



On Point

January 2024

Happy New Year Friends and Neighbors!

Here's hoping that 2024 brings you and our community health and happiness. This month our regular meeting, which Leisa has worked very hard with Councilmember Zepeda to arrange, will **focus on solutions to the backup and gridlock around old Point Richmond.**



The **traffic gridlock** on Tewksbury, Cottage, Castro, West Richmond and the surrounding blocks has been wildly frustrating and extremely dangerous as it traps residents in their homes and blocks evacuation and emergency vehicle routes. I have been touring City officials, City Councilmembers and a West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee representative around our community to stress our concerns about emergency evacuation routes and traffic-related gridlock.

Neighborhood watch program...

Michelle Milam is organizing the **neighborhood watch programs**. We haven't forgotten. There have been several brazen property crimes and threats in the "state streets" above East Richmond Avenue.



Upcoming Project & Spring Fling...

One project for the PRNC board will be to work with the Women's Westside Improvement Club to **beautify the town triangle** and make it easier to maintain. Updates will follow in spring as the plan unfolds.



Spring Fling is also scheduled early this year for **Saturday, March 23rd**. If you would like to set up a table or booth let us know and we will see what we can do! Again, more information will follow as we get closer.

Philip Rosenthal

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.



Point Richmond Neighborhood Council
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, January 31st at 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom (see access info in email)
PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com



AGENDA

- | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 7:30 | <i>Call to order and approval of December 6, 2023, meeting minutes</i> | <i>3 minutes</i> |
| 7:33 | <i>President's Report, Leisa Johnson filling in for Philip Rosenthal</i> | <i>5 minutes</i> |
| 7:38 | <i>Treasurer's Report, Margi Sullivan</i> | <i>1 minute</i> |
| 7:39 | <i>Membership Report, Eric Napralla</i> | <i>1 minute</i> |
| 7:40 | <i>West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC) and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)</i> | <i>20/25 minutes</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ John Nemeth, WCCTAC Executive Director▪ Lisa Klein, MTC Director, Field Operations and Asset Management | |
| 8:25 | <i>Community Briefs, Part 1 (2 minutes each)</i> | <i>14 minutes</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Richmond CERT, Charmain Tyler, charmain.tyler@gmail.com, (510) 334-7267▪ Point Richmond Business Association, Karen Buchanan, pointrichmondbusiness.com▪ Point Richmond History Association, Bonnie Jo Cullison, pointrichmondhistory.org▪ Arts of Point Richmond, Margi Sullivan, artsofpointrichmond.com▪ Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding, MagickLantern.org, magick-lantern@att.net, (510)232-2559▪ PRAM, Layla Dima, pram.net▪ HOA's in Brickyard Cove, Community | |
| 8:39 | <i>Land Use Design Review Committee (LUDRC), Charmain Tyler</i> | <i>5 minutes</i> |
| | <i>Project: Keller Beach Sanitary Sewer System Update</i> | |
| | <i>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.</i> | |
| | <i>The LUDRC meets monthly prior to the PRNC General Membership meeting, at 6:00 pm.</i> | |
| 8:44 | <i>Community Briefs, Part 2 (2 minutes each)</i> | <i>14 minutes</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Masquers Playhouse, Francis Smith, masquers.org▪ Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Cordell Hindler, richmondneighbors.org▪ Richmond Tennis and Hurlbut Benevolent Fund, Garry & Maryn Hurlbut, (510)547-8111▪ USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett, redoakvictory.us▪ Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani, pointrichmond.com/wwic▪ Table Tennis, Peter Thelin, pthelin1@yahoo.com or Greg Larson, gdi1mail@gmail.com▪ Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park, James Davis, jimmsjc@hotmail.com | |
| 8:58 | <i>Public Forum and Introductions for New Residents & Businesses</i> | <i>10 minutes</i> |
| 9:08 | <i>In Remembrance and Celebration</i> | <i>5 minutes</i> |
| 9:13 | <i>Adjourn</i> | |



Point Richmond Neighborhood Council

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 7:30 PM

Board Members Present:

President: Philip Rosenthal

First Vice President: Leisa Johnson

Second Vice President & Membership Chair: Eric Napralla

Treasurer: Margi Sullivan - absent

Secretary: Anna Ortiz

Officer At-large: Charmain Tyler

Officer At-large: Peter Thelin



Speakers: Officer Cedric Tagorda; Jeremy Maxwell, Auto Warehousing Company

Attendees: Isabelle Murphy, Garry Hurlbut, Cordell Hindler, Jim Cheshareck, Leslie Hicks, Dave, Susan Koide, Graham Perrett, Sally Tobin, C + C Erickson, Kathryn Dienst, Howard Elfant, Bonnie Jo Cullison, Andrew Green, Michael Nye, E. Melgoza, Mary Lee, Sarah Wally, Audrey Cormier, Karen, Kate Spaulding, Jasper Rine, AJ Benham, Amanda Bruun, Rich, Cesar Zepeda

