

[www.pointrichmond.org](http://www.pointrichmond.org)

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As you may be aware, the City of Richmond is currently pursuing the conversion of some downtown parking spaces into parklets in Point Richmond.

It surprised me to learn that the genesis for parklets in the Point arose well before the COVID-19 lockdowns. The city, specifically the Transportation Services Department, considered this a part of their commitment to supporting alternative transportation. And this proposal is, for some local residents, a controversial issue.

After doing a little research on this topic, I found that San Francisco began a similar initiative back in 2010. For those interested to read the case study it is available at this website; <https://nacto.org/case-study/san-francisco-parklet-program/>



Reading the San Francisco study, one phrase in particular caught my attention; **“Strong and documented community support”** and the City of Richmond has asked us for community input from us as well. So, on March 10th, the PRNC held a ZOOM meeting to serve as an open forum for our members’ concerns. At our next General Meeting we will be discussing those concerns and presenting suggested solutions (see page 3 of newsletter).

**Getting back to the SF study**, I found some of the guidelines that San Francisco included particularly enlightening; *“Parklets are intended to be vibrant public spaces...They must be located **at least one parking space away from corners...Parklets may not interfere with utility access, disabled parking, bus zones, or curbside drainage.** Every parklet must meet construction standards of both the San Francisco Building Code and the **Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.**”* This is something to keep in mind going forward.

No doubt you’ve heard me asking for volunteers to fill several vacancies on the PRNC Board. Some good news here: Buzz Baylis has been nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Membership Chair, and Margi Sullivan has been nominated for the role of treasurer. We’re still taking nominations and will be voting to fill these positions in our April meeting.

Check out our great new website: [www.pointrichmond.org](http://www.pointrichmond.org) and drop us a line to tell us what you think.

*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, March 31, 2021, 7:30pm  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom (see access info in email)  
[PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com)

## AGENDA

- |      |   |                     |
|------|---|---------------------|
| 7:30 | <b>Call to order and approval of minutes from February 24, 2021</b>   | <b>1 minute</b>     |
| 7:31 | <b>President's Report, Peter Thelin</b>   | <b>7 minutes</b>    |
| 7:38 | <b>Point Richmond Egg Hunt, June Hight</b>  | <b>2 minutes</b>    |
| 7:40 | <b>Nominees for Membership Chair and Treasurer, Peter Thelin</b><br><i>Buzz Baylis and Margi Sullivan to introduce themselves</i>   | <b>5 minutes</b>    |
| 7:45 | <b>Discussion of Parklets, Denee Evans, City of Richmond</b>  | <b>15/5 minutes</b> |
| 8:05 | <b>Proposal of Parklet for Kaleidoscope Coffee, Andrew Butt</b>   | <b>10 minutes</b>   |
| 8:15 | <b>Community Briefs, Part 1 (2 minutes each)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Masquers Playhouse, Carl Smith, <a href="http://www.masquers.org">www.masquers.org</a></i></li><li>• <i>Point Richmond Table Tennis Club, Peter Thelin (510) 326-8108</i></li><li>• <i>Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Cordell Hindler, <a href="http://richmondneighbors.org">http://richmondneighbors.org</a></i></li><li>• <i>Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut (510) 547-8111</i></li><li>• <i>USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett, <a href="http://www.redoakvictory.us">www.redoakvictory.us</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>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></ul> | <b>14 minutes</b>   |
| 8:29 | <b>Land Use Design Review Committee (LUDRC), Charmain Tyler</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Project at 400-414 Marine St., TIC Home Owners</b></li><li>• <b>Project at 700 Ocean Ave.</b></li></ul> <i>Items to be considered at the LUDRC meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, at <a href="mailto:rdsatre@live.com">rdsatre@live.com</a>, (510) 232-5059, at least two weeks prior to the General Membership meeting.</i><br><b><u>The LUDRC meets monthly prior to the PRNC General Membership meeting at 6:00 pm.</u></b>   | <b>10 minutes</b>   |
| 8:39 | <b>Update on AC Transit Bus Turn Around, Ryan Lau and Michael Hass</b>  | <b>5 minutes</b>    |
| 8:44 | <b>Community Briefs, Part 2 (2 minutes each)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>PR CERT, Charmain Tyler (510) 334-7267 <a href="mailto:charmain.tyler@gmail.com">charmain.tyler@gmail.com</a></i></li><li>• <i>Point Richmond Business Association, Cordell Hindler, <a href="http://www.pointrichmondbusiness.com">www.pointrichmondbusiness.com</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>Arts of Point Richmond, Mary Lee Cole, <a href="http://www.artsofpointrichmond.com">www.artsofpointrichmond.com</a></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>PRAM, Chrissie Bradley, <a href="https://pram.net/">https://pram.net/</a></i></li><li>• <i>HOAs in Point Richmond</i></li></ul>           | <b>14 minutes</b>   |
| 8:58 | <b>The Grape Nest, new business and request for support of ABC application</b><br><i>Marlina Miller</i>   | <b>5 minutes</b>    |
| 9:03 | <b>Roma Café and Bar, new business</b><br><i>Jose Antonio Gonzalez, Liquid Culture</i>  | <b>5 minutes</b>    |
| 9:08 | <b>Security at the Cafeteria Building and Lot at Canal and Seacliff, Leisa Johnson</b>  | <b>5 minutes</b>    |
| 9:13 | <b>Public Forum (3 speakers, 2 minutes each)</b><br><i>Please sign up in advance with June Hight (<a href="mailto:pointrichmondneighborhood@gmail.com">pointrichmondneighborhood@gmail.com</a>)</i>   | <b>6 minutes</b>    |
| 9:19 | <b>In Remembrance and Celebration.</b><br><i>If you have something to add, please contact June Hight (<a href="mailto:pointrichmondneighborhood@gmail.com">pointrichmondneighborhood@gmail.com</a>).</i>  |                     |



