



ON POINT

September 2020

See you in September! Virtually, that is.



September already? How time flies. In our further effort to keep our constituents safe, we will be beaming our next meeting directly into your home again!

This month's meeting will feature our own PRNC Vice President Dave Bleckenger, who will tell us about the new PRNC website and its many useful features. Carl Smith from the Masquers Playhouse plans to talk about the future of the Masquers Town-Wide Yard Sale. The Sale is a Point Richmond tradition, and I know I for one would love to see it continue.

Denee Evans from Richmond Transportation Services will be at the meeting to discuss the topic of potential electric vehicle charging stations in the Point.

And Maryn Hurlbut from Richmond Parks and Rec will present on the city budget and the Point Richmond Branch Library.

So tune in, sit back and speak up. Hope to see you on the 30th!

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.





Wednesday, September 30, 2020, 7:30pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom (see access info in email)
PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com

AGENDA

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|------|---|-------------------------|
| 7:30 | Call to order and approval of minutes from August 26, 2020, virtual meeting | 2 minutes |
| 7:32 | Police Report, Richmond Police Department, Officer McDonell | 5 minutes |
| 7:37 | President's Report, Peter Thelin | 2 minutes |
| 7:39 | Treasurer's Report, Buzz Bayliss | 1 minute |
| 7:40 | Membership Report, June Hight | 1 minute |
| 7:41 | PRNC New Website, Dave Bleckinger | 5/5 Q+A minutes |
| 7:51 | Masquers, Previous Yard Sale Event, Carl Smith | 5/5 Q+A minutes |
| 8:01 | Community Briefs, Part 1 (2 minutes each) | 12 minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masquers Playhouse, Carl Smith, www.masquers.org• Point Richmond Table Tennis Club, Peter Thelin (510) 326-8108• Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Cordell Hindler, http://richmondneighbors.org• Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut (510) 547-8111 www.rta-ca.org• USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett, www.redoakvictory.us.• Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani http://pointrichmond.com/wwic | |
| 8:13 | Land Use Design Review Committee (LUDRC) | 0 minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No projects this month <p>Items to be considered at the LUDRC meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, at rdساتre@live.com, (510) 232-5059, at least two weeks prior to the General Membership meeting.
<u>The LUDRC meets monthly prior to the PRNC General Membership meeting at 6:00 pm.</u></p> | |
| 8:13 | Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, Denee Evans, Richmond Transportation Services | 10/5 Q+A minutes |
| 8:28 | Point Richmond Branch Library, Maryn Hurlbut, Richmond Parks and Rec | 5/5 Q+A minutes |
| 8:38 | School Board Candidate for Area 5, Carolyn Wysinger | 5 minutes |
| 8:43 | Community Briefs, Part 2 (2 minutes each) | 10 minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PR CERT, Edie Alderette-Sellers, (510) 703-2870 edie@prcert.org• Point Richmond Business Association, Cordell Hindler, www.pointrichmondbusiness.com• Point Richmond History Association, Bonnie Jo Cullison, http://pointrichmondhistory.org• Arts of Point Richmond, Mary Lee Cole, www.artsofpointrichmond.com• TRAC, Richmond Bay Trail, Bruce Beyaert, www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail | |
| 8:53 | Public Forum (3 speakers, 2 minutes each) | 6 minutes |
| | Please sign up in advance with June Hight (pointrichmondneighborhood@gmail.com) | |
| 8:59 | In Remembrance and Celebration. | |
| | If you have something to add, please contact June Hight (pointrichmondneighborhood@gmail.com). | |



Point Richmond Neighborhood Council
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 26, 2020
PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com



1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Meeting was called to order on Zoom at 7:30 p.m. Board members present: Peter Thelin, Dave Bleckinger, Buzz Bayless, Garry Hurlbut, and Charmain Tyler. Absent: June Hight. Bruce Beyaert requested that the comments under TRAC in the August newsletter, July meeting minutes, be removed because it was inaccurate information and not from TRAC. These comments have been removed. With this change, minutes were approved.

2. Police Report

Peter said he will attend the next RNCC meeting to see if the police will be continuing with the neighborhood councils.

