

Minutes of the Marina Bay Neighborhood Council

Meeting was called to order by Council President Stan Anderson at 7:30 p.m. Self-introductions were done.

Officer David Longacre provided the monthly Crime Statistics for our neighborhood. Four incidents were reported since last meeting: [1] April 14, an identity theft related incident in Melville Square; [2] assault with a firearm in the 200 block of Bayside Court at Marina Bay Community Association (condos) in an ongoing domestic violence situation; an arrest was made; [3] an auto-theft recovery on Marina Bay Parkway; [4] Strong-arm (physical force was used) robbery at The Shores (condos) in the 100 block of Lakeshore Drive. Officer Longacre said this last incident had various issues related to the victim giving conflicting reports about the incident, etc.

Council Member Dr. Jeff Ritterman: He has established a Health Ambassador Program following thirty years as a doctor. He is currently working with medical programs at UCSF and UCB. He wants to be the liaison between UC and Richmond to explore ways of making Richmond a healthier community. He needs community volunteers to offer to be health liaisons to get "information going both ways."

Contact Dr. Ritterman at jeffritterman@yahoo.com if you know interested people or you want to be part of the network being established. The effort depends on volunteers coming forward. The idea behind this and The California Endowment for Healthy Communities (Richmond was selected as one of the 14 communities to receive this 10 year grant) is to try to start creating healthier communities and get investments in the community over long periods of time. www.calendow.org/healthycommunities/

On another topic, he also mentioned that Richmond is in the running (i.e., in the final group of six) to be considered for the new Field Station for Lawrence Berkeley National Labs Field Station. He is working very hard to get this secured. There is a rather substantial issue, however, in that the designated piece of land requires a great deal of toxic clean up. Dr. Ritterman and other interested parties have already met with the DTSC. There will be a community wide support event for this on July 6.

James Goines, Richmond Finance Department: Mr. Goines presented the state of the City's finances via a PowerPoint presentation and question and answer period which also included Bill Lindsay, City Manager (<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=59>). For more info about budget, finance, etc., please go to <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=183>.

Under discussion -- the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Budget and the impact of the State of California's budget cutbacks on Richmond (and all other communities throughout the state).

The PowerPoint slides covered employment and unemployment levels, property tax shortfall, foreclosure rates, falling housing prices, commercial real estate vacancies, sales and use tax, utility user tax (telephone), transient occupancy tax (hotel revenue), auto Port of Entry, Chevron Agreement (15 years), General Fund Revenue and Expenditure Projections (not rosy at all), police department

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expenditures, city-wide FTE headcount is down (FTE = full time equivalent or full time employees), giant increases in the PERS (public employee retirement system)....a huge issue for our City, and other post-employment benefits.

How is Richmond reducing expenses at this time? All departments are being asked to reduce everything by 10%; furloughs; elimination of vacant positions in sworn-staff; early retirement packages; service redirection.

All these measures combined have enabled Richmond to have an A+ rating with Standard & Poors, an A1+ with TRAN, an A with RDA, and an AA with Wastewater.

Richmond has 73% of its investments in federal agency investments, 10% in sweep accounts, and the remaining 17% in other areas. CIP (Capital Improvement Plan proposing funding over five years) projects include: BART garage in downtown Richmond, lighting, housing, Winters Building, etc.

More details can be viewed on the City website (www.ci.richmond.ca.us).

Bill Lindsay indicated there will STILL be a \$23 million shortfall despite all the austerity measures being put into place, and thus the Measures C & D on this June 7 election ballot. Measure D is for a ½ cent sales tax. Measure C is an advisory measure to share taxes with the schools.

City priorities at this time remain: Public safety, job development, and education.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Zablotsky, Secretary
Marina Bay Neighborhood Council