PRNC YouTube Channel, Meeting Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzVSz6xic3U>

Note: Video timestamps provided below denote when an item initiates

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

00:00:11

- Minutes from October 25, 2023 meeting
 - Motion to approve minutes (Philip) and 2nd (Leisa)

Police Report: Sergeant Cedric Tagorda

00:01:04

Crime Analysis Statistic - Report time frame: 11/5/23 - 12/5/23

- 187 (aggregate) calls for service
- 16 incident reports
- **Top 5 locations:**
 1. 915 W Cutting Blvd: SureStay (80 calls – unwanted persons, people not paying rent/bill)
 2. 330 Summit Place (7 calls)
 3. 1200 Brickyard Landing
 4. 135 Park Place: Baltic Kiss (13 calls)
 5. 160 Washington: Pt. Richmond Market (thefts, homeless refusing to leave)
- Types of calls in the Point: Top are - Security checks, unwanted/suspicious persons, traffic stops, audible alarm. Others were - one assault with non-deadly weapon/domestic violence, theft of copper wire, vehicle theft, disruptions at Keller Beach
- Garry Hurlbut: SF has reported a 45% decrease in car break ins. Are we seeing a similar pattern in Richmond?
 - Per Sergeant Tagorda, Richmond is different than SF in terms of size and number of PD staff. Given size, the drop in Richmond would need to be huge to compare to SF (not realistic).
 - Vehicle thefts are still a steady occurrence mainly around the flats (Cutting, MacDonald, 23rd and the Iron Triangle); not as much in the Point or El Sobrante areas.

- Per Sergeant Melgoza, car burglaries are mainly a crime of opportunity. Decrease due to SFPD pulling a lot of their beat officers off patrol and put them into their dedicated Vehicle Task Force unit to solely focus on auto burglaries and thefts (reason numbers have gone down). Richmond, as of now, does not have a dedicated vehicle task force.
- Leisa Johnson:
 - What is the leading factor in the small ratio of incident reports taken relative to the number of calls for service (i.e. we have 187 calls for service but only 16 incident reports taken). Is it due to, for example, the fact that the person(s) involved in the incident are gone by the time the PD arrives, etc.? Can be – if the person or the barking dog is gone or the alarm has stopped, there is nothing to report on (it could be a civil issue, no person or dog found – will not generate a PD report).
 - When will the 70 additional license plate reader cameras be put into action? Around March or April 2024.
- Cordell Hindler: Would like to see more patrols around Park Place and Tewksbury as he almost got hit a few weeks ago.
- Philip Rosenthal: Thank you for your parking enforcement efforts. Request to please keep an eye on parking in front of fire hydrants/ red zones as nearly every single one around the Triangle has had cars parked in them over the past few weeks. A few tickets reminding folks they should not park there might send a needed message. Offered to do a walk around with Sergeant Melgoza and Cesar.
- Leisa thanked Sergeant Melgoza his work (being transferred - now Traffic Sergeant beginning January). Not certain who will be new Sergeant in Southern district. Could be Sergeant Moody; Lt. Decious will let us know.
 - If staffing works as hoped, will have a full time Traffic Unit by mid-2024.
 - There will be a major Tow Day on Thursday 12/7/23. About 10 officers coming in and tow trucks ready to remove hazardous and abandoned vehicles.

President's Report: Philip Rosenthal

00:19:40

- **Happy Hanukkah** to those who celebrate.
- **Miller Knox:** Susie Koide will be leading the monthly cleanup of Miller Knox on Friday 12/15 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.). Meet at the first parking lot. Community appreciates all of Susie's long-term efforts to this cause.
- **Tennis Court:** In beginning stages - working on obtaining a large grant (\$60K - \$100K) to build an additional tennis court at Washington School that will be accessible to residents when children not in school. There are many moving parts in flight – working closely with the school district, PTA and other Non-Profits.
- **January 2024 Meeting:** Reminder meeting will be the LAST Wednesday of the month - 1/31/2024. There have been good responses with Eric's morning reminders so will continue to send those out.
- **Holiday toy donations:** The Police and Fire Depts shared they are a bit down on donations this year. Items for teenagers particularly needed. Can drop off at Philip's porch if easier. Unwrapped, new toys. Will also be a toy drive at the Mechanics Bank Meet & Greet in a few weeks. Please consider making a donation.

