



On Point

August 2021



Yes, it's August already.

School will be starting soon, so please drive safely! Especially through the notorious Ferry Tunnel. See the photo below showing the optical illusion of a wavy floor; it's one suggestion as to how to slow down the traffic. We're open to other suggestions.

At our August board meeting, we brainstormed ways to extend our PRNC reach into to the community. One idea was to set up a booth at the proposed downtown Point Richmond "Fall Fest" but sadly the event was cancelled due to COVID. Hopefully there will be another opportunity; in the meantime, community safety is priority!



Still eager to our #1 priority. understand the cause of the spill at the Chevron Long Wharf, Board Members Sue Rosenof and Dave Bleckinger persevered with their investigative efforts. According to Chevron Spokesperson Linsi Crain, the external investigations are still ongoing, but would like to attend our September meeting to share info. In the meantime, Chevron Spokesperson Hakim Johnson said that a Chevron safety flare was activated for a short time due to a process upset. A Community Warning System Level 1 – the lowest on the scale – was issued to keep residents informed. Chevron encourages us to visit www.richmondairmonitoring.org to view real-time air quality data.



Thanks to the Women's Westside Improvement Committee, the Triangle garden looks better than ever! Using funds from the PRNC, they beautified it with lovely flowers and greenery.

Regarding our aforementioned Ferry tunnel, Bruce Beyaert, TRAC Chair, has learned from Cornell Hughes (Electrical Supervisor, Public Works Department) that the city plans to replace all existing lighting fixtures in the tunnel.

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, August 25, 2021, 7:30pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom (see access info in email)
PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com

AGENDA

7:30	Call to order and approval of minutes from July 28, 2021	1 minute
7:31	Police Report, Officer Nelson	5 minutes
7:36	President's Report, Peter Thelin	2 minutes
7:38	Treasurer's Report, Margi Sullivan	1 minute
7:39	Membership Report, Buzz Baylis	1 minute
7:40	Electric Bike Program, Denee Evans, City of Richmond	10/10 minutes
8:00	Community Briefs, Part 1 (2 minutes each)	12 minutes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masquers Playhouse, Frances Smith, masquers.org• Point Richmond Table Tennis Club, Peter Thelin (510) 326-8108• Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Cordell Hindler, richmondneighbors.org• Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut, (510)547-8111• USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett, redoakvictory.us• Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani pointrichmond.com/wwic	
8:12	Land Use Design Review Committee (LUDRC), 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. The LUDRC meets monthly prior to the PRNC General Membership meeting, at 6:00 pm.</p>	
8:12	Point Richmond Market, Peter Thelin	5/10 minutes
8:27	Community Briefs, Part 2 (2 minutes each)	14 minutes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PR CERT, Charmain Tyler (510) 334-7267 charmain.tyler@gmail.com• Point Richmond Business Association, Cordell Hindler, pointrichmondbusiness.com• Point Richmond History Association, Bonnie Jo Cullison, pointrichmondhistory.org• Arts of Point Richmond, Rita Gardner, artsofpointrichmond.com• Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding MagickLantern.org, magick-lantern@att.net, (510)232-2559• PRAM, Chrissie Bradley, pram.net• HOA's in Point Richmond	
8:41	The Final Sauce, Brownie Sims, Owner	5/5 minutes
8:46	Public Forum (3 speakers, 2 minutes each)	6 minutes
8:52	In Remembrance and Celebration	5 minutes





Point Richmond Neighborhood Council

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com

PRNC Board Members

Peter Thelin, President
Buzz Baylis, Membership Chair
Dave Bleckinger, Vice President
Charmain Tyler, Secretary

Sue Rosenof, Member at Large
Garry Hurlbut, Member at Large
Not present: Margi Sullivan, Treasurer

