sadly, there are no new members. Sue e-mailed the minutes, as an experiment, to some individuals who had requested e-mail vs. hard copy. The intention is to keep the cost down for the City.

**Treasurer's Report** Art Mowry 510-215-0501 Bishop Alley Path Fund: \$711.06 Ferry Point Fund: \$1989.58 This money is already allotted. Wig Wag Fund: \$2970.94. This money is allotted for the plaque that will be installed. General Fund: \$3985.30 Dues collected: \$380 Total: \$9656.88

**Committee Reports and Announcements from non-profit groups:**

**Arts of Point Richmond,** Altha Humphrey 510-232-2934 There s a continuing problem "trying to be a part of the community and the Community Center. We need to meet and grow". There will be an art exhibit in conjunction with the music series 9/11-9/25. After that event, payment will be required. A payment of \$200!!!!

Altha has talked with the Mayor, to Tom Butt, who was very supportive of the public use of the Center, and with the Council of The Parks and Recreation Department. Altha remains positive in her approach and "hopes to be successful". The Arts of Pt. Richmond are "unique as they are held downtown in the hub of businesses and the activity of our community. We should be able to be here without charge".

**Point Richmond Business Association,** Margaret Morkowski 510 234-4219 The current challenge is the proposed closure of the Point Richmond Post Office. We need to make our opinions known. This proposed closure is 1 out of 700 in the U.S. There are 18 in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties and 4 in Richmond!! A letter writing campaign will be initiated. George Miller stepped into help the last time this was proposed 20 years ago. There may be a chance to preserve our P.O. based on a "rural status" (this is due to our mailbox placement). Another possibility is a "Self Serve Post Office", however, the preference is the current P.O. status. There will be a Fall Festival in October, for children and adults. Last year there was a dog contest, which proved successful and fun. There will be a Business Expo in which Point Richmond will again be involved. There were comments about "Business Watch" and their shared interest in cameras in downtown and the park.

**Women's Westside Improvement Association,** Margaret Morkowski 510 234-4219 The next meeting is 9/1/09, Tuesday at 11:30 at the Methodist Church. Bring a lunch.

**Knit and Such,** Altha Humphrey 510-232-2934 The meeting days and times have been changed to the afternoon on the first Wednesday of the month from 1:45-3:45 in the Community Center. In October, three classes will be offered for those wanting to learn to knit. Times and location will be announced when finalized.

**TRAC,** Bruce Brubaker spoke in behalf of TRAC, Trails for Richmond Action Committee. The Bay Trail wants to connect the trail through downtown Point Richmond. It will go from the Trainmasters Building (Mechanics Bank) down Richmond Avenue. It will be a class 3 bike route, offering a shared lane for bikes and cars with bike signage. The members present voted in support of the idea of a connection through Point Richmond. The vote will help to speed up the process. There is no freeway route as yet, no start of the new trail to Pt. Molate. There will be a connection, but not for a few years. A concern was raised re: tunnel safety and current signage that does not prove readable, to assist the riders and provide for their safety.

**Point Richmond Village**, Linda Newton 510 595-5566. Flyers were available re: Village Forum, a Friday evening speaker series for Pt. Richmond and surrounding communities. The first speaker is Dr. Harvey Kayman, M.D. and MPH. His topic is "The Flu is Coming! Find out about the choices you will face." 9/25 7:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church. "This forum is committed to bring culture to the Point".

**Police Report** Richmond PD Officer David Longacre REMINDER: program your phone to 233-1214 and punch O when given the beginning of the menu to talk with the dispatcher for immediate service, not 911. A report on the crime statistics indicated 11 crimes. On the positive note, that number has decreased from approximately 28 crimes that were reported last month. A camera system for the city was discussed to assist with prevention and apprehension. The current one camera, which faces the park downtown, is stable and of poor quality. With the warmer nights of summer, the strong suggestion was reiterated to buy window locks if you are going to keep your windows open. Open windows are the easiest entrance for "hot prowler" burglary.

**Richmond Crime Prevention Commission** Tom Brichta 415-686-1522 The Crime Prevention Committee reviewed this year's America's Night Out. There were no parties in Point Richmond this year, however, Tom wanted to suggest that we at Point Richmond enter into the festivities next year. Tom suggested "Be aware about your neighborhood" as the top prevention technique available to us all. And don't hesitate to call.

**Bruce Harter, Superintendent West Contra Costa Unified School District.** Mr. Harter gave an update on the health of the school district, and according to the power point presentation, the graduates going to college and the AP (Advanced Placement) classes are both increasing. The drop out rate is decreasing, the attendance rate is increasing and the truancy rate is increasing. These are all positive statistics, which are encouraging in these bleak times. One third of Richmond's students speak another language. English proficiency scores are also increasing. Four new schools are under construction and three are still in design, again, good news for the community. On the less positive side, the recession is significantly hurting the district and the financial situation "is like a train wreck". The Parcel tax has helped and lasts for the next 5 years. It has provided music, science, a new math program, advanced classes, gardens and other crucial services. The focus is back to basics: reading, writing, and math. There is a series of tales pertinent to Richmond called The Richmond Tales with Mario and Myesha. This series of tales allows students to see the rich history right here in Richmond. Questions from the audience included class size increases. Mr. Harter indicated they were striving to "balance them out with as few combination classes as possible". He reiterated, that even with all of the huge reductions in the financial arena, that "the teachers are FABULOUS". Negotiation is underway regarding health benefits, working on ways to increase teacher's salaries and perhaps adjusting the school year and day to decrease hours. This reduction in school time was seen by Mr. Harter as "bad choices for the teachers, the students and the community" The district has received 2 year funding from the federal stimulus package. It goes away after 2011. They will apply for "Race to the Top" which is awarded state by state. An initiative proposed by Lonnie Hancock to change the 2/3 requirements for voting was discussed as well as the loss of revenue from property taxes.

**Report from Land Use/Design Review Committee Rod Satre** *Items to be considered at the Committee's September 30, 2009 meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by September 7, 2009. Contact Rod at 510-232-5059 or [rdساتre@live.com](mailto:rdساتre@live.com).* No applications on the agenda this month.

**New Business:** No new business scheduled

**Public Forum:** *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 by July 30, 2009 to Peter Minkwitz 510-465-2527 (B) 510-232-3663 (H) or to [peter@sanfranciscomarinesurveyors.com](mailto:peter@sanfranciscomarinesurveyors.com)*

Altha Humphrey further discussed the use of the Community Center and the needs of the community. Thank you Altha for the cookies and coffee you so willingly and consistently supply for all of us.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Fender, Secretary

**Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.**