Treasurer's Report: Leisa Johnson for Margi Sullivan

00:25:12

- Same as last month - \$12,020 currently in PRNC account.

Membership Report: Eric Napralla

00:25:50

- Up 3 to 173 paid memberships.

Auto Warehousing Company (AWC): Conversation with Jeremy Maxwell, Terminal Manager

00:26:22

- The PRNC appreciates Jeremy, also a resident of Pt Richmond, taking time to attend this meeting.
- 1311 Canal Blvd; autowc.com; Company at large has over 50 years' experience providing services, installation, and logistical needs in the Automotive and Railroad industry.
- AWC has been in Pt. Richmond for 20 years; there is currently an upswing in work/activity.
 - 97 full time employees (majority from Richmond area or Pt. Richmond)
 - AWC does a great deal for the community.
- Concern that AWC is blocking the railroad crossings.

- All of AWC's work is actually done at their facility and the loaded cars don't leave until after 7pm at night. So blockages during the day are actually not being caused by AWC.
- Once the railcars leave AWC, they are in the custody of the BNSF and American Auto Work (AAW) – who work for BNSF – to manage the switching.
- When AAW crew comes on a night (switch out), AWC releases the cars to the Railroad and AAW takes over. Jim Cheshareck confirms he believes it is AAW, not AWC, that is blocking the crossings.
- AWC has discussed the crossings being blocked with AAW and requested they be mindful of not blocking the crossings. AWC wants to be a good neighbor within our community; we support the RPD, host various charitable events, etc.
- Charmain Tyler: What are the statistics/numbers of vehicles:
 - 2024 projection for number of cars transported/off loaded in Pt Richmond is roughly 150K: Honda = 4,500 units; Subaru = 60K imported from ships & 38K railway that AWC off loads; Hyundai/Kia = 48K. Average roughly 60 - 70 ships per year now; can be sporadic as to when they arrive.
- Leisa Johnson: If volume was at its peak at 200K (pre COVID), with 150K estimated for 2024, do you anticipate volume will eventually increase back up.
 - Richmond is a Port many want to use/come in to and we are near maximum capacity.
 - Some work is just pass through. Subaru kept AWC busy during COVID as their numbers stayed constant and didn't decrease; AWC only had a 3 wk shut down during COVID.
 - AAW takes control of railcars from 6pm on. Leisa to share contact info and will reach out to Jeremy offline.
- Peter Thelin: Why is the Point Richmond Port so attractive for auto commerce.
 - Centrally located with a good railroad infrastructure to load off for multiple destinations (No and So CA).
 - Cost and time efficient: For example, if a company has to go through the Panama Canal, it could add 26 days to a trip vs. shipping to Richmond and then the Railway to the East Coast. Able to turn their ships faster.
 - Cutting/Canal corner is not AWC. They begin at Seacliff (off site yard); property is roughly 90 acres total.
- Philip Rosenthal: Seacliff developments' request - Possibility to lower brightness of the current lights down any further as they are extremely bright. Was a similar situation in BNSF yard.
 - Jeremy to check with Port as AWC leases their property from them. It's likely the newer lights (high mass lighting) that are super bright as those in the yard are older and not as bright.
- Peter Thelin: BNSF tilted their lights on the North side of 580 so they're now not as bright. Before they were positioned straight/directly out, and they just needed to be tilted.
- Leisa Johnson: It's not just the folks at Seacliff. The stretch from Cutting/Canal/around the curve – this is still quite bright/blinding. They can put shields on those to divert from drivers. In the rain it can be horrid and dangerous. Leisa will send communication re this to Jeremy so he can circle back.
- Kate Spaulding: Aware of complaints at the crossing over Canal and Cutting. If transporting 150K autos per year, what does that equate to in the number of trains per day?
 - AWC loads an average of 30 - 35 railcars per day (they all go down that Canal/Cutting track)
 - Would like to better understand the time(s) those loaded trains are coming/going; she'll reach out to Jeremy
- Philip Rosenthal: Taken from the chat. Are the drivers who off load the ships employees of AWC as they do not pay attention to traffic/STOP signs and have been seen speeding during their shift change overs.
 - Believes they are Longshoreman and AWC has no control. AWC has talked to their own employees about not speeding; difficult as they cannot control employees when they are off the clock. AWC does have a sign posted at work to respect the road. Jeremy will remind staff about not speeding during their meetings.

