

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
515 Silver Avenue-North Richmond, CA 94801
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m., board members present were :
Don Gilmore, Dr. Henry Clark, LaSaunda Tate, and Annie King-Meredith.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

The agenda and the minutes were approved by all board members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tania Pulido/Urban Tilth:The Urban Tilth of Richmond, CA is currently hiring, there are two job openings available. There is an opening for a North Richmond Farm Apprentice, and an opening for Project Manager, North Richmond Farm Project. For further information about these positions please contact: Tania Pulido at (510) 253-9221 or Tania@urbantilth.org.

Luz asked Tania, “have many people been applying for the positions?”

Don Gilmore asked of Urban Tilth, for an update on the farm project. It was suggested that Urban Tilt present a quarterly report to the MAC Board, in the future. An agreement was made, that Urban Tilth will report to the MAC Board on a quarterly basis, starting next month.

Benvunida Meza, coordinator of the Verde School Gardening Project, reports that a tree planting event took place on Tuesday. Twenty adults participated in the project, trees were planted, they also learned about irrigation systems.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS

Officer Gordon/California Highway Patrol: Reporting on February 1-28, 2014. Starting next month Officer Gordon will be working this area four days a week. An additional officer will be teaming up with him. The North Richmond community will have CHP protection Monday through Friday.

In the month of February, there were seventy-five traffic stops. Sixteen citations were issued. Six stolen vehicles reports and twelve parking citations were issued. The remaining stops were verbal warnings.

Dr. Clark asked, “what offence is a drive by shooting?” The answer is (assault with a deadly weapon, while driving a vehicle.

Annie commented Officer Gordon on the great job that he is doing in the community.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS

Annie expressed her concerns about the street sweepers, and the code enforcement of the parking rules, during street sweeping days.

The street sweepers are using the wrong streets to gain access into the community. The street sweepers are not following the correct times for sweeping, as posted on the street signs. The people are moving their vehicles according to the posted street signs, but the street sweepers are not arriving on time, to sweep the streets.

Larry Tolson/Building Inspector II/Code Enforcement Officer will look into this situation. Carla Orozco is also aware of the situation, and it will be dealt with.

There is an on-going issue, about the young children riding on the city streets on the go-carts. There is great concern about this one individual in particular. There is a young man that lives on Market Street, that rides these vehicles recklessly, and people in the community fear that his life may be in danger.

Dr. Clark asked whether or not the go-carts were legal, to ride on streets. Carlos says that the individuals should have go-cart license. Rev. Davis suggested that the bikes and go-carts should be taken away from this individual. He has been warned several times by Officer Gordon and he continues to disobey the law. It was decided upon unanimously that the vehicles be taken away from this child, before his childhood fun ends up tragically.

Lt. Jon Moreland/CCC Sheriff's Department: Reporting for February 1-28, 2014.

In the North Richmond area there were fifth-teen crimes. Fifty-five crimes reported for the Contra Costa County, un-incorporated area. Since December 2013, the select crimes have dropped by (37) percent. Statistics are as follows: December 2013 (38) crimes, January 2014, (71) crimes, and February 2014, (55) crimes. The residential burglaries in the area fluctuates. The recent three shootings in the area is of major concern at the moment. There were three homicides, and four injuries, due to gun shoots. Investigators are currently working these cases. They have good information and lots of rumors and theories floating around. It seems to be a generation issue, and ex-convicts returning to the area. The old and young are clashing, and having issues, that are erupting into violence.

These various steps are being taken to curtail crime in the area. The sheriff department is putting out more resources. This summer, block parties will be discouraged. Various law-enforcement agencies are combining their efforts to work together. There have been strategy planning meetings, involving the FBI, to reduce crime in the area.

The sheriff's office is putting in an effort, staying positive, and encouraging the youth in the community to conduct their selves in a peaceful and positive manner.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS

Mrs. Juinita Henderson has a problem with her neighbors. For several years, Mrs. Juinita is suspicious that her neighbors may be manufacturing narcotics at their residence. This issue has been reported to local law enforcement agencies, time after time. They have come out to investigate, but could not find any suspicious activity. Lt. Moreland has agreed to personally look into the matter, with hopes of resolving the issue.