3. President's Report, Peter Thelin

Peter feels that we are actually benefiting from these online Zoom meetings because we have a more engaged attendance than some of the in person meetings. It's easier to get to the meeting, and you have the ability to do it in your own house. There are lots of advantages. And I don't have to buy cookies for everybody. We have some speakers tonight. Daniel Barth is here to talk about the Save Our Spaces organization. He is a hard working guy with an incredible team. Brian Hubinger is here to talk about Chevron's flares and also the gas station remodel. Scott Harris from the Point Richmond Business Association (PRBA) to talk about what's happening with the businesses in the Point.

4. Treasurer's Report, Buzz Bayliss

Buzz announced that you can now use PayPal to pay your dues for PRNC. We now have 40 members that are paid up.

5. Website Update, Dave Bleckinger

Our new website is up and functional. We still need to work on some of the details.

6. Newsletter Format, Brief Discussion, Charmain Tyler

Charmain reminded us that she is new to being Secretary and wants to check on how the newsletter is doing. Is it too detailed, not detailed enough? Would members prefer a shorter summary?

Some of the suggestions were to add photos and art. One person said to do whatever is easiest to do. One neighbor said it's nice to have the discussion included in the minutes, especially if you miss the meeting. Discussion about recording and making it available.

7. Chevron Report, Brian Hubinger and Hakim Johnson

Brian and Hakim work at the Chevron refinery. They want to make sure we are provided with information about the recent flaring. One of the co-generation plants tripped offline, and there was a loss of steam in that power plant. When compressors lose steam it causes pressures to rise and the pressure relief valve causes the flare to activate. Unfortunately there was also smoke with the flare. This is something we try not to do. We do air monitoring. Level 1 was issued - no action necessary.

There is one air quality monitor in Point Richmond, one in Atchison Village, and one in North Richmond. On that particular day, the City of Richmond and the Fire Department were notified. There were no elevated readings. As we continue the investigation we will keep you informed.

Q.: One neighbor asked if the emergency flaring system performed as it was supposed to? One of the challenges is that we don't get any community alerts. Everyone shouts that the refinery is on fire and it goes on social media. It is a necessary evil of living next to a refinery. Is there some way to let people know that this is not an emergency?

Edie Alderette Sellers, PRCERT, will reach out to Richmond CERT to see how we can get notice. Can we find out if it is under control? And is part of doing business?

Brian: We try to push out to social media. We don't have access to NextDoor or Nixle. Maybe Edie can help get the information out? Whenever there is a flaring, we first call the fire department.

Q: Can we ask the City to help to notify us?

Q: When I first moved here and the sirens went off everyone panicked.

Q: If the refinery was on fire, how would you know?

Hakim: Last year Genevieve Pastor-Cohen talked about Nixle. Was that helpful? Genevieve is looking to do more of that if it is beneficial.

Q: Last year someone from Chevron came to talk about the flaring. The planning commissioners were asking about the degree of the flare. Is it always a level number one?

There was discussion with Lena about the reporting and tracking system. That is no longer being used. Is there some type of public access to this system? Some people asked for something you could put on your refrigerator. An educational tool that people could refer to, to help calm the people and get rid of the disinformation.

Brian: On the flaring, we did have an increased level of flaring because of modernization.

The spreadsheet was for tracking all the compliance from the modernization. We are transitioning that database. It takes time to go through all the data to post it online.

Q: Was there anything done for the request for quick and ready information about the flaring? It would be helpful to have something really quick.

Brian: There is a group called CARE to implement the warning system and the protocol. We have little magnets with our phone numbers. We have handed those out in the past. We can take that point and look for educational material to make it easier for folks to find out quickly what's happening.

Q: The more information the better. It would be appreciated if you could have some basic educational info, including the steps to take. We could post it on our website. We could direct people to the PRNC website. People could be told where to look every time there was a flare.

Brian: We did an informational article. We could provide that.

Q: It needs to be simple and reassuring. We need to be told when to be alarmed.

Hakim: We are in the process of doing a seismic retrofit at the wharf. We are pile driving to bring it up to code and enhance the safety of operations. Every Friday some of the residents may hear that knocking sound of pile driving. This is part of the project to bring everything up to code.

