



# ON POINT *September 2019*

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## Greetings from the PRNC

I hope you're having a wonderful summer. September wrapped up our Point Richmond Summer Music Series, where each event was well attended by enthusiastic crowds dancing to wonderful music. It's been a great series of concerts and drew attendees from all over the East Bay. Can't wait for next year's line-up!

**East Brother's Beer** held their 3rd annual Classic Car Show on August 25th, with live music, food trucks and dozens of classic cars. If you're an enthusiast like me, I'm sure you found it an amazing event.

**Our first topic this month will be** "Recycling in Richmond: what should we put in our blue recycle bin?" Bielle Moore from Republic Services will be on hand to answer all of your questions.

**September's meeting also includes a discussion by Debbie Bayer** on the topic of "No Coal in Richmond". Debbie will provide information about a City Council ordinance being considered regarding coal and petroleum coke ("pet coke") to be handled at the Levin-Richmond Terminal. I know many of you are very interested in this topic so it should be a lively discussion.

**Billy Zeier of Clean Point Energy** will be educating us all with his Solar Energy Updates.

**Wig Wags Forever!** Now that our beloved Wig Wags have been restored, we will be discussing their future maintenance and the disbursement of the balance of the Wig Wag Fund.

**October is "Fall Fest" in the Point**, thanks to the illustrious efforts of the PRBA. Food and Drinks, music and games from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, October 5 on Park Place at the Triangle. For more information about the celebration, check out <https://pointrichmondfallfest.com/>

**A new art installation called "Changing Tide"** will be unveiled at the new Richmond/San Francisco Ferry Terminal. The art installation is inspired by our extensive local eel-grass beds. The celebration is scheduled for Saturday, October 5 at 6pm at 1453 Harbour Way S, Richmond. Info at [ChangingTide.info](http://ChangingTide.info)

Yes, it looks like another full agenda. Your local Neighborhood Council is THE place to catch up on what's happening in the Point and the venue to let your voice be heard!

Hope to see you there!

***Peter Thelin***

**President**

**Point Richmond Neighborhood Council**

\*The PRNC and LUDRC act in an 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, September 25, 2019, 7:30pm  
 Point Richmond Community Center  
[PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com)

