



# ON POINT *April 2018*

Two years has come to pass in Point Richmond, this is my last month as President of the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council. We have done a great many wonderful things together and we have worked hard to do the right things for our community so that it will grow and thrive.

I have personally learned a lot about our community and am proud of the what we have accomplished. I have made plenty of mistakes, but I have strived to learn from each of them and each one of you. As many of you know I am running for Richmond City Council this year. I am not perfect, nor have I ever professed to know everything. What I do know is that I love Richmond and know that I can be a force for good in our community and world.

A Special Thanks to all of the wonderful board members I have had the honor to serve with Charmain Tyler, Garry Hurlbut, Hilary Brown, June Hight, Buzz Baylis, David Bleckinger, Maureen Decombe and Jordan Destaebler. As well as Rod Satre, Chair of the PRNC Land Use Review Committee. Your service to our community is truly inspiring.

As is fitting, you are seeing the new Point Richmond Neighborhood Council logo on the top left corner of the newsletter. After many iterations and discussions, we arrived at the new logo. Thank you to Sue Rosenof for her work in creating this beautiful logo.

**This Month** We will have a few new single-family home projects up for consideration at the Land Use Design Review Committee starting at 6:00pm in the Point Richmond Community Center before the PRNC General Membership meeting.

Also, we will have a presentation with Q&A with the Public Relations team from Chevron regarding their recent steam release and flaring events.

**PRNC Officer Elections:** Elections for the PRNC Executive Board will be held at the Annual Membership meeting on **April 25**. The Nominating Committee is putting forth the following candidates for consideration by the PRNC membership. Peter Thelin as President, Hilary Brown as Secretary, David Bleckinger as Vice President and Buzz Baylis as Treasurer.

**PRNC Dues Increase:** Membership dues have been \$10 per individual and \$15 per family for many years. The PRNC Board will submit to the General Membership for consideration and a **vote** to raise the annual membership dues to \$25 per family and \$20 per individual at the annual membership meeting on **April 25**.

See you all around the Point!

*David Schoenthal*

**David Schoenthal, President**  
**Point Richmond Neighborhood Council**



# AGENDA

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council  
Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 7:30pm  
Point Richmond Community Center  
[PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com)

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| 7:30 | <b>Call to order and approval of minutes from the February 28, 2018 PRNC meeting</b>   | <b>2 minutes</b>  |
| 7:32 | <b>Police Report, Richmond Police Department - Ben Mendler</b>   | <b>5 minutes</b>  |
| 7:37 | <b>President's Report, David Schoenthal</b><br><i>Vote on increase of Membership Dues from \$10 per person and \$15 per household to \$20 and \$25 respectively per year.</i>  | <b>2 minutes</b>  |
| 7:39 | <b>Elections for President, Secretary, Vice President 2018 - 2020<br/>Treasurer 2018 - 2019</b><br><i>Peter Thelin, Hilary Brown, David Bleckinger, Buzz Bayliss</i>   | <b>2 minutes</b>  |
| 7:41 | <b>Treasurer's Report, Buzz Bayliss</b>  | <b>2 minutes</b>  |
| 7:56 | <b>Membership Report, June Hight</b>   | <b>2 minutes</b>  |
| 7:58 | <b>Community Briefs (2 minutes each)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding</b> <a href="http://MagickLantern.org">MagickLantern.org</a>, <a href="mailto:magick-lantern@att.net">magick-lantern@att.net</a>, (510) 232-2559</li><li>• <b>Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council</b> – Margaret Jordan <a href="http://richmondneighbors.org/">http://richmondneighbors.org/</a></li><li>• <b>Arts of Point Richmond, Altha Humphrey</b>, (510) 232-2934</li><li>• <b>Richmond Smart Lighting Coalition</b> (510) 697-2742, <a href="http://Richmond-Smart-Lighting.org">Richmond-Smart-Lighting.org</a></li><li>• <b>Women's Westside Improvement Club, Linda Newton</b>, (510) 235-0081</li></ul>                               | <b>10 minutes</b> |
| 8:08 | <b>Land Use/Design Review Committee</b><br><i>70 Belvedere - Smart Residence 5 minutes</i><br><i>80 Belvedere - Smart Residence 5 minutes</i><br><i>275 Western Drive - Neel Residence 10 minutes</i><br><i>Items to be considered at the LUDRC meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, two weeks prior to the General Membership meeting. Contact Rod at <a href="mailto:rdatre@live.com">rdatre@live.com</a>, (510) 232-5059. <u>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 at 6:00pm an General Membership meeting at 7:30pm if your project is being considered.</u></i>                            | <b>20 minutes</b> |
| 8:28 | <b>Community Briefs (2 minutes each)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Point Richmond Business Association, David Schoenthal-</b> <a href="http://www.pointrichmondbusiness.com">www.pointrichmondbusiness.com</a></li><li>• <b>TRAC, Richmond Bay Trail, Bruce Beyaert,</b> <a href="http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail">www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail</a></li><li>• <b>USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett,</b> (510) 234-1045</li><li>• <b>Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut,</b> (510) 547-8111 <a href="http://www.rta-ca.org">www.rta-ca.org</a></li><li>• <b>Point Richmond History Association, Mid Dornan,</b> (510) 234-5334</li><li>• <b>Masquers Playhouse, Kathe Kiehn,</b> <a href="http://www.masquers.org">www.masquers.org</a></li></ul> | <b>12 minutes</b> |
| 8:40 | <b>Chevron - Overview of Operations at Refinery- Discussion with Q&amp;A</b><br><i>Release of steam event and flaring event - Brian Hubinger, Government Relations</i>   | <b>20 minutes</b> |
| 9:00 | <b>Public Forum: Please sign up. As many as 5 speakers (2 minutes each).</b><br><i>Issues brought to the attention of the Council in the Public Forum cannot result in Council action at this meeting. Instead, submit issues to Dave Schoenthal at <a href="mailto:dbschoen@hotmail.com">dbschoen@hotmail.com</a> prior to the next PRNC Board Meeting.</i>   | <b>12 minutes</b> |
| 9:12 | <b>In Remembrance and Celebration/Adjourn</b>  |                   |