8. Community Briefs, Part I

- **Masquers Playhouse, Carl Smith**

We are coming along nicely. The project is mostly done. We are just dotting the i's and crossing the t's. We are planning an online radio play for Halloween.

- **Table Tennis Club, Peter Thelin**

We haven't been meeting at Rigger's Loft because of Covid. I was speaking with someone at Bridge Storate about using the film studio. We could take one of the tables from Rigger's and move it there. With table tennis, players are about 10 feet apart.

- **Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut**

We have matches most every day. We won the East Bay championship. People are getting outside and following the guidelines. We are starting virtual tennis with kids.

Also, there is a meeting Thursday, about reimagining police and public safety.

Phil mentioned that he has been going by early in the morning and noticed that it is very busy at the tennis courts. The whole vibe over there with the little library is really terrific. Phil said he wants to thank Garry and Maryn for their tireless efforts.

Garry replied that Maryn is working on getting Bocce Ball going now.

- **Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani**

We will start meeting again when it's safe to do so.

9. LUDRC - 2 projects

- **Chevron Gas Station Remodel, Brian Hubinger, Gary Semling**

Chevron took our feedback and incorporated it into the new design. They will be showing the history of Point Richmond and the Refinery on the outside walls of the new building. They added bike racks and a bike repair station. Gary showed the floor plan for the convenience store. There will be brick on the columns and on the sign. 4 display boards will show historical photographs. There will be brick and shiplap on the body of the store.

Q: Will there be lights over the photographs?

Brian: Yes. We want to show the history of Chevron in Richmond.

Charmain explained that the LUDRC had met earlier tonight, and they approved the new plans for the Chevron gas station remodel.

Dave asked if there are any more questions before voting.

Q: I have lived here 3 years. Is there a master plan here? I appreciate this design is an improvement. Is this a one off or is there a bigger plan?

Peter: Not really. Chevron has to replace the fuel tanks and add a convenience store. They came to the LUDRC with their design.

Q: The design review can go along with the planning commission. I am concerned about the traffic. Also, the convenience store can be as much as 30% of the business so it's an important addition.

Dave: Motion that we approve the LUDRC decision which recommends approving the Chevron designs with no conditions.

Seconded

Vote:

In favor: All

Opposed: None

- **New Decks 474 Western Drive, Rosemary Corbin**

Rosemary wants to have a home where she can live on one level. The first phase was interior and retaining walls. Phase 2 is the decks. The original decks were all unsafe, and the lower deck has been removed. At the main level were 2 decks. With these plans the 2 decks will be connected by a 3 foot walkway. Rosemary talked to all the neighbors. It doesn't intrude on anyone's view and no one has a problem with it.

Charmain explained that Rosemary met with the LUDRC, and they approved the plan tonight.

Dave: Motion that we approve the LUDRC recommendation for this deck remodel. Seconded.

Vote:

In favor: All

Opposed: None

10. *Trash and Litter Clean Up Relating to Homeless - 2 speakers*

- ***Save our Spaces (SOS), Daniel Barth***

Daniel spoke about homelessness and illegal dumping. SOS is an organization for anyone who wants to engage in a solution for homelessness and trash. Rather than push aside the issue, we need to find a better way. Especially with Covid there are many homeless, and there are a lot of RVs on our streets. There is a mounting problem that's only going to get worse. Richmond cannot engage in the expensive models. We have a very difficult issue here. It's up to us to have a conversation. We have to engage with folks to find a cost effective solution.

Q: How do we get in touch with you?

Daniel: SOS Richmond. There is a website. We need to talk about how we can build a response team. We do not have a mental health program.

Q: There was a man who is not well who sets fires. The police come, they move him, and he comes back. We need to talk about defunding the police. The police do not want to go to the homeless encampments. This is not a crime.

Q: On our street there are 3 mini vans and a truck that has been converted into a house. There is no litter. They are doing their best to be good citizens. I worry about them. Is there support, check in, or something? These are people who have come to hard times, and they probably are used to a better style of living.