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<b>7:30</b>	<b><i>Call to order and approval of minutes from the August 28, 2019 meeting</i></b>	<b>2 minutes</b>
<b>7:32</b>	<b><i>Police Report, Richmond Police Department, Officer Joseph DeOrian</i></b>	<b>5 minutes</b>
<b>7:37</b>	<b><i>Recycling in Richmond - "What should we put in our Blue Recycle Bin?"</i></b> <i>Bielle Moore, Republic Services</i>	<b>10 minutes</b>
<b>7:47</b>	<b><i>President's Report, Peter Thelin</i></b>	<b>5 minutes</b>
<b>7:52</b>	<b><i>Treasurer's Report, Buzz Baylis</i></b>	<b>2 minutes</b>
<b>7:54</b>	<b><i>Membership Report, June Hight</i></b>	<b>2 minutes</b>
<b>7:56</b>	<b><i>Solar Energy Updates, Clean Point Energy, Billy Zeier</i></b>	<b>15 minutes</b>
<b>8:11</b>	<b><i>Community Briefs (2 minutes each)</i></b>	<b>12 minutes</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>PR CERT, Shaun Partlow (510) 672-2805 <a href="https://www.prcert.org/">https://www.prcert.org/</a>, <a href="https://www.facebook.com/prcert">https://www.facebook.com/prcert</a></i></li> <li>● <i>Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding <a href="http://MagickLantern.org">MagickLantern.org</a>, <a href="mailto:magick-lantern@att.net">magick-lantern@att.net</a>, (510) 232-2559</i></li> <li>● <i>Point Richmond Business Association, Scott Harris <a href="http://www.pointrichmondbusiness.com">www.pointrichmondbusiness.com</a></i></li> <li>● <i>Arts of Point Richmond, Mary Lee Cole <a href="http://www.artsofpointrichmond.com">www.artsofpointrichmond.com</a></i></li> <li>● <i>Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani, <a href="http://pointrichmond.com/wwic/">http://pointrichmond.com/wwic/</a></i></li> <li>● <i>Masquers Playhouse, Kathe Kiehn, <a href="http://www.masquers.org">www.masquers.org</a></i></li> </ul>	
<b>8:22</b>	<b><i>No Coal in Richmond, Debbie Bayer, <a href="mailto:dbayer49@gmail.com">dbayer49@gmail.com</a></i></b> <i>Information about a City Council ordinance being considered regarding coal and petroleum coke "pet coke" to be handled at the Levin-Richmond Terminal. More information available at:</i> <a href="http://www.nocoalinrichmond.com">www.nocoalinrichmond.com</a>	<b>15 minutes</b>
<b>8:37</b>	<b><i>Land Use/Design Review Committee</i></b>	<b>0 minutes</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>No projects are being considered this month</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Items to be considered at the LUDRC meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, <a href="mailto:rdsatre@live.com">rdsatre@live.com</a>, (510) 232-5059, at least two weeks prior to the General Membership meeting. <b>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.</b></i></p>	
<b>8:37</b>	<b><i>Wig Wags Forever! Future Maintenance and Closing of Wig Wag Fund</i></b>	<b>15 minutes</b>
<b>8:52</b>	<b><i>Community Briefs (2 minutes each)</i></b>	<b>14 minutes</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut, (510) 547-8111 <a href="http://www.rta-ca.org">www.rta-ca.org</a></i></li> <li>● <i>USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett, (510) 234-1045</i></li> <li>● <i>Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council – Margaret Jordan <a href="http://richmondneighbors.org/">http://richmondneighbors.org/</a></i></li> <li>● <i>Point Richmond Table Tennis Club, Peter Thelin, (510) 326-8108</i></li> <li>● <i>TRAC, Richmond Bay Trail, Bruce Beyaert, <a href="http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail">www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail</a></i></li> <li>● <i>Point Richmond History Association, Bonnie Jo Cullison, <a href="http://pointrichmondhistory.org/">http://pointrichmondhistory.org/</a></i></li> <li>● <i>Richmond Smart Lighting Coalition, <a href="https://richmondsmartlight.wixsite.com/website">https://richmondsmartlight.wixsite.com/website</a></i></li> </ul>	
<b>9:07</b>	<b><i>Public Forum: Please sign up. As many as 3 speakers (2 minutes each).</i></b>	<b>6 minutes</b>
	<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 Peter Thelin at <a href="mailto:pthelin1@yahoo.com">pthelin1@yahoo.com</a> prior to the next PRNC Board Meeting.</i>	
<b>9:13</b>	<b><i>In Remembrance and Celebration/Adjourn</i></b>	