The following letter was sent to Denee Evans, City of Richmond Transportation Services Division reflecting the outcomes of the PRNC parklet meeting on March 10.



Dear Denee,

Thank you for approaching the PRNC for input on the City of Richmond's parklet program rules. The PRNC held a special workshop on March 10, 2021, where the community discussed many of the issues surrounding the parklet program. The community consensus about parklets in Point Richmond is as follows:

The community is in favor of having parklets as the pandemic drags on. We want to support businesses during this time and understand that outdoor space is needed to replace unusable indoor space. However, after the pandemic is over, there is little, if any, support for parklets in downtown Point Richmond. The community discussed years of problems with limited parking, with nearby residents suffering when parking is removed from downtown. Residents expressed concern that people would not be able to visit the businesses at all if parking is unavailable, ultimately harming downtown, including businesses that do not use parklets, such as the markets. Also discussed were problems with the existing Up and Under parklet, including trucks blocking the narrow roadway now that deliveries must occur in the street, unattractive warning implements in the street, inaccessibility for disabled patrons, and a buildup of debris that will end up in the bay now that street sweeping is not possible in the area.

If the parklet program must be implemented in downtown Point Richmond, the community asks that the following limits be placed on the number and size of the parklets and the length of the permits:

-Applicants should visit the PRNC and present their proposal, allowing the PRNC to provide comment and giving notice to the community. The PRNC also supports having the Historic Preservation Commission review the parklets.

-No more than three parklets should be allowed downtown at any one time.

-Each parklet should be no larger than one parking space.

-The permits should be for only 1 year, maximum.

-The parklets should be accessible to disabled residents.

-The parklets should be easily removed temporarily so that events like Point Richmond Music can still occur.

-If a business has a sidewalk wide enough to accommodate tables, only a sidewalk seating permit, no parklet permit, should be issued.

-The parklet fees should be appropriate and compensate the community for the impact of lost parking. The community would be interested in having the limited number of parklets auctioned and in fee-sharing with the affected community.

-The community is not interested in closing Park Place to vehicle traffic, and there was little interest in participating in Parking Day, since it will be after things reopen.

The community would like to know whether parklets are restricted to the adjacent business (i.e. could a business apply for a permit for a parklet down the street from its address)?

We look forward to your visit to the PRNC meeting on March 31 to discuss these concerns.

Sincerely,  
Peter Thelin  
President, PRNC



**Point Richmond Neighborhood Council**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, February 24, 2021  
[PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com)

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*Minutes from Feb 24, 2021, Zoom meeting*

**Board Members present:**

Peter Thelin, President	Buzz Baylis, Treasurer
Dave Bleckinger, 1st Vice President	Garry Hurlbut, Member-at-Large
June Hight, Membership Chair and 2nd VP	Sue Rosenof, Member-at-Large
Charmain Tyler, Secretary	

This meeting is being recorded

**1. Call to order and approval of minutes from January 27, 2021, Peter Thelin**

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm via Zoom. Minutes were approved. No objections or changes.