**Point Richmond Neighborhood Council**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 28, 2018**  
[PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com)

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- 1. Called to Order and Approval of Minutes:** Meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm. Minutes from the previous meeting on February 28, 2018 were approved with no amendments. Board Members present: Dave Schoenthal, Dave Bleckinger, June Hight, Garry Hurlbut, Charmain Tyler and Hilary Brown. Absent: Buzz Bayliss.
- 2. Police Report, Richmond PD, Officer Ben Mandler:** Residential burglaries and stolen vehicles are dominating our crime statistics. Stolen vehicles are turning up in Point Richmond and San Rafael. It seems like 1 or 2 individuals are using vehicles to cross the bridge - vehicles stolen from San Rafael are dumped in the Point, and our stolen vehicles are dumped there. A pizza delivery person had his pizza stolen at the hotel on Canal by a father & son who did not want to pay for their pizza. Armed robbery at the overlook on Crest might be related to gang members from central Richmond. Several incidents with prowlers which may be related to homeless and transients passing through the area. The problems with homelessness is city- and region-wide, and is not isolated to Point Richmond. Questions: Does it help to stop crime if we have clear security videos? A: Videos can help identify suspects, but police cannot control what happens after a case is developed and sent to the DA. Note: Property crime penalties have gotten lighter, so petty theft is now a misdemeanor. The value of stolen goods that must be reached in order to be classified as a felony has increased and consequently many of our petty criminals are let out on probation.
- 3. Working with Homeless Encampments; Officer Vincent Martinez & Officer Brad Marweg:**
  - Officers Martinez & Marweg work on the Homeless and Abatement Team, meaning in addition to their normal schedules they work 10-12 overtime hours per week on homeless and abatement over the entire city. When a homeless camp is going to be abated, police are required to give the camp a 72 hour notice before cleanup crews can clean out the camp.
  - Officers try to connect homeless with resources to get them into motels, but many people living on the streets do not like rules and prefer freedom to use of county resources. Closing a camp frequently just moves them to another location. Multiple agencies work together to address homelessness: San Pablo, El Cerrito, and county agencies work to provide resources. The homeless abatement projects are new, and cities and agencies are learning as they go.
  - Recovering stolen property: frequently the person reporting stolen items does not know the serial number and just has a general description, like "red drill by Black and Decker." This makes it nearly impossible to identify whether a specific item at a homeless camp was stolen or who the original owner is.
  - Q: how many homeless are in Richmond? How many are mentally disturbed vs making a lifestyle choice? A: About 90% are homeless because of a lifestyle choice. Michelle Milam: Last year's point-in-time count reported 100 homeless individuals, but city made at least 400 points of contact last year. We think there are between 400-800 homeless in Richmond. There were 70+ encampments in and around Richmond and there have been 7 in this area. Q: Is there a difference between daytime homeless and nighttime homeless? Some homeless commute into San Francisco during the day and commute to Richmond at night, others have day jobs and may spend time at work. Q: If the city had substantial sums of money to spend to assist homeless, how do you think it should be spent? A: build more shelters; but some people will not choose to leave their lifestyle on the street or to follow any rules required to live in shelters.
  - Officer Martinez – [V.Martinez@richmondpd.net](mailto:V.Martinez@richmondpd.net); Officer Brad Marweg [B.Marweg@richmondpd.net](mailto:B.Marweg@richmondpd.net)
- 4. President's report, Dave Schoenthal:** (1) Homeless taskforce has been meeting and we are making a list of items we want to elevate to City Council (2) PRNC Spring Fling this past weekend and it was a lot of fun! Thank you to all who came out to support us. (3) Richmond phone app was updated to accommodate android phones. This app allows residents to file complaints that are automatically routed to the appropriate city department (for example, potholes, abandoned cars, code enforcement, etc) (4) Dave was accepted as a community member volunteer to the police academy.
- 5. Nominations for President, First VP and Secretary, 2018-2020:**
  - Peter Thelin, longtime resident at Point Molate (which is part of the Point Richmond neighborhood council area) has expressed interest in becoming the next president of the PRNC and is recommended by the PRNC nominating board. Peter introduced himself to membership: his wife enjoyed volunteering for two terms on the PRNC, and that inspired him to volunteer. After the last major election, he felt it was important

