

# Minutes of the Marina Bay Neighborhood Council

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The August 14, 2013 meeting of the Marina Bay Neighborhood Council was called to order by MBNC President, Stan Anderson, at 7:33 and he provided a short intro to the group as to our purpose. Round robin introductions followed. Announcements were made by Stan about the current Richmond survey of 3000 people, various area events, and then handouts were passed around. Stan then invited Ruth Zablotsky, MBNC Vice President, to provide a quick overview about membership which she did, and she also gave a short overview of our website, urging people to use it as their "one stop shopping" for all things Marina Bay and Richmond. Stan told the group due to a planned relocation, Bob Carr is stepping down from his position as Secretary and so anyone interested should make themselves known. Pat Kiely, our Treasurer, was not yet back from vacation. We will see her again in September.

Stan also did a pitch for the Richmond Coordinating Council, the umbrella organization that includes representatives from all 30+ neighborhood councils in Richmond.

## **Officer Dave Longacre -- Monthly Crime Report:**

Officer Longacre greeted everyone and then asked if everyone was happy with the flashing red light at our major intersection. Nearly unanimously, the room applauded the change to flashing red at MB Pkwy and Regatta (the sensor timers in the pavement are not working and before the lights were changed to flashing status the waits at the red light were interminably long).

Monthly crime statistics: four incidents reported.

- 7/17: On Lakeshore Court at The Shores...auto theft (this was an acquaintance theft);
- 7/16: Melville Square....domestic violence;
- Vandalism: At The Shores, on Lakeshore Court (a woman reported her sliding door handle on the patio had scratches on it);
- 8/13: At Promontory, there was a Hit and Run incident on Seagull Court; a driver crashed into the metal gate separating Promontory from The Breakers just last night.

## **Jacqueline Majors -- Moody Underpass:**

- Groundbreaking Ceremony will be on 8/23 in front of PG&E, at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited.
- September 3: the full Road Closure will begin. Signs will go up soon in both directions.
- Repaving Loomis curve, restriping, installation of reflectors.
- Street lighting issue on the Meade Bypass: City is discussing with PG&E.
- CalTrans will put some signage up where the Regatta onramp traffic will block the road.
- For a short period after the road is first closed, Jackie will set up a police presence to alert the truck drivers.
- She is creating a "route card" for people to carry in their cars and will distribute them on Friday at Marina Bay Park.
- The dedicated Underpass website, [www.moodyup.com](http://www.moodyup.com) will have the alternate routes, newsletters, and daily updates.
- A.C. Transit's bus line will be slightly rerouted; the stop will remain at PG&E (as this is being typed, a new cut-out at the PG&E open area triangle at the intersection is being made for this very purpose).

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### **Sandi Genser-Mack -- Richmond Public Library Foundation:**

Ms. Genser Mack made a distinction between two groups: Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation. While the Friends of the Library is engaged in small scale programs, The Foundation is designed to do big things. It helps keep the libraries open even in tough economic times such as the recent "Great Recession."

The Richmond Bookmobile is considered a branch unto itself. It is now the busiest "branch" in the City with a long waiting list of schools, senior centers, day care centers, etc. clamoring for it to come to them. It's a very big vehicle but due to its size, cannot get into and out of all facilities. Therefore, the Foundation is planning to buy a smaller, more maneuverable vehicle so it can go places that the big one cannot. The Bookmobile Librarian did her own research and recommended a specific vehicle to the Foundation. It costs \$85,000 and the Foundation is now seeking public support in addition to the organizational support.

In the time since the Librarian presented her research to the Foundation, the price on the smaller vehicle has unfortunately climbed to \$125,000, BUT Richmond's Librarian was approached by someone from Berkeley, who said the Berkeley Public Library bought their own van -- not to drive around, as Richmond wants to do, but to serve as a temporary branch while Berkeley is renovating their own brick-and-mortar branches. They now want to sell this van to Richmond. It would be much more affordable than a brand new one costing \$125K.

The Foundation has approached numerous businesses for donations and raised a substantial amount already but now they also need our individual help. Donation envelopes were distributed with an informative flyer. To learn more about the Foundation and to make a donation online, please go to [www.rplf.org](http://www.rplf.org).

### **Dr. Jeff Ritterman -- Bio Fuels Refinery Proposal:**

In response to the termination of Richmond's Redevelopment Agency and a possible future move away from fossil fuels by the general population, Ritterman sees the construction of a biofuel refinery taking hold. Dr. Ritterman referred to this as a bridge technology to get us away from fossil fuels.

He also sees this as a way to generate jobs for the City. Endicott BioFuels, which is based in Texas, wants to build a state-of-the-art, 60,000,000 gallon/year renewable fuels production refinery here and approached the Port of Richmond. Jim Matzorkis (Port Director) suggested they contact Dr. Ritterman. Ritterman is now under contract with them as a paid consultant. See [www.EndicottBiofuels.com](http://www.EndicottBiofuels.com).

Ritterman has decided to work with Endicott and things are now moving very fast. The plan is to build the refinery next to California Oils on Harbour Way, because of the proximity to the Port and water transportation. The City would get about \$1.3M a year in shipping fees from the Port. Our Port is not a container port but is a bulk port and Richmond is basically a landlord and thus has the potential to generate a lot of money from such an operation. However, Richmond would get only about 30 jobs out of it long term -- engineering but NOT blue-collar jobs.

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Mr. Matzorkis is in favor of the proposal. An extensive EIR will have to be done before anything happens. The City Manager and various other key Richmond personnel have met with representatives of the Texas company already.

Jeff Ritterman can be reached at 510-384-1315 and [jeffritterman@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffritterman@yahoo.com) and [jeffritterman@gmail.com](mailto:jeffritterman@gmail.com).

A contentious Q&R session followed the short presentation.

Questions: Is this related to Menlo Energy? NO. What would be the method of transport to bring in the materials that the plant would use in its refining process? Barges? Yes in all likelihood. Trucks? What about noise levels? Someone brought up the issue or opportunity of synergy with Lawrence Berkeley National Labs who plan to study this at their new facilities being planned for our area. Questions were asked about waste water production, spillage into the bay, emissions, where will the actual waste go, what are the air quality issues, odors, emergency alert system, etc. How will this affect our property values?

Stan commented that while we are in an industrial neighborhood more new residential developments are coming to our area; he stated that the photo of the plant on the Endicott Biofuels document that Jeff distributed is "hideous."

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08.

**Our next scheduled meeting is September 11, 2013.** Please check the home page of this website for additional agenda information, and refer to the other menus on the site for news, past minutes, calendar items, articles, important City and State resources, etc.

At this point, the September 11 agenda consists of the monthly "Beat 1 Crime Report" with Officer Longacre, the regular monthly update on the Underpass Project with Jacqueline Majors, a report about the Richmond Police Detective Division with Detective Donovan Dicious, and a presentation by MBS Gas Safety Systems on automatically protecting your home from gas leaks in the event of an earthquake.

See also <http://ca-richmond2.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=2013> for general information about Richmond.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Zablotsky, Vice President  
Marina Bay Neighborhood Council