**2. President's report, Peter Thelin**

We have Hakim Johnson and Linsi Crain from Chevron to talk about diesel spill. We also have Andres Soto, from Communities for a Better Environment.

**3. Treasurer's report, Buzz Baylis**

We just got 16 checks for a total of \$375 worth of dues. PayPal is also working.  
Current account balance is \$5116.00

**4. Membership report, June Hight**

Last month we had 69 members, and this month we have 120. Warm welcome to our new members. Links to our meeting are at [pointrichmond.org/calendar](http://pointrichmond.org/calendar). Email is [pointrichmondneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:pointrichmondneighborhood@gmail.com). Now that we have PayPal, it's much easier to join.

**5. Chevron, Discussion of Oil Spill**

Hakim Johnson and Linsi Crain From Chevron spoke. Linsi said the formal response and recovery effort was completed by Unified Command yesterday. This included US Coast Guard (federal on-scene coordinator), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (state on-scene coordinator), and Contra Costa Health Services (local on-scene coordinator), all work together.

We did not see any affected wildlife or air quality issues. Counties did not report any air readings that were above background readings. We appreciate you helping us keep track of air monitoring. [Richmondairmonitoring.org](http://Richmondairmonitoring.org) – independently operated monitors. There is a public website that was launched by the unified command -- [recoveredoillineleaks.com](http://recoveredoillineleaks.com). It was not an oil spill; it was a diesel spill. County community warning system [cwsalerts.com](http://cwsalerts.com), City of Richmond - Nixle alert, [recoveredoillineleaks.com](http://recoveredoillineleaks.com), Chevron social channels on twitter and Facebook, Phone general info 510-240-2000 [Richmond.Chevron.com](http://Richmond.Chevron.com). [Richmondrefinerinfo.com](http://Richmondrefinerinfo.com)

**Philip:** We have not had timely response so we get on social media. When we call Chevron, the operator can't link us to a recorded message. It's not our job as a community to get Chevron's message out. Why can't we get live info? They don't call back. I have called the 2127 number.

**Linsi:** That line is the complaint line monitored 24/7.

**Phil:** That has happened on occasion. The response is that it's usually called a level 1 incident

**Linsi:** We have the 2127 number to call, and you can be signed up with the county and Nixle.

**Phil:** We get Nixle if there is something to do or not do. It's not general info. It's a directive.

**Linsi:** The county and city systems are about hazards. There are specific requirements from the county about how we report hazards. Chevron called a level 2 for this incident.

**Sally Tobin:** There were several conflicting reports about exactly what was going on. One report said it was diesel mixed with water. Is that a ballast line?

**Linsi:** It is basically a flush line. We do know that it had a diesel water mixture in it

**Sally:** Is there a tank on land to flush?

**Linsi:** The water and the diesel come from the ship and were flushing a loading arm/tank. It goes to a tank and gets recycled/recovered. It's a line from ship to shore for action. Goes in 1 direction.

**Sally:** I smelled diesel, but it wasn't gasoline.

**Linsi:** We did hear that some people smelled things in advance of when we observed the sheen.

**Andres Soto:** The fire chief said they dispatched their ship to help out and was denied access.

**Linsi:** We had plenty of boom that day. We didn't need it all. It's not necessarily that we didn't want to use the city's boom. What if there was another incident nearby that needed to be managed and Chevron was taking up all the local resources?

**Andres:** That's not true. You did deny them access

**Linsi:** Unified Command is national incident management. Now Coast Guard leads most of these efforts. Once we close, the investigation begins and is from different teams and leaders.

**Leisa Johnson:** When did Chevron first become aware of the spill, from the neighbors or from Chevron? Did Chevron claim they discovered the leak before the neighbors?

**Linsi:** One of the neighbors notified us about this spill. Several agencies are looking into this. Our operators are continually walking the wharf and looking for abnormal operating conditions.

**Graham:** My question -- was this caused by a lack of maintenance or a catastrophic failure?

**Linsi:** We do not know at this time.

**Annie:** Question regarding the time of event. That day I noticed the large blue vessel rounding Ferry Point in the morning 8:45 am., walking from Richmond Yacht Club to Keller beach. The blue vessel was just rounding the point. Chevron said 2:30 pm.

**Linsi:** We have since become aware of some smells. My understanding at looking at the wind direction it would have not hit Point Richmond at that time in the morning.