**Point Richmond Neighborhood Council**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 28, 2019**  
[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 7:34. Board members present: Peter Thelin, Dave Bleckinger, Buzz Baylis, Hilary Brown, June Hight, Charmain Tyler and Garry Hurlbut. Minutes from the meeting on July 31 were quickly approved with no amendments; however after approval two items were identified as items that should be corrected: (1) Item 11, Community Briefs, PRBA: the spelling of Nicholas Trailor's last name should be corrected. (2) Open Forum included a reminder that the PRBA luncheon would feature a talk about the history of GRIP, which should have been capitalized.
- 2. Police Report, Officer Joseph DeOran:** ([jdeorian@richmondcpd.net](mailto:jdeorian@richmondcpd.net)) There was an auto burglary on Railroad, a carjacking on the 800 block of Ocean (unfortunately no details are available tonight), an incident involving mental illness on Tewksbury & Castro, car burglaries by Hotel Mac, burglaries on the 0 block of E. Richmond, a willful discharge of a firearm and teargas, obstruction of a Police Officer and a probation violation at the Todd Hotel. In this incident, someone was under the influence of controlled substance and when questioned the individual falsely reported their identity to the police. Question: What can we do about homeless encampments and tents that pop up around the neighborhood? A: It depends on where the encampment is located. If the encampment is on an on/off ramp, then CHP has to address the encampment. If someone has a question or wants to report an encampment, residents are encouraged to always report it to the RPD and they can either address it directly or make a referral to the agency responsible for that area. Jessie West, co-chair of the Downtown Neighborhood Watch reminded everyone the Crimemapping.com website is back online and available for public use. The Richmond Office of Neighborhood Safety is working with the owner and manager of the Todd Hotel to address problems with vandalism and other crimes. Richmond police encourage us to always call if we see something suspicious, such as a person wearing a hoodie over their head on a hot day. If you see something unusual, please call RPD.
- 3. Land Use Design Review Committee, Rod Satre:** There was one project considered tonight for a large property on Western & Ocean; it was a request for lot line adjustments. The developer asked to come in July, but he did not ask until the last minute so we advised him to come tonight after communicating with his immediate neighbors. The developer has not followed regular procedures to meet his neighbors or notify them of the intended development plans. The request presented indicates there are 8 total lots, but there is a sale document that indicates there are 10 lots. This project may be subject to the subdivision map act, which would make it subject to CEQA and EIR. There are concerns the developer may be trying to do a little development now and a little bit later in order to avoid CEQA and an EIR. The developer did not notify the neighbors with enough time for neighbors to even think about issues and impacts, such as closing roads, high fire hazard area, egress issues, underground utilities, whether the property is zoned industrial since it was previously owned by Chevron or if it is rezoned for residential. In spite of the short notice, 24 neighbors from the Western / Lobos / Ocean area attended the LUDRC meeting and voiced concerns. The LUDRC had a quorum with 4 attending (board members; 4 out of 4 LUDRC members recommends holding this project over until next month because we do not have enough information to make any recommendations one way or another.

  - Rod made a motion to hold this project over for consideration until next month.
  - Jane Middleton: She indicated she supports the motion to vote to hold the project over until next month, and wants to have on the record to make people aware that the developer / owner is going to try to do something in the interim.
  - Suggestion from PRNC Board: neighbors should monitor the Planning Commission agendas over the next month to see if this developer bypasses the PRNC / LUDRC and tries to have their project considered there.

- Jane suggested an additional motion: A motion was made that the PRNC write a letter to the Planning Commission and Department incorporating Rod's notes and citizen's concerns about the project.
- Both Jane's motion and Rod's motions passed with unanimous approval; no votes in opposition.
- The next Planning Commission meeting will be the Friday before the next PRNC meeting; Planning Commission meetings are always on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm in City Council chambers. The Planning Commission agenda is on the City Website and the agenda is published the Friday before their meeting.

**4. Community Warning System and Local Notifications, Geneveve Pastor-Cohen:** This presentation is to inform community members about the community warning system and the various ways to get notifications.

