

## **NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

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 5:02 p.m. Board members present were: Don Gilmore, Dr. Henry Clark, Annie King-Meredith and Beverly Scott. Lily Rahnema and Karen Garcia were absent.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cynthia Jordan asked about the upkeep of the landscape at the Senior Building.

Don said that CHDC was in charge of that, and would make arrangements to have the garden and front lawn maintained. Cynthia also commented about the run-down appearance of the community. For sure something has to be done or could be done to beautify the community. The community was not like this, when she grew up in it. The residents had beautiful, well maintained yards and property. Now it looks like a fenced in Barrio community. All you see is streets lined with parked cars, and high fences enclosing the properties. It is not a pleasant sight. There should be a limit on the height of front yard fences, etc.

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS**

Officer Culberson/CCC Sheriff's Department: Reporting for July/August 2019.

Crime is down in the community. The sheriff's department collected school supplies and donated them to Verde School, to help start off the school year.

Annie complains about loitering at 5th and Grove Streets. The department is aware of the problem, and is making efforts to resolve the matter.

Annie talked about the break-ins at the 4J's Restaurant, located at Las Deltas.

Bishop Edwina speaks about this, later in the meeting. There is also a problem with homeless squatters at a 4th and Market vacant unit. Sheriff's state that the unit has water, and that has been a draw. We are playing whack a mole. It is difficult to maintain safety in the vacant unit areas. Working with director Mario to get the utilities turned off.

Henry asked about the graffiti on walls of vacant project houses. That issue is being looked into.

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#### LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED

Officer Hodges/RPD: Reporting for the months of July and August, 2019.

There was a shooting in Parchester, and then in Central, three North Richmond juveniles have been apprehended and charged. Also, early 2000-year model, F-250 Ford trucks are being stolen often in the area.

Complaints about drug trafficking at Kelsey and Duboce. A large stash of heroin was found and recovered by law enforcement. Henry says that juveniles get away with way too much crimes.

Officer Abernathy/CHP: Reporting for the months of July and August 2019.

Have been towing vehicles with various violations. Several stolen vehicles were recovered.

Providing a deterrent presence. RPD will put out a digital speed limit sign soon.

Focusing on 1st Street, has taken reports of multiple crashes at 1st Street and Fred Jackson Way.

#### **PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations**

Mary Halle/CCC Public Works: Reporting on the: Fred Jackson Way - First Mile Last Mile project. This work picks up from the 3rd Street, Enhancement Project. The department has been seeking grants, for funding of the project. An (3.3 million dollar) grant was awarded toward the project. Phase one will be aimed for one mile or less, which is the sweet spot for non-car transit, hence the name first mile and last mile. Focusing on pedestrians, bicycles and cars. Cracked sidewalks to be replaced with new sidewalks, street trees, road re-surfacing, curb extensions, bicycle lanes on both sides of the streets.

The trees will be planted and maintained using a new bio-filter system, entitled:

Storm Tree Management System. A stormwater management system that integrates common street trees with stormwater runoff. The system has an open design for the tree roots, with the ability to draw moisture from surrounding soil, versus confined roots in a closed box system. Allowing a greater depth of filter media ensures healthy tree growth, with greater pollutant removal capacity. Intentions on planting approximately (40) new trees on corridor, and have various tree species options from which the community and NRMAC can select.

The county Public Works will water and maintain the trees. We all voted on the tree choices.

Annie asks why sidewalk on east side but not on west side on Fred Jackson, north of Market. Mary says that would have put costs too high and made the grant uncompetitive.

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## **PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued**

Shiri Buss/from UC Berkeley's YPLAN: Last summer the University of CA, hosted projects working with children, ages K-High School. They worked with the 5th graders at Verde School, asking them what did they want for their community.

Conclusion: get rid of trash in the community - greenery - pride - advancement.

The program has hosted Japanese students every year for the last seven years.

Last year and this year, some of those students spent time in the NR community.

They got ideas from us to take back home to their devastated country, post tsunami.

The children participated in creating murals on the public housing units, a fence on Truman and a pocket park on Fred Jackson Way. Love Your Block and CHDC was an important partner, with the project. Everyone was happy to work with community. Happy to do great work for free, inspire more children to engage in community activities, and build relationships between communities. Henry asks that next year, could the exchange students visit the NRMAC.

Robert thanks them and recaps what they did this summer.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSIN AND/OR ACTION**

Item for Parr Acres #DP19-3013 tabled to a future meeting.

## **OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS**

Robert Rogers, District Coordinator/Supervisor John Gioia's Office:

Reporting that Las Deltas is an ongoing struggle, and we can only keep this orderly thanks to great efforts by many residents and public agency partners and nonprofits. Team effort matters.

The CCC Housing Authority's vacant property is a tremendous problem. Housing is spending lots of money to fund extra security for vacant units. Thankfully demolition may begin as early as September or October to demolish the remaining vacant units.

Special thanks to YPLAN and Public works for their presentations.

Dr. Edwina Perez Santiago, Director/REACH Fellowship International: Has been helping homeless and doing study of who they are, and where they come from. It is very obvious that they aren't originally from North Richmond. Reports on a fire in the North Richmond projects vacant unit. They saw (30) people (squatters) in the vacant project units. Worst of all, REACH is experiencing the effect of the vacant units.

Their buildings have been broken into several times. The latest incidents: Homeless break into office, use water, and run extension cords utilizing their electricity. When REACH have electrical power turned off, squatters confront them about turning off (their) power.

The sheriff department is working diligently with REACH to secure their safety.

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## **OTHER AGENCY PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED**

REACH gave out backpacks and school supplies to women going back to school. Have been doing mobile pop-up food pantries in the community. REACH has provided service to and in the community for (15) years. Question is: Where do they go from here?

They are working diligently to have Afro American college grads, come back into the community.

Annie wants to know if the blocked off streets, that are adjacent to the Richmond Parkway Estates and old NR, will there eventually be a thoroughfare, connecting the community as a whole.

Don Gilmore, Director/CHDC: Taking applications for housing. There are (42) units available, 3,500 applications were submitted for the housing. North Richmond residents that were displaced, out of Las Deltas, has first priority on moving in. Grand opening will probably be in the first quarter of 2020. Perhaps in October people should be moving into the units.

Progress is being made on the other properties in NARF that CHDC has plans for development of housing. We're talking about Big John's, the Service Station, and Tommy's.  
If all goes well. Ownership (vs) multi families?

Janie Holland/CHDC Mitigation funded project: Tania no longer holds this position. A job announcement may be downloaded, by going to INDEED job web site. Bilingual Service Coordinator, for the North Richmond Community.

Willie Spears annual cleanup day is scheduled for September the 28th, 8:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Janie encourages residents to utilize the household garbage disposal free voucher program. Vouchers may be obtained at the CHDC office. North Richmond Green meets tomorrow at Senior Citizen Building, 9:30 a.m.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The North Richmond 10th Annual Music Festival was a great success. Thanks to all that participated, looking forward to next year.

Meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.

**Next meeting: October 1, 2019**  
**5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
**515 Silver Avenue**  
**Richmond, CA 94801**