**Annie:** The oil response vessel was already on its way.

**John:** They were out doing maneuvers that day. They were heading back in.

**Linsi:** We do a lot of drills so we are in compliance for 2021.

**John Droutsas:** What caused the spill? You don't have that determination yet? How can they prevent something again?

**Linsi:** Nothing official yet. And there are other orgs doing investigations. People have said 3 to 6 months to wrap up all the investigations, but we don't know.

**John:** One beach or multiple beaches? We had oil on our beach a mile away.

**Linsi:** We have your address. We can look at where you are. Keller Beach and other public access beaches were closed for safety.

**John:** What is your definition of affected beaches? You can see the leak from the helicopter.

**Linsi:** We use the definition of the fish and wildlife.

**Alicia:** With the long history of environmental problems, along with the recent toxic flaring, how does Chevron assure the community that there is no health risk? Higher risk of a cancer.

**Linsi:** Look at the science and look at the data. Flares are designed to not impact the local community. Only in the worst instance would flaring impact a local community. Regulated by about 35 organizations in CA all designed with our safety in mind. We are working on lowering our emissions and lowering our flaring. That's why you don't see a level 2 or level 3.

**Alicia:** The data that I have been looking at contradicts what you have.

**Neighbor:** Chevron is not the only player in this. There are many points of pollution here. It's unfair when everybody jumps on Chevron.

**Hakim:** There are about 100 monitors combined that they can utilize. What's current now is the ongoing monitoring with the intent of identifying what the source of emission might be. There is a need to know what else is out there. Identify emission reduction strategies. There will be more to come. All of this is to understand and identify all sources.

**Dave:** We have extended the time and now we have to close. Thank you to Chevron for the answering and the follow ups

## **6. Neighborhood discussion of Chevron's response to issues**

**Leisa:** I have been doing research about bay area air quality. I'll get back later in the meeting

## **7. Community Briefs, Part 1**

- *Masquers Playhouse, Carl Smith, [www.masquers.org](http://www.masquers.org)* – not present
- *Point Richmond Table Tennis Club, Peter Thelin (510) 326-8108*  
We are holding it in the garage space at Bridges, I'll be around Sunday
- *Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Cordell Hindler, <http://richmondneighbors.org>*  
not present
- *USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett, [www.redoakvictory.us](http://www.redoakvictory.us).*  
We are still closed under the CC county guidelines. We have obtained a 5-inch gun. We dug it up on Buena Vista. We have a full range of weaponry.
- *Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani <http://pointrichmond.com/wwic>.* We thank PRNC for their generous support. The garden committee is planning the volunteer cleanup day, identifying plant species, and mapping out the future garden design.

## **8. Land Use Design Review Committee (LUDRC), Charmain Tyler**

- **Project at 517 Western Dr, new deck**  
Owner is Megan Lizarraga. Doing seismic work and updating kitchen. Putting deck on back. City Planning Dept approved 5' 6" inches as the max depth of the deck. The LUDRC motion: You can build deck as designed or up to 5' 6" inch depth as allowed by planner. Motion approved with vote of 6 for; none opposed.

## **9. Community Briefs, Part 2**

- *PR CERT, Charmain Tyler (510) 334-7267 [charmain.tyler@gmail.com](mailto:charmain.tyler@gmail.com)* New container for PR CERT's base of operations is in Judge Carrol Park. There is still lots of work to be done, but the biggest part is now here.
- *Point Richmond Business Association, Cordell Hindler, [www.pointrichmondbusiness.com](http://www.pointrichmondbusiness.com)* not present
- *Point Richmond History Association, Bonnie Jo Cullison, <http://pointrichmondhistory.org>*  
*Nothing to share*
- *Arts of Point Richmond, Mary Lee Cole, [www.artsofpointrichmond.com](http://www.artsofpointrichmond.com).* For our news this month, please see flyer included in this newsletter.

- PRAM, Chrissie Bradley, <https://pram.net/> not present

## **10. Odors in The Point, Communities for a Better Environment**

*Andres Soto, Richmond Organizer:* I was invited to come here to talk about odors. The number of the air district hotline is 1 800-334-6367. If 5 people call they will dispatch an investigator. There has been a number of complaints about Richmond landfill. People used to load up their yard clippings and dump everything out there. Over time as it rots it becomes methane gas. They extract methane gas out of that and convert it into energy.