1. ***Meeting was called to order*** at 7:33 p.m. Discussion re: 509 Washington Ave., LUDRC project. Minutes should say project passed with 9 for, 8 against. Minutes were approved with change.
2. ***Police Report.*** No officer in attendance.
3. ***President's Report, Peter Thelin:*** We will talk about Zoom meetings vs. in person meetings. July 24 is free clean-up day for Point Richmond at Washington School. Bring your utility bill with your name and address. Some items are prohibited. You will be receiving a mailer.
4. ***Treasurer's Report, Margi Sullivan:*** Buzz is filling in while Margi is away. People sent in \$170. Our new balance is \$4536.
5. ***Membership Report, Buzz Baylis:*** 55 people have paid their dues this year. We usually have over 100 members. You can send a check or pay by PayPal online.
6. ***Washington Elementary use of Judge Carrol Park. Speakers:***
 - Luis Freese, Associate Superintendent of Operations, West CC Unified School District
 - Lisa Levy, Washington School Principal
 - LaShonda White, Senior Management Analyst, City of Richmond
 - Tetteh Kisseh, Recreation Program Supervisor, City of Richmond
 - Rajana Majaraj, Recreation and Parks staff, City of Richmond

Principal Lisa said they have a desire to access Judge Carrol Park as part of their recess program in the morning. We want to get your support. Rajana said they would be happy to provide space for the PE program. With dogs present it won't work with having students there. We can close off areas where the school can use the park. People with dogs can use another part of park at same time. We could have signs.

Principal Lisa said even if we just used park 3 days a week, from 9-3, we would be happy. We could work out a schedule to have PE classes. We used to have teddy bear picnics and softball games in the park. It would enrich the school community if we could do that.

LaShonda agreed. Fran Smith asked how can we ensure that people clean up? Garry Hurlbut asked if there is a way to segment off the dog part. Rajana said the park division staff is low, but we want to make the commitment to close off an area when the kids use the park. We will have new signage with schedule.

Dave Bleckinger said he supports the school using the park and he is happy the group came to talk with the community. There was evidence of people not picking up after their dogs and some dogs off leash. I am also worried about the kids tripping on mole holes. Rajana said we will take it back to the parks division. I'm sure the Parks Department has a means to get rid of moles.

Jesse West asked to clarify the part of the park they are talking about. There are 3 streets and also areas outside the fence with picnic tables and grass. Rajana said it would be the area inside the fence.

Jesse said we call it the Judge Carrol Ball Park, and we have to defer to any team or school that wants to use it. Cordell said he wouldn't mind school kids using the park. If they do it 3 days a week that's OK. It would be helpful to have a schedule. Peter said it's not really a dog park. The kids should have access to it. We always have dogs. We would use shovels and paper bags.

Principal Lisa said we just want it 3 days a week, especially in the afternoon. I do see dogs playing there in the morning and I don't want to take that away from them. There are yellow jacket nests.

Philip Rosenthal said we had considered if private funding could be used for a small dog area outside the fence. If people get ticketed or fined they will clean up. Garry said that was a suggestion he had a few years ago. If it was a funding issue it didn't get far. Dave said he talked with the Parks and Rec about was that right field is bigger than it needs to be, along Garrard. You still have plenty of room for softball or Little League. If you could organize the funding, you could fence off a portion just for dogs.

Phil asked if we could do something with Milo's place where they used to exercise their dogs. It would have to be private funding, but it is very close. Luis said it is good to hear we have support from the community. Peter concluded the discussion by thanking everyone for coming. That was informative.

7. *Community Briefs, Part 1*

- *Masquers Playhouse, Frances Smith:* Membership and board met inside the theater, June 16. Bill has Aliens vs Cowboys performing live over the next couple weeks. Call 510-232-4031 to make a reservation. The grand opening will be around the holidays. Our season starts in January.
- *Point Richmond Table Tennis Club, Peter Thelin:* Have been traveling and now my sister is visiting. We looked into moving back to Rigger's and I am investigating East Brothers Brewery
- *Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Cordell Hindler:* Chief Bisa French talked about the police budget and reimagining the police.
- *Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut:* This is the first week we got everyone out on the courts. We have been doing adult tennis. This week we got kids out to MLK Park. We had 90 elementary age kids rotating on and off the courts. We use RTA volunteer coaches. M-F every day. 1-3 pm.
- *USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett:* We open Sundays for self-guided tours. July 4 bring your own brunch. We'll have a band from 10 to 4 for \$10. We hope to have pancake breakfast in late summer, and eventually get back to movie nights.
- *Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani:* We played bingo and won't meet again until September.

8. *Land Use Design Review Committee (LUDRC)*

- No projects this month.
- Discussion about that the City might bypass LUDRC and go to PRBA, especially for approving parklets. This has been on NextDoor. Peter said PRBA is different from PRNC. They answer to the business community. It sounds like a rumor.
- Phil thinks the City goes to the Business Association when it comes to the Triangle.
- Dave said there are stories online. We are the only active LUDRC in Richmond. Planners know this and the City point projects to us. What we try to do is to show the value in getting the community involved at this level, and to discuss the pluses and minuses. The LUDRC is meaningful. The City supports it.

