

Minutes of the Marina Bay Neighborhood Council

The May 9, 2012 meeting of the Marina Bay Neighborhood Council was called to order by MBNC President Stan Anderson at 7:30 p.m. Round-robin self-introductions were made.

Council Treasurer, Pat Kiely, presented the 2011 year-end financial report; to view in detail, please go to (<http://www.marinabaycouncil.org/about/>). She noted that MBNC is declining in paid membership and although we have reduced costs by using email rather than monthly mailings to the membership, our resources are declining. There was a discussion of ways to encourage new membership and the possibility that dues would need to be raised.

MBNC Vice President, Ruth Zablotsky, addressed the exact number of members from each subdivision, and indicated that we have work to do at Anchor Cove where only one household (with two paying members) and at The Anchorage where only four households are paying members. She mentioned that based on percentage of subdivision residences, Promontory has the highest percentage of paid members.

BEAT COP REPORT: Officer David Longacre, our “Beat 1” Beat Officer, reported that in the last month there had been only two reported incidents in the Marina Bay area. He emphasized that residents should call the non-emergency number to report any unusual or suspicious activity. The City’s restoration and repair of street lighting following the recent copper thefts have improved security and reduced the likelihood of future disruptions but the community needs to remain alert for activity of that sort. Police access to the video feed from the cameras installed around the Marina is still a work in progress.

RICHMOND’S PEDISTRIAN & BICYCLE PLAN: Kieron Slaughter, Assistant Planner, Richmond Planning and Building Services Department, presented a PowerPoint slideshow and described the development of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan noting that it represented an effort to bring together the best parts of other plans in the region and to take advantage of the existing resources including the Bay Trail. He described many areas of the City where neither pedestrians nor bikes are safely accommodated on streets. He described the City’s efforts to provide community input as the Plan was developed. The Plan includes an approach referred to as a Road Diet which reconfigures a street to allow for the construction of bike lanes by reducing 4 traffic lanes to 3 and designating the middle lane for left turns. Before implementing this approach the City studies the traffic flow to determine that the reduced traffic lanes will allow adequate vehicular traffic flow. One benefit of this approach is that it tends to reduce the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. He pointed out that the risk of a fatal injury from a vehicle/pedestrian or bike accident is greatly reduced if the speed of the vehicle is 25 rather than 40 mph.

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There were a number of questions about how this approach accommodates buses and commercial trucks and how to educate drivers to be aware of bikes. He also noted that although the City is working to improve bike lanes, the law allows bicyclists to use traffic lanes as well.

For details on the Bicycle Master Plan, see: www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=2322

Richmond Arts Center: John Wehre began his slide show presentation with a description of the creation of the mural he did for the Plunge (Richmond Natatorium; for more information and for photographs of the mural and the grand reopening of this historic building in 2010, please see on our website: <http://www.marinabaycouncil.org/2010/08/14/natatorium-grand-reopening-a-huge-success/>). Wehre then showed a number of other public art projects that he has done on the West Coast. He concluded his presentation by focusing on the Richmond Art Center describing some of their notable members and recent exhibits. He invited everyone to visit over Memorial Day weekend when RAC will have expanded hours and special events. To learn more about the RAC go to their website: www.therac.org

Next Marina Bay Neighborhood Council Meeting is June 13, 2012, focusing on Richmond's Sister City in China and on activities in the Port of Richmond

Please check the home page of our website for additional agenda information, news, past minutes, calendar items, articles, etc. See <http://ca-richmond2.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=2013> for general information about Richmond.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bob Carr, Secretary
Marina Bay Neighborhood Council