Minutes

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Board members present were: Don Gilmore, Dr. Henry Clark, Annie King-Meredith and Karen Garcia. Lily Rahnema, Beverly Scott and Aaron Morgan were absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES
Upon Ms. Kings arrival at 5:13 p.m., the agenda and the minutes were reviewed and approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Rick Wesson, Owner/Sunnyside Nursery: Mr. Wesson is concerned about the homeless population adjacent to his place of business. It has become a problem with lots of issues. He needs some assistance and assurance that the problem will be resolved.

Don Gilmore suggests that Mr. Wesson request that the issue be put on an upcoming agenda.

Leslie Zecena/Northern California Breathmobile/Asthma Program: Leslie reports that the mobile van has visited Verde School, ten times this year. Fifty-one returning students and three new students are participating in the program.

The mobile van will start servicing Nystrom and Steige Elementary School. The program will also be participating at the NR Earth Day Festival.

The program is hosting a fundraising event at Yoshi’s, located in Oakland.

Cynthia Jordan/NRMAC Secretary: Cynthia asks about the status of the retreat for the NRMAC members.

Matt Holmes/Groundwork Richmond: The program has been awarded new grants, and are free to work in North Richmond. They are one of two nonprofits implementing air quality grants, through the California Air Resource Board. An Air Regulatory Project is being implemented. Creating a dispersion model, monitoring where polluted air come from, monitoring exactly how clean the air is that we breath, in our community. Free trees are being offered, for more info contact Paula White: paula@thewatershedproject.org or (510) 833-6470.
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS
Deputy A. Saki/CCC Sheriff’s Department: Reporting for the month of March 2019: Crime is down in North Richmond. There was one assault with a deadly weapon. That incident occurred at 1600 1st Street.

Officer Hodges/RPD: Reporting for the month of March 2019. There is nothing major to report. A few vehicles were stolen. A suspect was fleeing with a rifle on Kelsey, and he ran into a house on Gertrude Avenue. The suspect was bit by a dog, prior to being apprehended. The individual was administered medical attention, by the RMS.

Officer Abernethy/CHP: Reporting for the month of March 2019. The officer has been busy with stolen vehicle pickups and towing abandoned vehicles. Resident is asking for a pick up of abandoned vehicles, located at 1722 and 1724 Fred Jackson Way. The cars are without license plates, have been parked there on the street, for over a year.

Mr. Wesson complains about a considerable number of parked vehicles, that are either abandoned/stolen. Annie King reports chop shops on 5th and on Truman. There is continuously a lot of mechanic work being done on the cars. Karen says that the infra structure at Las Deltas is being destroyed. Tania response that, Officer Culberson and the housing director, are going to visit vacant sites tomorrow, to see exactly what is going on.

Henry asked if NR would have been annexed to the city, would the area mainly be patrolled by the RPD. The answer is yes it would.

PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations
Nabila Sher, Coalition Coordinator and Armon Lee, Advocate/West County Alcohol Marijuana & Prescription Drug Coalition: Awareness was raised about these substances. Prop. 64 was the one that allowed recreational marijuana for 21+ after 2016. You are allowed to have one ounce or less of marijuana in your procession. You cannot smoke in public places. Must be at least 1,000 feet away from schools. Must have a license to sell marijuana.

Reducing underage substance use through prevention education, awareness, training, advocacy, and enforcement. Focus is in the need for young people to avoid marijuana due to negative developmental effects. If a teenager smokes marijuana before his or her brain is developed (usually around age 16), this stunts the brains growth toward developing to its full potentials. Young people are now using marijuana more often than tobacco. Marijuana can be obtained in a variety of forms such as, buds from the plants, synthetic edibles, that may come in the form of candy or brownies, etc.
PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued

Back in the day around the 60’s, marijuana was weaker than it is now. Today the THC count in marijuana may be as high as 98%. Some of the smoke shops are selling this type of smokable potpourri, that the youth are indulging in. It is legal for the youths to have it in their procession. The youths are also smoking bath salts. Marijuana is considered a gateway drug.

Prescription opioids are a huge problem, they are so addictive. One in four people that are prescribed the medicine, becomes addictive to it. In Contra Costa County over 700,000 prescriptions for opioids alone are issued. The drug often leads to the use of heron.

AMPD meetings held at: Community Health for Asian Americans, 207 37th Street, Richmond. Contact Nabila Sher: nsher@bacr.org or (510) 559-3004.