for people to get involved in their communities, and since he recently retired he feels now he has an opportunity to do that. Peter loves so much about the Point: the music, the restaurants, and of course the people. Peter's email is [PTheLin1@yahoo.com](mailto:PTheLin1@yahoo.com); please reach out if you have questions or would like to talk to him before next month's election.

- Hilary Brown is planning to stay on for her final term as Secretary
- Dave Bleckenger was appointed by the board at the end of a two-year term. He plans to stay on in his current position for a new two-year term. Like Peter, he was inspired by the recent election to contribute more to the community. He also volunteers as the head baseball coach on his son's team and is passionate about making the community better and contributing to get that done.

**6. Michelle Milam, crime prevention manager:**

- Between 400-800 homeless in Richmond. Many reasons why people fall into homelessness; some people struggling with mental illness, alcoholism, and with the high cost of living. About 1/3 indicate there was an economic reason causing their homelessness. Some have jobs, but make too much to qualify for assisted living. Some are working poor: one contact is a single mom working as a security guard with a child who is a straight-A student. Mom has bad credit and little savings, so they live in her car. She won't go to shelters because they might separate her from her son who is an adolescent male. Another type of homeless is related to mental illness and drug & alcohol dependency. There are between 1300-1500 homeless people in Contra Costa County, but county only has 500 beds and limited resources for individuals struggling with addiction or mental illness. Building a homeless shelter is expensive, takes a long time and frequently faces community opposition.
- Regionally we are in a crisis because a large segment of the community is unhoused. There could be health outbreaks or fires. Cities use police, fire, code enforcement and abatement to control encampments, but we must operate proactively. The Contra Costa County Grand Jury asked cities to consider what services can be provided. Richmond formed a Homeless Task Force to make policy recommendations: should we follow San Francisco's example, or Oakland, or try something different? The Task Force is open to the public and meets on the 3rd Thurs of the month at 450 Civic Center in the Richmond Room. We have usually 15-20 active members participating in dialogue.
- The County offers a variety of care options including: resource centers, warming centers to get people off the street for the night, and mobile outreach services to help transport homeless to care facilities. Anyone can call 211 to reach the county outreach system – if you ask for dispatch, they can send someone out to offer help with health, shelter, help transport people.
- Another concept being considered is a legalized encampment, and providing some services (garbage pickup, bathrooms, electricity). Another idea is rotating shelters at various churches so people have a place to spend the night. A major question is how can we pay for these services? The city must maintain normal infrastructure and operations on a limited budget; where is the revenue to support homeless?

**7. Treasurer's Report, Dave Schoenthal:** Benevolent Fund has a \$10,000 donation from Steven Schaeffer: this money is in a separate fund for a dedicated purpose. We received \$500 in dues since mid-December including \$125 in new memberships in December. Current fund balances: Benevolent Fund, \$10,938.77; Wig Wag Fund, \$2,970.94; General Fund, \$3861.81; total, \$17,771.73.

**8. Membership Report, June Hight:** Currently we have 161 memberships. Our new membership year starts in April. We have had a very reasonable membership price for many years, and next month we will ask general membership to consider increasing annual membership dues to \$25 for households and \$20 for individuals.