PRESENTATIONS

Larry Tolson/Building Inspector II/Code Enforcement Officer: The North Richmond area has been assigned a code enforcement officer. This position has been vacant for a period of time. The community is more than welcome to have Mr. Tolson in the area. Mr. Tolson reports that he needs all the help that he can get, in order to catch people living in vacant and abandoned houses. At the moment he has (17) on-going code cases. There is a problem of absentee landlords (property owners), and the banks are not up-keeping the property that they own. He is not receiving any cooperation from the banks. There is a list of problems such as: People say that there is trash along the rural roads. Public Works have to bring in heavy equipment to pick up the trash.

The code enforcement officer works with animal control. Mr. Tolson will be starting to attend the Green Meetings. He has had several meetings with Carla Orozo, they will be working together on future projects.

April Kennedy/PG&E: April comes before the MAC this evening, with an update of the Tree Removal Project. It was approved to remove (13) trees, a total of (40) trees need to be removed. These are eucalyptus trees, that are interfering with the power lines in the area.

Presently the project is at a stand still, the wood from the fallen trees, needs to be removed from the work site. They are in the process of finding a company that is capable of performing the job of removing the trees. If at all feasible, an employment opportunity for some one of the North Richmond community, may become available.

It is also recommended that the MAC form a committee, to be a part of the employment selection, and progress of the tree removal project.

PG&E has committed to donating (50) fruit trees to the community. These trees will be in replacement of the trees that were removed. They will not be located in the same area, but will be located some where in the community. The Shield's and Reid park was suggested as being an ideal location. Urban Tilth is willing to take on the responsibility of the placement and planting of the trees in the North Richmond community.

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OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAMS REPORTS

Luz Gomez/ Supervisor John Gioia's Office: Luz reports that she met with Carla Orozco they discussed, the program Adopt a Tree. The City of Richmond is currently working with this program. It is suggested that the MAC look into how the city is working this program.

Public Works will be (micro surfacing) the Richmond Parkway. This project will begin sometime in the spring or summer.

San Francisco Regional Water Board are trying to prevent small trash from ending up in the watersheds and local creeks. Starting tomorrow, once a month a crew will be picking up small trash in the unincorporated area. The trash will be hauled away by the workers, that are working on this project.

There will be an Alternative Fuel Vehicle Expo, March 15, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The location of the expo is at , 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, CA.

Carla Orozco-Mitigation Fee-funded, NHNR: Carla continues to work with the City of Richmond and the Contra Costa County to combat illegal dumping. Currently she is working with Project Pride on a workshop entitled Urban Agriculture and Beautification/Illegal Dumping. The next workshop is to be held on 3/19/14. At the project pride building, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The children from the sports programs will be participating, and every one is welcome to be a part of this event. You can learn more about community beautification projects.

The MAC meeting will held over tonight until 7:10 p.m.

Don Gilmore/Community Housing Development Corporation: The CHDC is still in the process of offering free income tax services to the community.

The Filbert Street property had a set-back, with the City of Richmond. They are currently working with Congressman George Miller and the City of Richmond, to resolve the current problems. In hopes that the funding will be released and granted.

There is a meeting scheduled with Supervisor John Gioia, to discuss the Heritage Point Project. The purpose of this meeting, is to implore means and ways of achieving the goals for the project as proposed.

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CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Luz proposes to add Urban Tilt to the agenda for the MAC meeting in April. They will present an up-date on the garden project.

Dr. Clark announces that the North Richmond Shoreline will host a ceremony at the Brunner Marsh. The EPA will be funding a project entitled: Restoring The Brunner Marsh. The date of the ceremony is to be announced in the future.

Ms. Corrine Sain of the North Richmond Multicultural Center, announces that the AARP/Auto Insurance for seniors will be offering a classroom refresher course for drivers 50 and over. The events will be on March 19, and 26, 2014. The location is 515 Silver Street, Richmond CA. The time is from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the cost is \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members. Contact Ms. Sain at (510) 232-3251.

Dr. Clark announces that he has been meeting with Chevron and representatives from the Modernization Program. The EPA Report for this program, is in the process of being completed. In the near future, he would like to have an up-date of the program, presented to the North Richmond Advisory Council.

Meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: April 9, 2014
515 Silver Street
Richmond, CA 94801