- CAER, "Community Alert and Emergency Response" was started as a non-profit and after the system was built up it was sold to the county for \$1. This is a county-wide siren system that cost \$5 million to build; 99% of the funding came from industry. Upgrades to the siren warning system came from AB 85 which charges fees from facilities that manufacture, store, or transport hazardous materials and uses those fees to fund county services. Many upgrades have already been made since this system was started, and we are looking to hear from community members concerns and difficulties with using this system since we want to continue to improve it. The CARE county siren system includes 4 levels Level 0 is for communications level like turnover of personnel, level 1 is the lowest incident level, level 2 means there could be offsite consequences that could impact human health. A level 2 event would trigger a telephone ring-down system with recommendations that anyone with respiratory issues shelter-in-place. Level 3 is the highest incident alert, and would result in blowing sirens like a fire or emergency that will have significant impact. In a level 3 incident, sirens are blow for 3 minutes, and then every 30 minutes for 3 minutes until the event is over. In a level 3 incident, the telephone ring-down system would be initiated and the public can learn information about the incident by listening to KCBS 740 am. All level 2 or 3 incidents will have sirens started by the county health system, which initiates the siren warning system after being notified by the county sheriff.
- Residents can register to receive text, voice, and email emergency alerts at [www.cococws.us](http://www.cococws.us) and we can follow alerts on Facebook and Twitter @cococws.
- The Chevron fire in 2012 demonstrated that we have the best alert system in the country, but many people did not have the tools needed to use it effectively.
- Each major refinery and each major chemical plant has a system to communicate directly to the fire department and the county has a 24/7 hazard team. Team members are on call after hours, but are available to come out to a facility at any time.
- Q: What should we do when we hear the sirens? A: We should always shelter in place when we hear sirens. Shelter-in-place means we should close windows, close or turn off our ventilation systems, stay off the phone, turn our TV to a major station and listen to announcements. We are advised to stay off the phone unless we have a lifesaving situation. We are advised to not evacuate since we cannot effectively evacuate when there is a major local incident. We should shelter in place and let the professionals mitigate the problem.
- After the 2012 refinery fire, Contra Costa County Health Services started doing 5 day per week inspections at Chevron. In the County Hazardous Materials Department, there are engineers and there is a hazardous materials response team. The engineers and the response team prepares drills and simulations so they can practice responding to a variety of different situations and scenarios. The team will setup a mock event, and then practice with the facility response team to respond to the mock events through the community warning system.
- Facility audits are performed once every 3 years at each of 43 facilities that handle hazardous materials. During an audit, a team of 5-7 engineers will do a site visit for 4-5 weeks to look at safety programs on site. They review documentation, technical studies, review operating procedures, and check for accuracy of content. When they meet with facility operators they test knowledge and procedures. All audit reports are public and are available at public libraries. We go to Cinco De Mayo and other community events and we summarize our audits for the public.
- Q: what are the consequences if a facility does not make improvements based on audit recommendations? A: We issue action items for regulatory issues and we have an enforcement arm, but we have found that working with facilities gets them into compliance. We have found that a collaborative relationships are most effective.

- Q: What hazardous materials do you monitor? A: there are 276 chemicals within certain levels that fall under our purview. Q: What about coal dust? A: Coal dust is not on our list of toxic substances identified by state.
- If we want to email the hazmat team, we can reach them at [hazmat.arpteam@cchealth.org](mailto:hazmat.arpteam@cchealth.org)
- Richmond's Fire Dept also has a warning system in addition to the county warning system. We can use the NIXLE system type by sending a text message to 888777 in the "to" field of the text message, and typing in our zip code in the message field. Any level 2 or 3 event will send a text message to our cell phones, and warnings will be posted to Nextdoor.com, NIXLE, Facebook, and Twitter. Level 1 warnings are advisory and are only posted to Nextdoor.com and Facebook. A word of caution to anyone relying on a landline for emergency updates: any land line that uses VOIP or an internet provider for their home phone does not have a solid land-line and your home phone will have to be setup separately for emergency updates. Home and cell phones can be updated at [cococws.us](http://cococws.us)
- Suggestion was made to get involved with PR CERT: During the North Bay and Camp fires neighbors relied on each other during emergencies. Some neighbors will need longer to get out and may need assistance; we all rely on each other during emergencies.

**5. Coal Trains, Susan Wehrle and Richard Katz:** We are members of a group "No Coal in Richmond." Currently about 1 million tons of coal moves through Richmond ultimately getting left in open piles at the Port before it is shipped out. All coal being transported through Richmond and handled at the Levin Terminal originates from Utah and is shipped to China or Japan; none of this coal is being burned locally. As domestic demand for coal falls, more is being exported overseas. Coal exports have increased by about 400% since 2013 at the Levin Terminal. One train loses about 500 lbs of coal dust while being transported uncovered. The reason they do not cover the coal trains is concerns about the coal getting too hot and starting to burn. Coal dust includes heavy metals and small particulates which can enter the bloodstream from being inhaled and has been linked to birth defects and other health issues. Richmond and the communities near the train lines have higher rates of asthma than communities that live farther away. There are also concerns about coal dust being stored in open piles right next to the bay and concerns about rain and water runoff from the open piles. We see the increased coal train traffic in Richmond as an environmental justice issue. On October 15th the City Council is going to have a vote on whether to discourage Mr. Levin from continuing this business. We are asking the city council to prohibit new coal facilities in Richmond and to phase out the shipping of coal. We ask for community involvement in a variety of ways: we hope people come to the city council meeting, and if you cannot attend please sign or send a letter to the city council.

