

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council  
Point Richmond Community Center  
Minutes of September 24, 2003 Meeting

Officers: President, Don Woodrow; Co-First Vice Presidents, Jeff Lee and Rod Satre; Second Vice President, Fred Frye; Treasurer, Artrese Morrison; Secretary Sheila Davidson-Rollin

The meeting was called to order by President Don Woodrow at 7:30 p.m.

Corrections to previous Minutes:

\*Bruce Brubaker reported for TRAC that the information given at the last meeting in the name of TRAC was wrong. Brubaker said the developer in question is working with TRAC to live up to their obligation to finish their piece of the Bay Trail.

\*Jay Betts asked that it be clarified that his project received approval from the Point Richmond Neighborhood Committee members.

\*Addition to the "Report of the Wig Wag Committee." After Dolberg's report, a show of hands and voices indicated the Council was unanimous both in its thanks to Dolberg and in support of the plan he outlined verbally which would preserve the Wig Wags, reorganize roads and parking in the Cutting/Garrard/East Richmond triangle and consider uses for the unoccupied land between that triangle and the BNSF line. The same unanimous support was expressed for Dolberg's suggestion that the Wig Wag fund remain, potentially to be used for maintenance of the signals.

Reports of Board Officers:

Treasurer Artrese Morrison reported the balances of the PRNC bank accounts to be as follows:

Bishop Alley Path Fund	\$	694.43
Ferry Point Fund		628.83
Wig Wag Fund		2,970.94
General Account	+\$30. dues deposit	3,234.31
	-\$145 Reimbursement	
	Total	\$7,528.51

Police Report

Officer Lawton of the Richmond Police reported the statistics for The Point this month: He said calls were down this month. There were six stolen cars; one auto burglary; and one residential burglary.

In response to a question about a helicopter seen flying in the area, there was a detailed description of an incident on Aug. 12 in which a resident on Scenic observed two Hispanic males stripping a car in the garage next door. The resident called 911, and then in an attempt to keep the perpetrators at the scene, he fired a shot at the car, then two more shots, hitting one of the perpetrators in the arm, and then fired another shot. "The next door neighbor was doing the shooting, that's what the helicopter was about," explained Sgt. Joe Silva from the Richmond P.D.

Lawson observed that as the area is known to be affluent, it is targeted more than a poorer area, and the perpetrators are often "kids" who are taking cars that are known to be the easiest to steal.

David Dolberg offered an alternative crime report for the city, describing having reported to the police information regarding people he believed to have stolen items from his property, and that the police took three days to follow up on the report.

Sgt. Silva offered his cell phone number so that residents of the Point can reach him directly: (510) 774-6592. Richmond P.D. will soon have an office in downtown Point Richmond, in a little nook

near Starbucks. Silva said he had been stopping people for double parking in the Point, as requested by PRNC members at meetings, only to find that, "Everyone wants the OTHER guy to get the ticket." Silva said he would be generous once, but not twice for the same person.

Nancy Mengshol made the statement that she was "appalled by vigilantism. I am appalled when guns go off in North Richmond, and I'm appalled when guns go off in Point Richmond."

Officer Lawson responded with, "You need to understand what happens when you shoot a gun. If you miss, the bullets don't stop. You can replace material things but not a life."

The officers also provided the list of officers assigned to Point Richmond: Sat., Sun., Mon., Tues. graveyards, 2130-0730: Orlando Johnson; Wed., Thurs., Fri., graveyards, 2130-0730: L. Griffen; Mon.-Thur. Days, 0700-1700: Officer K. Badgett; Thur-Sun. days, 0700-1700: Ofc. D. Smith; Sun.-Wed., 2:30-1200: Ofc. Lawson; Thur-Sat. 4:30-02:30: Ofc. DeJesus.

A report was also given about an incident that occurred at Keller Beach. Apparently a woman was assaulted, and clothing and a wallet were found in the Ferry Point Tunnel.

This led to a discussion of making sure that people turn on their lights while traveling through the tunnel, and that the local officers enforce this law, as well as speeding laws in the Point. Sgt. Silva said that 70 speeding tickets were given in a two week period, and all but 10 percent of the drivers lived in the Point.

Summary of Design Review & Land Use Committee recommendations:

The report of the committee was given by Lee Wright.

Consent Calendar

- 1) 25 W. Richmond. This is now one big lot, and the owners are asking for it to go back to the original lot lines. This was recommended for approval with a recommendation for the Planning Dept. to take a close look at a few designated things.
- 2) First church of Christ Scientist, 112 and 114 Washington St. They are asking to open a reading room at 112 Washington, and to have services upstairs at 114 Washington. The committee voted to approve the application with no conditions.

The recommendations were accepted and approved by a voice vote of assembled members.