**9. Homeless Community Advocate, Daniel Barth:**

- Advocate for homeless people and working on long term solutions. Solutions that have shown success involve neighbors and campers working together. Richmond's Homeless Task Force is a group generating ideas to forward to the city council.
- Unplanned encampments are disrespectful to private property owners, they are bad for people living in the camps, and almost always are doomed to fail. Mobile outreach and giving access to services is important, but maintaining access to services does not guarantee success.
- The Task Force advocates assessing conditions of camps, identify public health hazards, assess the relationship with neighbors, assess camp livability, and then provide triage: make a safer camp, increase engagement, help build community/camp engagement. If the camp is doing well, then the city could build some supports such as garbage pickup.
- Another model is to provide care centers: allow access to resources such as storage, showers, and food / meals, and resources to empower people to make permanent improvements to their lives. In other cities, funding for this type of enterprise comes from private donations.
- San Francisco has piloted a "one person camp" allowing a safe shelter to take up one parking space plus one porta potty. In this case, a parking lot is leased by a nonprofit allowing homeless to live there if certain requirements are met. These camps can be expanded to up to 20 people; city can provide transitional



training, public agencies can provide other services. The Winter Nights Program needs many volunteers per host (host is usually a church) and these cost around \$200,000 per year plus require about 250 volunteers every 2 weeks. There are many other pilot projects that are promising, but all successful projects require community input and community buy-in. Questions or ideas, please email:

[Danielrichardbarth@gmail.com](mailto:Danielrichardbarth@gmail.com)

#### 10. Community briefs:

- **Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding:** Friday April 20 at 8pm featuring “The Pursuit of Silence.” Movies are always the 3rd Friday of the month, but movies will start later as sunset also happens later. We need volunteers to help set up and clean up! We are looking for blinds for the tallest windows in the community center, but the quotes we have are costly. Please join our mailing list and visit our website!
- **Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Cordell Hindler:** Rochelle Monk discussed the Easter Event at the Rec Center, Hector Lopez from Planning Department discussed a project in the Point. Dane Rogers gave an update on streets. Sequoia from the mayor’s office gave an update about the city and the Mayor’s Community Fund. Tim Higare discussed homeless encampments. Zee Handoush discussed medical marijuana. Jill Rodby from Sims Metal gave an overview of the fire. Openings on RNCC executive board: if interested contact Stan Anderson. Next meeting April 9th at 7pm.
- **PRBA:** Monthly luncheon sat 11:30, March 29th; Denee Evans from City will discuss parking.
- **Red Oak Victory, Graham Perrett:** Movie night is on the 3rd Thursday each month. April 19th at 6:30pm featuring “Das Boot,” one of best submarine movies ever made. May 17th featuring “Memoirs of a Geisha.” May 13th Mother’s Day Pancake Breakfast starting at 9am. This weekend we are open 10am-4pm Sat & Sun; come and look at the ship, the ospreys, and then enjoy some wine at the wine bar!
- **Crime Committee, Dave Schoenthal and Jessie West:** We want to start a PRNC neighborhood watch committee and propose Jessie West as the Chair of the committee. She has set up a community meeting on April 3rd at 7pm in the Community Center. Captain of Southern District will be here from 7:30 – 8 to answer questions. Michelle Milam will lead a discussion about starting neighborhood watches. We hope this meeting is an opportunity to re-energize existing neighborhood watches that have fallen out of activity. A motion was made for the PRNC to start a Crime Committee, with Jessie West as the chair; motion passed with unanimous consent.
- **Richmond Tennis Association, Garry Hurlbut:** Spring Fling was an opportunity to celebrate new garden area at Plunge West. Fences will be done next week, slab is almost complete. Women’s team is going to playoffs! Currently we are working on a program to get kids from local schools out to play tennis at local courts. We are looking for volunteers to clean up parks and courts to make them suitable for school youth.
- **Masquers, Fran Smith:** Theater manager Carl Smith is back and energized! The Crab Feed brought in \$17,000, thanks in large part to prizes donated by PRBA members. We currently are paying \$3000 per month to insure the vacant building. We held a board retreat and are considering how to create a new theater space. Currently we are holding off on a capital campaign until we have a more focused plan on our needs and wants.

#### 11. Open Forum

- **Cordell Hindler:** Crime prevention meet & greet had 40-50 people in attendance. Next meeting is April 18th at 7pm at Rec Center; guest speaker is RPD Officer discussing home alarms. On May 16th there is block captain training at the Rec Center. Suggestions for future PRNC agenda items: Tim Higare to discuss homelessness, Zee Handoush to discuss medical marijuana, or Officer Lande to talk about cyber bullying.
- **June Hight:** Concerns about traffic on Garrard, especially with lack of crosswalk near the tennis courts. Has a petition to submit to the city; if interested please reach out to June. Traffic needs to slow down and make pedestrians more visible and safer. One suggestion is to install a “speed table” instead of a speed bump, because this elevates pedestrian crosswalks and also functions to discourage speeding.
- **Kate Spaulding:** Suggestion to request the city to allow chairs to remain out rather than having to stack and put them away each time. Loading and unpacking chairs in Community Center. Request is for PRNC board to write a formal request to Parks & Rec to consider changing the default setup in the Community Center to leave the chairs out instead of putting them away after each meeting.

**12. In Remembrance and Celebration/Adjourn:** Cordell’s friend Tyler Leboa had a birthday on St Patrick’s day.

**13. Meeting adjourned** at 9:38 pm

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

