



ON POINT *June 2015*



Summer has come to Point Richmond! Although we can't tell from the weather, we've enjoyed our first Point Richmond Music Festival Concert and our first Point-to-Point Saturday afternoon. And to add to the summer fun, Kaleidoscope, our new coffee/*ice cream* shop and entertainment venue will open mid-summer.

Board Update: The PRNC Board is happy to welcome Maureen Decombe as a Board Member-At-Large. In addition to enriching the Board discussions Maureen will work to bring awareness of the importance of sustainability efforts in Point Richmond and greater Richmond. Not one to waste time, Maureen and Christine Volker are preparing materials on drought gardening and creating habitat for beneficial animals that will soon be available on the PRNC website. In addition, as a Certified Sustainability Advisor Maureen has organized a Soils Workshop to take place on July 11 at the Plunge Garden. Rob Bennaton, Bay Area Urban Agriculture Advisor for UC Cooperative Extension will be teaching us how to create soil conditions that will promote healthy plants and gardens. Details of this workshop can be found in the leaflet attached.

Membership Meeting June 24—The meeting will be in the Banquet Room at the Hotel Mac.

City personnel will be at the meeting to discuss street lighting in Point Richmond: Last Fall the City replaced old sodium street lights with much brighter LED lights. Additional lights were added on other poles. While some people welcomed the light, many more expressed concerns about excessive light entering their homes, excessive glare on the streets, and obstructed views caused by the bright lights. The Richmond Smart Lighting Coalition (RSLC) formed to research the issue. Results of the research are summarized in the minutes of the April PRNC meeting. Working with the city the RSLC conducted a poll that allowed residents to experience the lights at different intensities ranging from 40% to 100% of capacity. The overwhelming preference was for lights at the 40% level. City personnel who came to see the demonstration indicated that they too found the lower illumination levels to be adequate for some residential streets

The city wants to work with the RSLC and community. Andy Yeung from the city will be at the June PRNC meeting to hear from the community and present and discuss a plan that they have come up with from conversations with the RSLC that will allow phased in trials of the lights at a lower level throughout Point Richmond. We will be discussing the plan at the June meeting. The plan will come before the membership again in July, at which time members will vote to provide guidance to the city on the plan.

Change in meeting procedure: Past practice over the last few years has been to try to discuss and vote on recommendations from the LUDRC early in the meeting. This works well when the issues are clear and uncontroversial. It becomes more disruptive to the agenda when we need to give more attention to an LUDRC issue. To remedy this situation we will continue to take a vote in the beginning of the meeting when considering small projects that are clear and noncontroversial. More complicated or controversial issues will be moved to the end of the meeting. Large developments (e.g. Terminal One) will be placed on the agenda as a separate item with time given for a full presentation and discussion.

PRNC MEMBERSHIP DUES--Still the best deal in town—\$10/individual, \$15/household. Dues for 2015-2016 can be paid now! Pay your dues to Garry or Charmain at the door before the next meeting starts.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Jordan".

**Margaret Jordan, President
Point Richmond Neighborhood Council**



AGENDA

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council
Wednesday, June 24, 2015
Hotel Mac Banquet Room

- 7:30 *Call to order and approval of Minutes from May 27, 2015* 2 minutes
- 7:32 *Police Report, and Report from PRNC Safety and Crime Prevention Rep, Jon Sutinen, jsutinen@yahoo.com* 10 minutes
- 7:42 *President's Report, Margaret Jordan (510) 412-3673* 3 minutes
- 7:45 *Report on Membership, Charmain Tyler (510) 334-7267* 1 minute
- 7:46 *Treasurer's Report, Garry Hurlbut (510) 547-8111* 1 minute
- 7:47 *Land Use/Design Review Committee* 5 minutes
Items to be considered at the July meeting, must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, by July 13. Contact Rod at rdsatre@live.com, (510) 232-5059. The LUDRC Committee meets monthly prior to the PRNC Meeting at 6 p.m. at Interactive Resources, 117 Park Place. Please attend if your project is being considered.
- 7:52 *Street Lighting in Point Richmond, Andy Yeung, City of Richmond* 25 minutes
- 8:17 *Formula Restaurant Ordinance-History/Discussion, Margaret Jordan* 7 minutes
- 8:24 *Brief Report on Richmond City Budget 2015-2016, Mike Parker* 6 minutes
- 8:30 *Committee Reports and Announcements from Non-profit Groups*
2 minutes each-up to 15 minutes
- Point Richmond Business Association, Dave Schoenthal, dbschoen@hotmail.com
 - Knit and Such, Terri Phillips, (510) 237-6865
 - Arts of Point Richmond, Altha Humphrey, (510) 232-2934
 - Women's Westside Improvement Club, Norma Wallace
 - Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut, (510) 547-8111
 - Point Richmond History Association, Mid Dornan, (510) 234-5334
 - Masquers Playhouse, Kathe Kiehn, www.masquers.org
 - TRAC, Richmond Bay Trail, Bruce Beyaert, www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail
 - Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding, (510) 232-2559, magicklantern.org
 - Citizens for a Healthy Shoreline, Pete Bingham, (510) 778-8314
 - Richmond Smart Lighting Coalition, Hilary Brown, Jordan DeStaebler (510) 697-2742
 - USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Pat Pearson, (510) 234-1045
- 8:45 *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, submit issues to Margaret Jordan at 510-412-3673, mjordan00@gmail.com or <http://www.pointrichmond.org/contact.cfm>, prior to the next PRNC Board Meeting – 6/25/2015.*
- 8:55 *In Remembrance and Celebration/Adjourn*