Old Business:

- 1) The Port of Richmond's Director, Jim Matzorkis, will report in October.
- 2) The City Planning staff will report in October.
- 3) City Engineer Rich Davidson gave an update on the proposed Wig Wag settlement. Accompanying Davidson was Acting City Attorney Wayne Nishioka, who talked about the potential agreement with the BNSF Railroad. Nishioka reported that there are two litigations, one with the Public Utilities Commission and one with the train company. He explained that both "battles" are now "on the road at the appellate level." He reported that "everybody's trying to turn a corner and get along better." He explained that he and Davidson were at the meeting to answer questions and to find out if residents are in support of the proposed street realignment. This led to a long discussion between city staff and the audience, in which the audience asked many questions. These are some of the answers provided:
  - a) When the train stops short of the intersection, the time will be shorter that the signal goes off, and the traffic will be blocked by the new arms that will come down;
  - b) The triangle of land, East of Cutting, South of the railroad tracks and West of the railroad tracks, will be made available to the City for a price;
  - c) A realignment of the triangle of streets south of the tracks will occur which puts the street approaching the tracks at a right angle to the tracks;
  - d) More parking will be available for downtown by a rearrangement of streets which will yield more parking spaces;

- e) The planning department at the City of Richmond did not require an Environmental Impact Report or a California Environmental Quality Act report for these proposed changes;
- f) The wig wags will remain, but will not operate except for ceremonial purposes, and the city will be responsible for their upkeep;
- g) There will be crossing arms, but lower than the standard arms;
- h) The railroad is pressing the city for a drawing of the new street alignment, after receipt of which they will provide a drawing of their proposed changes;

A vote of the members present was in favor of "Engineering's proposed alignment of streets". The vote was: 21 for; 5 against; and 4 abstaining.

#### New Business:

1. Ray Lambert from the City of Richmond discussed the Free Disposal Drop Off in Point Richmond on Sat. Sept. 7. He said he had arranged this at the request of PRNC's president, Don Woodrow. Lambert said he would arrange for another, if President Woodrow requested it.

#### Public Forum:

- 1) Fred Arm reported that he had attended a City Council meeting regarding proposed construction at 130 Scenic. He related having gone through several attempts to lodge a complaint with the city about the proposed 2,800 square foot house to be built on a 3,900 square foot lot, and finally took the matter to the City Council.
- 2) Fred Arm requested volunteers for his Urban Forest Committee. Anyone interested can reach him at 232-2559.
- 3) Mary Pritchard observed that the Richmond Police handled themselves well at a recent peace rally; and that the Environmental Protection Agency currently has no director. "Under authority of war, oil refineries are now exempt from liability for incidents and spills. That's Executive Order 113303, look it up."
- 4) Robin Wolf stated that Chevron is trying to control some nearby open space: Point Molate. She said there was an article in the paper in which "they tried to say it's a security issue. I think we need to have a moratorium until we have time to talk about it."
- 5) Susan Elwell and Susan McConnell talked about an incident on Scenic where they live, in which they received unsigned notices that the street was to be closed for the whole business day. The notices were delivered on the same day as the closure. A barricade had been set up keeping them from driving to their homes, and a trench had been dug across the street. After a few calls they found that no one had been given authority to close the street. It was recommended that they call Rich McCoy with the city to complain.

#### Reports of Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Committees:

##### Point Richmond Safety Committee

Joan Gatten asked what the police role would be in a major disaster? Sgt. Silva said their function would be to seal off the area. Silva said he would be happy to attend the Safety Committee meetings if he were invited. She also reported that the Committee's guest for their next meeting will be a chemical and nuclear hazard expert and two members of Richmond Greens. There were two fires on Nichol Knob, and two incidents at Chevron in which people had trouble finding out what had happened when they called Chevron. The REACT website can be accessed via [www.incident.com](http://www.incident.com). Information about incidents can also be found on KCBS radio at 740AM. An Emergency phone list is posted on the website. For fires call: (510) 233-5223; for police non-emergencies call: (510) 620-2692.

##### TRAC

David Dolberg announced that there would be a cleanup of Boat Ramp Street Sunday, 9/28 at 10 a.m. Bruce Brubaker reported that a grant had been given, and design work is underway at Perez School and for the tunnel in Point Richmond.

Eric Yee of the Community Center's After School Program noted to the group that the City is "coming close" to a big renovation for the Community Center, and it may be that the building will be closed for work between October and December.

#### PRAM

Iselda reported PRAM's blood drive was a success with 18 donations of blood.

#### Point Molate

Dave Dolberg reported that the Navy had officially transferred the ownership of Point Molate to the City on Sept 23. Within hours, city officials had toured the area and met in closed executive session with Chevron officials to consider leasing the land to Chevron for one year for one dollar.

#### Undergrounding of Utilities

Ed Gingrich reported on his investigation into the status putting Point Richmond utilities under ground. He found that the City Finance Committee had approved \$70,000 to pay for an engineering study, and an assessment engineer from Martinez was actually hired, but that somehow no one seemed to be able to find the actual funds with which to pay the engineer. In addition, Gingrich found that PG&E has allocated \$2.5 million to Richmond for the purpose of undergrounding utilities, but according to PG&E this doesn't include Point Richmond as there is no "thoroughfare."

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.