9. *Recap of Reimagining Public Safety, PRNC Special Meeting, Dave Bleckinger*

June 17 was a special meeting at PRNC. The City council had already voted. The people involved were: Randy Joseph, task force, Jim Nantell, Bisa French, police. They explained the different proposals from task force and City. Earlier in June they proposed 5 options. Option E, at \$6.3 million was chosen. They will take \$3 million from police budget, reducing police staff by 12 perm positions. Another \$3.3 million came from American Recovery Act. The police will adjust org chart. Police Chief French said staff morale is low, and some resigned. She was hopeful that programs will work and reduce calls to police. Police will not be able to address drug houses, prostitution, and catalytic converter theft. Some parts of Option E will still be unfunded. There may be reduction of other City staff positions or services. Some programs are already funded and are ready to go. The County helps with mental health cases, but only during the day.

Q/A

Frances said thank you for pulling that together. Mike Parker said he has been involved with the work group and followed the task force. The police budget will be about the same. The rumors about destroying the police force are over-represented. Dave said it's about learning and

educating the community. Mike said it's common for Tom and Nat to say that all of the neighborhood councils have voted on this. The PRNC did not vote. Phil said we thought this meeting was before the vote. We thought we would have had time to give feedback. Mike said the formal vote on this was last Tuesday.

10. Community Briefs, Part 2

- *PR CERT, Charmain Tyler*: Please join us July 25 at 11 am. You will see use of radios and demonstration of communication outside of Point Richmond. We will open container to show our set up and supplies, and radio base station. We will have practice search, rescue drill and triage.
- *Point Richmond Business Association, Cordell Hindler*: National demographic corporation spoke on how redistricting works. Business luncheons are on hold for now.
- *Point Richmond History Association, Karen Buchanan*: We reopened the museum. The first Saturday of every month we are wearing costumes of each decade.
- *Arts of Point Richmond, Rita Gardner*: No one was present.
- *Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding*: No one was present.
- *PRAM, Chrissie Bradley* (Notes read by Charmain Tyler): Come join PRAM board for reopening work party with potluck BBQ. We will meet on Sunday, July 11 at 1:30. The BBQ and potluck will be 5:30. Please RSVP to 415-798-6642. We will meet at PRAM.
- *HOA's in Point Richmond*: No report.

11. Discussion of In-Person vs Zoom Meetings, Peter Thelin

Zoom meetings have been better attended than our in-person meetings. You don't have to drive thru the rain or look for parking. But there is something to be said about rubbing elbows and eating some cookies. I want to find out what you think.

Cordell said we could have it in community center sitting apart. For special occasions. Frances said she wants to meet in person. We are more of a community in person. Karen said she is burnt out on Zoom. Amanda Lucas said she likes Zoom meetings. Phil said it is so easy to attend and he can multi-task. It takes time to set up chairs and take them down. We are also able to discuss in the chat room during the meeting.

Sue said she is hearing pros and cons. Possibly a combination would work best. Have it in person but let them participate on the screen too. Peter said if we have an in-person meeting we could have a potluck or something. Sue reminded us that with Zoom if the time goes over it's OK because we are all at home. Phil and Peter commented that we could attend the meeting while on vacation.

Charmain thought it might be a good idea to meet when we have a special event, like when a big developer wants to come to present. Jesse said she is able to go on Zoom while working.

12. Public Forum

Cordell – possible future topics: the City Manager talk about the City. Helen Ma talk about ways to save on your energy bill. The Council of Industry will meet July 3rd.

13. In Remembrance and Celebration

Frances will celebrate a special birthday on July 21 in Oregon and Washington

Meeting adjourned 9:10 p.m.



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 or mail your check and application to: **PRNC; P.O. Box 70386; Point Richmond, CA 94807.**

- New Individual
 Renewal Household

Name _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

***Point Richmond Neighborhood Council General Membership Meeting
is Wednesday, August 25, 7:30 pm via ZOOM.
PRNC will send access info to members via email.***

POINT RICHMOND
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
www.pointrichmond.org
P.O. Box 70386
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