Daniel: I am a newcomer in Richmond, and I have run homeless shelters. We need to create relationships. SOS Richmond is people working together. We know that we have the ability to change things. We have the ability to make significant changes. We know that the police are very underfunded. How can we use our abilities to create funding? How can we have a non police intervention team?

Peter: You can give a donation on the website or on the Facebook page. I was helping clean up near I580. 3 people were hauling truckloads of trash.

Daniel said he will be talking at the RNCC with Michele Millam. They are trying to set up some portable showers.

- ***Regarding Caltrans, Leisa Johnson***

Leisa said that we pay lots of money to Caltrans through taxes, and they are not doing their job. Caltrans has only 7 people doing all of the vegetation control and trash pick up on I580 up to I80. One person is responsible for picking up the trash and one person picks up the large items. Mayor Butt asked them to work on the I580 exit and entrance ramps. Our local on and off ramps are looking bad. I talked to County Supervisor John Gioia and California Assemblymember Buffy Weeks. I am also talking with some of the City Council members. Richmond is looking like a garbage pit. We have a hard time getting businesses to come to Richmond and the trash is not helping. We need the State to do what they should do.

Q: We had a very bad problem in the 90's. It was on Caltrans property. We need to contact Buffy Wicks, and send letters and make phone calls. We need to be that squeaky wheel. How should we get it cleaned up?

Leisa said that after driving around California, Oregon and Washington, she did find other places looking this bad. She supports Daniel in his efforts. She hopes we can get people into a more village type setting. And get them resources.

Peter said we might have another discussion about this in a future meeting. There is a lot of background to discuss. Leisa requested that the PRNC write a letter to Mayor Butt and the City Council.

**Motion: Write a letter as dictated by Daniel, with bullet points from Leisa and send to Mayor Butt and the City Manager.
Seconded.**

Vote:

In favor: All

Opposed: None

11. Community Briefs, Part 2

- **Arts of Point Richmond, Mary Lee Cole**

They are working on Taking it Outdoors and decorating the town. They are hoping to have 50 banners up. Look at Jan Shelbourne's glass art exhibit. Our photography group is very active. Go to Arts of Point Richmond.com to see some of our photographs. We have been actively distracting ourselves.

- **PRBA, Scott Harris**

Scott said they usually hold their meetings at Hotel Mac. Anybody can go. You don't have to have a business here. We are now having Zoom meetings. We had a webinar with County Supervisor John Gioia. Next we are doing a mixer. It might be good to invite anyone in the community. Our president, Daniel Butt, is working on the permitting process for Richmond to allow parkettes. We want restaurants to take advantage of that. They could set up a parkette in front of Masquers and Kaleidoscope. We have discussed closing the street to allow restaurants to set up tables but that could encourage socializing and crowds. Go to our new website. It has a restaurant directory. We are going to make every effort to keep it up to date. It has all the goings on around the Point. Supervisor John Gioia told me there is a new testing site for Covid at 25th and Nevin. They can handle up to 400 tests per day. You don't need an appointment. There is a new order to allow outdoor barber shops and nail salons.

12. Public Forum

- Maryn Hurlbut said she has been talking with the library director about when we can open our library. We are brainstorming how to reopen the satellite libraries. We need to think about the depleted library staff. We lost the budget to keep the staffing. I need people to help think out of the box about how to restart the library. If you are interested let me know. You can email me at Parks and Rec Commission. We'll be scheduling a Zoom brainstorming session.
- Francis Smith talked about the Senior Forum Zoom meeting for all seniors. They will be discussing the future of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. It's all under threat. We will be discussing affordable housing, and supports and resources. Congressman Mark Desaulnier, State Senator Nancy Skinner, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond will be speaking.

13. In Remembrance and Celebration, and Adjourn

- *Garry and Maryn have a new grand nephew. Garry's niece Tamma Carleton and husband Scott Surface had a boy, Atlas Vincent Carleton Surface. Congrats, Garry and Maryn!*
- *Meeting adjourned 9:45 p.m.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Charmain Tyler, PRNC Secretary



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
General Membership Meeting***

***See you online via ZOOM
Wednesday, September 30, 7:30 pm***

***PRNC will send access info to members
via email.***

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