Point Richmond Neighborhood Council General Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 27, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. Minutes from the previous meeting were corrected to show item 3. Wig Wag is being repaired with assistance from Richmond Museum of History. After amendment, minutes from previous meeting were approved. Board members present: Margaret Jordan, Jordan DeStaebler, Charmain Tyler, and Hilary Brown. Garry Hurlbut, absent.

2. **Police Report:** Officer Villalobos gave a monthly crime report. Four vehicle burglaries, two commercial burglaries, one residential burglary, some vandalism, six vehicle thefts, eight petty thefts (doors left open or unlocked). Violent crime is nonexistent in Point Richmond. Stressed the importance of being aware of your surroundings.

3. **President's Report, Margaret Jordan (510) 412-3673:** Margaret reported the Community Center is going to be closed for four more weeks. The PRNC has a benevolent fund for contributing to charitable projects that benefit the local community. Last month the benevolent fund contributed \$1,000 to Masquers Theater for their improvement project. Currently the PRNC is considering funding a kiosk next to the Point Richmond History Association on the corner across the street from the Santa Fe Market. Suggestion made to give a presentation about the kiosk plans. There will be a Pride Picnic in the Park event at Marina Bay Park on Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 to 3:00.

4. **Report on Membership, Charmain Tyler (510) 334-7267:** We currently have 95 paid members. If possible, please get the newsletter online rather than through the mail.

5. **Treasurer's Report, Garry Hurlbut (510) 547-8111:** Membership dues collected last month totaled \$160. Current balances: \$4,197.71, Benevolent Fund; \$2,970.94, Wig Wag Fund; \$5876.47, General Fund.

6. **Land Use/Design Review Committee:** One project was considered at **827 Ocean** – Mr. Nielson is the architect representing the owner. The project proposes adding a window on the north side of the house, adding a door to a deck, enclosing the garage, creating a master suite by adding a bathroom, and enclosing decks on the water side. The overall impact from the street is minimal. Rod Satre, Chair of LUDRC, stated the committee recommends conditional approval with door access to the deck over the garage, and additional windows to the garage over the street. Motion to accept the recommendations of LUDRC – motion was approved with no opposition.

7. **Todd Hotel:** Owners Nemo and John Marchesiello are new owners of the Todd Hotel. There were many problems with the building, including some areas with only plywood subfloors and no finished flooring, and some units with no running water. They are making improvements to living spaces, shared common spaces, and ensuring tenants are a good fit for the building and community. Some improvements currently being made include installing flooring, making sure all tenants have access to water in their rooms, and providing internet access. There are currently about 40 tenants. A typical room is about 10 feet by 10 feet with a sink. These rooms function as a bedroom and living room, and each of these rooms has its own lock. Kitchens, bathrooms, and lavatories are all shared. There is no common area, but people like gathering outside the offices which are on the first floor.

8. **Gardening During a Drought:** Presentation by Maureen Decombe. Do not feel guilty for using some water during a drought, because our small gardens in the fog belt are already water savers relative to large lawns in inland areas. Good gardening practices can save even more water, and EBMUD has asked everyone to reduce water use by 20%. Average homes use 60% of fresh water outside, and up to 50% of that water runs off landscaping into the gutter. By using water wisely we can protect the watershed, preserve our infrastructure, and prevent runoff into the Bay. Some things we can do to save even more water: mulch, compost, use climate appropriate or native plants, try turning off irrigation for 1-2 weeks and allow your lawn to go dormant and hydrozone (group plants together with similar water needs). Coupons for free mulch at American Soil & Stone are available from EBMUD.

Christine Volker gave a short talk on a gardening for wildlife initiative called Backyard Havens. She shared ideas for making Point Richmond a wildlife oasis, particularly important in this time of shrinking wildlife populations. People wanting to participate or receive more information can reach her at PRBHavens@yahoo.com. Meanwhile, her slides are available on the PRNC website.

9. **People for a Healthy Shoreline:** Jim Zahradka, a member of People for a Healthy Shoreline, gave a presentation about the benefits of protecting the health and quality of developable land and shoreline, to preserve views for future generations, and protect public access to the shoreline. Currently Laconia, a developer proposing a 13 acres high-density housing development near Brickyard Cove, which will significantly impact the shoreline, infrastructure, character of the neighborhood, and public access to the Bay. They want to keep people informed about the process about the history of the property including that it was originally slated to hold only 32-38 single family homes. If you would like to help, please sign up for Pete's forum, join the conversation and invite your friends to learn what is happening with the development. You can sign up for the email distribution by emailing People for a Healthy Shoreline PHSHORELINE@gmail.com.