Roxanne Carrillo, Hub Manager and Healthy Richmond Staff/Community Rollout Plan: North Richmond Quality of Life Plan: Karen says quality of life plan was reviled Saturday. Policy advocacy: She says that our voice is louder and bigger in numbers. The entire process was impressive. A lot of work, plans, ideas, and suggestions came out of these workshops and planning sessions. The older NR leaders welcome the new young community advocates. There is hope for NR, to become the model city, that it is destined to be. Thanks to Roxanne for being such a great leader.

Dr. Clark says he was impressed with the reports on Saturday, of the Community Rollout Plan. Dr. Clark suggests that maybe Aaron Morgan, NRMAC board member, who works at night, may be a good candidate to give his seat to a youth member, per the recommendations of the rollout group.

It was suggested by Karen, to set up a new governing board, for North Richmond. Cynthia says that NRMAC is the City Council of North Richmond, and can not see any reason to make any changes. Over the years the NRMAC has dedicated and implemented great works toward the betterment of the NR community.

Annie says a lot of things should have been cleared up at the roll out meeting. There is nothing new under the sun, the roll out plan, was a great effort.

Don says, take a look at the old, prior living documents pertaining to the planning of NR. Bishop Santiago says that REACH International was not invited to the roll out planning sessions. Annie says that we are going to continue to work together, old and new community advocates.
PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued

Dr. Henry Clark, NRMAC Board Member: Commentary on Annexation of North Richmond:
He states that annexation of NR is dead now, until the next time it comes up. This is something that has come up over the years, and has been defeated each time. In the past large businesses has said no to annexation. This time, residents stepped up and had their voices heard.

*Annie King notes that Wall Street Journal has favorably mentioned the fantastic work being done in NR.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

DISCUSS/RECOMMENDATION – NRMAC Officers for 2019-2020 (agenized by Dr. Henry Clark.)
Recommendation: table until next time

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS

Robert Rogers, District Coordinator/Supervisor John Gioia’s Office: Robert says that the future is bright for North Richmond, thanks to residents working together.

Don Gilmore, Director/CHDC: CHDC and CCC Housing Authority is taking applications for the Project Based Voucher Housing Program. Heritage Point is one of the sites that is being considered in this pre-application process. Don say completion of Heritage Point is running slightly behind schedule, due to the rainy season.
Questions asked: Will there be a grocery store in North Richmond? What’s to become of the old shoe repair shop on Chesley, that’s currently owned by the Hamp family.

Tania Puillido, Community Service Coordinator: Tania announces Earth Day on April 20th, Location: Shield’s and Reid Park. Community Service Projects are from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Celebration at the park will be from, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be a Festival of Flowers, Mother’s Day Celebration, Saturday, may 11th, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., location Brookside Drive, Richmond CA. NR Green Meeting every 1st Wednesday of the month. 9:30 – 1030 a.m., Senior Citizens Center. NR Network Meeting, every 2nd Thursday of the month 3:00-4:30 p.m., Verde School. Shield’s and Reid neighborhood Council every 4th Tuesday of the month, Six – seven p.m. Shields and Reid Park.

The Watershed Project is looking for college students ages 18-24 for the Green Collar Corps. Get paid to learn valuable skills while working alongside environmental professionals. Apply at website: http://thewatershedproject.org/green-careers/ or send an email to info@thewatershedproject.org.

Water Surveys, the Watershed Project needs your input. Conducting paid interviews and offering and educational session to interested NR residents. For more information and to schedule an interview, contact Anne Bremer: anne@thewatershedproject.org.
OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED

Dr. Edwina Perez Santiago, Director/REACH International Fellowship: Dr. Santiago said REACH is doing well and thanks to Don Gilmore for extending Naomi house’s lease. Reports a number of positive developments and good work in the community, including a coming food truck (Annie and her daughter did the logo for the truck. Will be working with Google in the neighborhood, they will be following REACH staff around the neighborhood.

Belinda is studying at college obtaining her PhD. Dr. Santiago has been awarded funding to commence studies toward, her law degree. Have been working closely with the deportation issue. There will be a training on education to be a legal advocate: Location: City of Refuge Church, Oakland CA., 4/27/19.

REACH has been with the West County Detention Center for ten years, and with the Probation Department for eleven years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 10th Annual NR Music Festival, July 20th, Shield’s and Reid Park, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m., it was motioned to extend meeting by (19) minutes.

Next Meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 2019
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
515 Silver Avenue – Richmond, CA