Board Member Updates

00:53:16

- Leisa Johnson:
 - **Fire Danger sign:** In November the Fire Danger sign was installed in downtown Pt Richmond; work spearheaded by City Councilmember Soheila Bana (President of WCCC Firesafe Council). Working to install more throughout Richmond in high fire severity areas. It is a great addition to the community.

- **Veolia:** There is a lot going on with Veolia. Our District 2 City Councilmember Cesar Zepeda had been trying to obtain an update from Veolia for the Tuesday 12/5 City Council meeting. The announcement Veolia provided was insulting and not thorough. There will be a meeting with Veolia and Richmond City Council on Tuesday 12/12 at 4 p.m. to address community concerns with Veolia.
- Charmain Tyler:
 - **Quarterly Pt Richmond Brochure:** Working with the Marketing Committee to create our next quarterly Brochure with some critical phone numbers the community will want to keep handy. Put it on your fridge when you receive (don't throw out).

Community Briefs, Part 1

00:58:18

- **Masquers Playhouse:** Francis Smith absent
- **Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council (RNCC):** Cordell Hindler
 - At last month's meeting, District 2 Councilmember Cesar Zepeda and Richmond Mayor Eduardo Martinez discussed their visit to China. At meeting also discussed filling vacancies on City's Boards and Commissions.
 - Holiday Party is Monday 12/11 at Senior Center.
 - Next meeting Monday 1/8/24 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.
- **Richmond Tennis and Hurlbut Benevolent Fund:** Garry Hurlbut
 - Restarted Youth Program at Nicholl Park; free through the Recreation Department.
 - Courts behind the Plunge taped for Pickleball; has been well received. Will make this permanent in 2024
 - Will be applying for grants to repair cracks in the courts.
 - Adult Program/teams: Men and Women's each won their East Bay Championships.
 - Garry and Marin looking to reengage Snowball scholarships program for high achieving students (help youth going to college). Snowball has been around Richmond for about 70 years. Those interested in contributing can contact Garry.
 - Food distribution program for the Holidays: \$100 food certificates will go out to 300 families (most in need) throughout Richmond.
- **USS Red Oak Victory Ship:** Graham Perrett
 - **Movie Nights** - enjoy a classic WWII related film and participate in a discussion of the movie before/after.
 - Ship opens at 6:30 pm and movie starts at 7:30 pm. Admission is free (a \$10 donation suggested).
 - December: Thursday 12/14/23 we will host the 1945 film Christmas in Connecticut.
 - Closed on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve; however, the gift shop is online for all your nautically inclined friends and family's gift needs.
 - Hope to continue regular monthly movie nights into 2024.
- **Women's Westside Improvement Club (WWIC):** Leslie Hicks
 - Members worked to spiff up Triangle garden for tree lighting; Our VP added 5 new members to roster.
 - Had a Fall fundraiser (members/friends playing BUNKO). Looking forward to next year's as successful.
 - Doreen Leighton received lighting proposal from Green Face Outdoor Lighting. PRBA & PRNC will receive/review for their consideration for future downtown Holiday lighting.
 - Laura Choi hosted Holiday lunch. No January meeting. Next brown bag meeting is Tues 2/6/24 at 11:30 a.m. at the Methodist Church. Speaker Shawn Dunning to discuss homelessness and conflict resolution.
- **Table Tennis (Ping Pong):** Peter Thelin

- Ping Pongers and non-Ping Pongers alike - everyone is welcome to show up weekly on Mondays (any time after 5 PM – and it is FREE) at the Point San Pablo Yacht Club at 700 West Cutting Blvd. Their Clubhouse in Point Richmond is adjacent to marinas/boat services and offers an inviting ambiance, warm fireplace and wonderful bar service.

- **Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park:** James Davis absent

Land Use Design Review Committee (LUDRC): Charmain Tyler

01:11:07

- Philip Rosenthal - Keller Beach Sewer project: District 2 Councilmember Cesar Zepeda has done quite a bit with the City to express community concerns. The next meeting will be a smaller meeting to pinpoint local concerns and requests:
 - City needs to explore the need more seriously for other options.
 - Call for more/some level of transparency from Public Works.
 - Cesar will be moving forward/reaching out within the next few weeks with some dates for Public Works re their availability.
- Graham Perrett: Has a Coastland final report been received/reviewed? Have they been paid?
 - No report has been received yet. Will look into if they have been paid yet or not. Cesar made a request of Public Works to review all options. This will be brought forward in writing to the 12/19/23 City Council meeting to look at all options & to also peer review the Coastland work.
- No luck yet recruiting for LUDRC. Richard Johnson had expressed interest. Graham will share email with Philip. At a future meeting, Charmain to share criteria/skill set they are looking for in a candidate.