10. **Richmond Smart Lighting Coalition:** Hilary Brown gave an update about street lights. The city is proposing a second demonstration with all lights on Idaho dimmed to the lowest setting of 40%, and all lights on Montana at 50%. The city would like PRNC to discuss and vote on dimming down large areas of residential streets, and to come up with solutions for dispute resolution when neighbors do not agree about removing lights. These issues will be discussed in more detail at upcoming PRNC meetings. For more information, go to Richmond-Smart-Lighting.org.

11. **Committee Reports and Announcements from Non-profit Groups**

- **Point Richmond Business Association**, Dave Schoenthal, dbschoen@hotmail.com: Ted Ma – working with city on a parking program for local vendors. No date set for business permits to park. Going to get 3 or 4 new trashcans in PTR. Point to Point Richmond is coming up on June 13th from 4-7 pm. Summer concert series begins Friday, June 12 5:30-7 pm. Starting the planning for Picnic in the Park.
- **Knit and Such**, Altha Humphrey – next meeting is Wednesday, June 3 from 1-3 pm at 53 Crest Av
- **Arts of Point Richmond**, Altha Humphrey, (510) 232-2934 – participating at Point to Point Saturday, June 13th. New exhibit in post office window and new exhibit in El Sol is coming.
- **Red Oak Victory**, Pat Pearson – next breakfast is Father's Day June 21st from 9 – 12:30. Adults pay \$9, children \$5. There will be a July 3 barbeque, but no breakfast that day.
- **Women's Westside Improvement Club**, Linda Newton – next meeting is Tuesday, June 2nd at 11:30 at the Methodist Church. Lunch is \$5 if you bring salad or dessert, \$15 if you bring no food. Bring a hat and a story.
- **Richmond Tennis**, Garry Hurlbut, (510) 547-8111; No report.
- **Point Richmond History Association**, Mid Dornan, (510) 234-5334: Annual meeting was on May 24, and officers were elected for next year. A speaker from Rosie the Riveter WWII National Park talked about the role of women after the war. The next newsletter is due out on Friday, May 29. If you have stories, please share.
- **Masquers Playhouse**, Kathe Kiehn - No report.
- **TRAC, Richmond Bay Trail**, Bruce Beyaert, www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail - celebration on completion of the Ferry Point Loop of the Bay Trail is on Sunday, May 31 at the Plunge. Refreshments available starting at 9:30, the main event starts at 10:00.
- **Magick Lantern**, Kate Spaulding, (510) 232-2559 – no report.
- **Richmond Smart Lighting Coalition**, Jordan DeStaebler. Report given earlier in the meeting.

12. **Open Forum**

- Mike Parket – first annual LGBT pride event is on Saturday June 6th at 10:00 at Marina Bay Park.
- Jeff Lee – acknowledged Margaret Jordan's relationship building with Santa Fe neighborhood council. Believes we would all benefit from fostering mutual respect and interaction between our neighborhood councils.

13. **In Remembrance and Celebration/Adjourn** – In memory of Ann Dunipace, Cate Rivers, Lauren McCloud, and Ed Durbin. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm

Minutes Submitted by Hilary Brown PRNC Secretary,
(510) 326-5946, hilarybrownie@hotmail.com

PAY DUES NOW AND YOU'RE COVERED UNTIL MAY 2016. The dues help cover our administrative expenses and are minimal: \$10 for individuals and \$15 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 – DO NOT mail membership to PRNCC address in front of mailer – delivery will be delayed.**

New

Individual

Renewal

Household

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Signature _____ Date _____

***Point Richmond Neighborhood Council
June Meeting:***

***Wednesday, June 24, 7:30 p.m.
Banquet Room, Hotel Mac***

Meeting Highlights:

- ***Street Lighting in Point Richmond***
 - ***Formula Restaurant Update***
 - ***Richmond City Budget***
- ***Renew your membership for 2015-2016***



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

IMPROVING YOUR SOIL QUALITY (FOR THE URBAN GARDENER)

with Rob Bennaton, Bay Area Urban Ag Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

Saturday

JULY 11, 2015

9:30am - 11:00am

The Richmond Plunge Garden

**1 East Richmond Avenue
Richmond, CA 94801**

*at the intersection of E. Richmond
and Garrard Avenue,
on the Bay Trail*



Photo: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Wise gardeners say, “Feed the soil, not the plant.” No matter what kind of plants you grow: edibles, native habitat plants, or drought tolerant ornamentals, you and your garden will benefit from this workshop. Learn to assess your soil and take action to overcome compaction, toxicity, and other urban soil challenges.

Improving Your Soil Quality (for the Urban Gardener)

Registration required. To register, please visit: sustainablecoco.org/workshops

Fee: \$10 - \$25

Sliding Scale: no one turned away for lack of funds

Co-sponsored with

Sustainable Contra Costa
UC Cooperative Extension
County Supervisor John Gioia
Mayor Tom Butt
Richmond Tennis Association
The Plunge Garden Committee
Point Richmond Neighborhood Council
Womens Westside Improvement Club