## 6. Community Briefs

- **Red Oak Victory, Graham Perrett:** The next pancake breakfast is to celebrate Grandparent's day. It is scheduled for September 8 from 9am - 1pm. On Saturday, September 14 there is a special evening with Pascal Bokar, an Afro Blue Grass Band. In addition to music, there will be a talk about music from West Africa which blended into music in the South. Tickets for the lecture, dinner and dance are \$60, music and dinner only \$50, and lecture only is \$10. Our movie series continues with WWII movies that won academy awards for best picture: On September 19 we are showing "Mrs. Miniver," on October 17 "From Here to Eternity." We ask for a \$10 donation to see our movies; we also sell beer and jelly beans. Movies start at 7pm; boarding starts at 6:30.
- **Richmond Tennis Association, Garry Hurlbut:** Five teams are finishing up competition. We are supporting tennis throughout Richmond and currently we have about 120 adults playing tennis with other local teams in Pinole and Walnut Creek. We are always looking for beginners all the way up to advanced players to come join us. RTA is also doing outreach to local schools; we have been working with schools located near tennis courts in order to give kids an opportunity to learn tennis as part of their PE. This fall we are going to start at three new schools including our local Washington School which will play at the courts over by the Plunge. We have gotten grants from US Tennis and the Rec Department to fund the school outreach programs. It has been a lot of fun and we all enjoy teaching the kids about being active and having fun.
- **Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council (RNCC)** The September meeting will be held on September 16th at 7pm in council chambers. Alex Knox from the mayor's office will talk about the 2020 census. Refreshments are served before the meeting at 6:30pm in the lobby.

- **Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani:** Our September meeting will be held on September 10th because of the Labor Day holiday. We will choose our speakers for the upcoming year and discuss fundraising in October. We currently have 68 members.
- **Arts of Point Richmond, Mary Lee Cole:** On September 7<sup>th</sup> at Kaleidoscope we will have a new member show with 27 artists represented. There will be wine, cheese, and lots of clever people. On September 8th in the Community Center we will have our final presentation of Art Tag. Wine, cheese clever people. Sept 8<sup>th</sup> in this room, final presentation of Art Tag!
- **Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding:** On September 20th at 7:30 we will show an interesting Icelandic film called "Woman at War," a story about a woman is an environmental activist and shoots down power lines with a bow and arrow. The film has excellent music and is a delightful film. In addition, Magick Lantern is now selling membership packages! If you buy a package you get a discount on tickets over the course of the year and you don't have to pay each month.
- **PRBA:** Tomorrow, August 29th at Hotel Mac, Kathleen Sullivan will speak about the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP) from noon to 1:30. The PRBA 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.

## 7. Open Forum

- **Cordell Hindler:** The Council of Industries monthly luncheon will be held at Hotel Mac on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> from 12-1:30; speaker will be Diana Becton who will speak about her experience as the first woman district attorney. Please Rsvp by September 13th. The next Crime Prevention meeting will be at the Rec Center on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm; there will be a speaker discussing School Resource Officers. Two suggestions for future PRNC speakers: 1. Ariel Mercado from Bart could give an update about long term projects including custodians. 2. Ryan Lau or someone else from AC Transit could give an update about the system. There will be Contra Costa Mayors' conference on Sept 5 in San Pablo; RSVP by noon August 29; tickets are \$55. The speaker will be Peter Engel from Contra Costa Transportation authority who will speak about EV Charging system.

## 8. In Remembrance and Celebration/Adjourn: Dave's grandmother just celebrated her 100th birthday!

## 9. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 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.**

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <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***

- **Fall Fest: October 5, 10am - 4pm at Park Place in the Triangle!**
- **Ferry Terminal art installation: unveiling of “Changing Tide” on October 5, at 6pm, 1453 Harbour Way S, Richmond. Info at [ChangingTide.info](http://ChangingTide.info)**

POINT RICHMOND  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
P.O. Box 70386  
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