The city of Richmond can impose conditions through their land use authority. It can be done by the council and bring greater regulation. In 2014 Chevron wanted a project, planning commission-imposed conditions. Richmond Promise program. The agency that is most responsible for air and odors is the Bay Area Air Quality. Part of the prob is state legislation. The fines are low and set by the state. PRNC can adopt a resolution that the City Council adopted last week. That gets sent to the Bay Area Air Quality. The greenhouse gasses go up into the atmosphere. That particulate matter is the fall out. It is causing the cancer and autoimmune diseases. It's fine and penetrates into our blood.

*Leisa Johnson:* I am active in calling in to the Bay Area odor complaint helpline. I have been told if they get 3 calls they will investigate. Sometimes Chevron gets the brunt of the blame even if it's not Chevron. We have routine offenders. We just had 2 horrific incidents from AAK. Veolia had repeated excessive hydrogen sulfide. It's been over a year and we have not received updates. I don't think it's the community's responsibility to get updates.

*Andres:* All these facilities get a land use permit. If there is enough evidence that they are failing to address the causes. You can de permit.

*Leisa:* My request is for the PRNC to draft a letter highlighting that the community has not received updates from Sims Metal. I have not seen an official report about the cause of the fire. Veolia. I've seen nothing. I want Bay Area Air Quality to answer to us.

*Andres:* A lot of that smoke was dioxins. The fire dept was spraying water on it, and it made the smoke more dense. It brought it down closer to the ground.

*Leisa:* When there is a notice of resolution and a notice of a fine. I want to know I want to be kept in the loop. We should know when something has been finalized.

*Peter:* Email me who to write to and what to write.

*Dave:* We can take the time to craft some language that we are happy with, and at the next meeting you can make a motion to send it on to the board.

*Andres:* If everyone got on Next Door, it might cancel out some of the calls. Buffy was good at responding. I encourage everyone to call. The other thing that helps is to ask for a supervisor to return your call.

*Jessie West:* They do dismiss it if they think we are telling everyone to call in. Secondly, it's very important that you say how it's affecting you. Are you sheltering in place? Are you stopping walking your dog?

I have been involved with Republic Service about the garbage mountain and about their green bin waste going septic. I don't think there is methane, but the green waste processing on top of the mountain, butyric and acidic acid. Smells like sour compost. It scorches your throat. It's been a huge problem. The city can revoke use permits. We get a lot of particulate matter from BNSF.

*Andres:* Regulation of the rail roads is governed exclusively by federal government. Anything on the tracks is federally regulated.

*Amanda:* I'm glad we are having this discussion. If someone was creating and destroying paint that's what it smells like. I didn't know what it was.

*Andres:* If you look at this past election AAK, Sims Metal all were part of the same pact with \$2 to \$300,000 behind their candidates, but their candidates lost.

*Leisa:* The best thing to do is call Bay Area Air Quality. Contact your elected representatives.

### 11. Public Forum

- *Rosa Bermudez* is interested in applying for a liquor license. Restaurant -- Masa, handcrafted tamales, 199 Park Place. Would like to open the beautiful bar. We will not have live music, and we will not have drunken parties. No basement use. Only storage.
- *June Hight:* Parklets: We have an opportunity as a community. We will have a special workshop around March 10 to discuss parklets.

### 12. In Remembrance and Celebration.

Kathleen Wimer spoke of her friend who passed away, Carol Teltschick. She was on the Point Molate planning commission and a local author.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

PRNC & PRAM are hosting an *EGG*-stra-ordinary

# Egg Hunt

Sat, April 3 and Sun, April 4

**Kids of all ages:**  
Find pictures of decorated  
EGGS for PRIZES!

**Neighbors:** please place  
pictures of decorated EGGS  
in your window!

Find a  
GOLDEN EGG  
for a Grand Prize!

And a  
Spring Hat  
Contest!

For more details, see [pointrichmond.org/egghunt](http://pointrichmond.org/egghunt)





**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND PAY YOUR DUES!** The dues help cover our administrative expenses and are only \$20 per individual and \$25 per household. If this is a financial hardship, a waiver is gladly granted. Lifetime memberships are \$500. Pay online via PayPal at [www.pointrichmond.org](http://www.pointrichmond.org) or mail your check and application to: PRNC; P.O. Box 70386; Point Richmond, CA 94807.

- New             Individual  
 Renewal        Household

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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***Point Richmond Neighborhood Council  
General Membership Meeting***

***See you online via ZOOM  
Wednesday, March 31, 7:30 pm***

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



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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
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