Community Briefs, Part 2

01:20:12

- **Richmond CERT:** Charmain Tyler
 - Will be purchasing additional radio equipment (helpful for emergency prep and disasters) and adding to our medical supplies. Will be organizing our Container in the Spring and taking inventory.
 - No date yet for next February class (will be in person at Richmond Fire Dept Training Center).
- **Point Richmond Business Association:** Karen Buchanan absent
- **Point Richmond History Association:** Bonnie Jo Cullison
 - Holiday ornament in shape of Point Richmond History Association Museum now available.
- **Arts of Point Richmond:** Margi Sullivan absent
- **Magick Lantern:** Kate Spaulding
 - Had a good Fall; Last 3 movies (from France, Ireland & Germany) were all very well attended.
 - We had a speaker who discussed 1942 Germany; people were spilling over into the aisles. It was very timely given today's environment.
 - New movie from Egypt re the how people in a leper colony lead a life after being cured; very humanistic.
 - Movies are second Saturday night of each month at the Methodist Church. Next is 12/9/23 at 7:30 p.m.
- **PRAM:** Layla Dima absent
- **HOAs in Brickyard Cove:** Leisa Johnson
 - PG&E terminated the contract with Republic Urban so will not go through; still awaiting official confirmation from Lina Velasco in Planning Dept. PG&E will be opening up again and process will start over.

- Ferry Point Sewer Lift Station Rejuvenation: Still ongoing; many hiccups and upset community members along the way. A few folks now working to try and fix aesthetics around the pump station itself. Marcia Vallier (landscape architect for many Richmond developers) working with City staff to put a proposal in and begin working on a landscape solution. Still TBD who will cover cost and be responsible for ongoing maintenance. Also putting together an Art Project for this; still working on a plan and who will fund.
- If any concerns re Veolia and smell, District 2 Councilmember Cesar Zepeda has a special Tuesday 12/12/23 City Council meeting at 4 p.m.; please attend to express your opinions and concerns.

Public Forum

01:31:08

- **James Cheshareck:** Well aware of smells at Veolia; someone should also address the overwhelming smells coming from Republic Services - composting facility. That smells goes down to lower Richmond. Community encouraged to call the Air Quality Board to report smells.
- **Kate Spaulding:** Would like to further discuss AWC with Jeremy Maxwell re schedules and communications with neighbors. Philip to forward his email.
- **Cesar Zepeda:**
 - Requested that before PG&E puts the site back up, that they work with the community to obtain input re what we'd all like to see beforehand.
 - Fed up with all of the alerts. Emailed Veolia's CEO, West Coast President and a few other high-level executives re the special Veolia-centered City Council meeting on Tuesday 12/12/2023. They seemed surprised when they heard that Veolia is not well liked in the community. Executives are flying in for the meeting to provide an update re what happened.
 - Philip appreciates all of Cesar's efforts. The community has been asking these questions of Veolia for decades and it goes on deaf ears; they really don't care and offer a ton of excuses. It is really up to the City to make them do this right. Veolia will not care until they have to care.
 - They seem to have very little respect for City Staff. They were not returning calls or emails. Everyone in PW was all hands-on deck.
 - They now know there is a Councilmember holding them more accountable and will not let up.
 - Working on a report re what happened and next steps. Want to understand the \$40M Richmond has invested in the plant. The City/Cesar will be holding them accountable.
 - Leisa: This is not just yesterday's event/alert: It also happened on 10/6 and 10/12 and many other times; there is a common pattern and problem.
 - They lack proper planning; can't speak for how it was managed in the past. But they are now on the radar and will be held accountable.
 - The City can sanction them financially; City Legal teams looking at the contract and all agreements.
 - Folks need to phone in or show up in person for the 12/12 meeting.

Remembrance and Celebrations

01:44:00

- **Philip:** Wishing everyone Happy Holiday celebrations! See you all on Weds 1/31/2024.

Meeting Adjourned

01:44:30

ARE YOUR DUES PAID UP? The dues help cover our administrative expenses and are \$20 per individual and \$25 per household. If this is a financial hardship, a waiver is gladly granted. Lifetime memberships are \$500.

REMEMBER: you need to be a paid-up member to vote! Pay online via PayPal at www.pointrichmond.org or mail your check & application to: **PRNC; P.O. Box 70386; Pt. Richmond, CA 94807.**

☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Individual ☐ Household

Name _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

The next Point Richmond Neighborhood Council meeting is

Wednesday, February 28, 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
Pt. Richmond, CA 94807