

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 5, 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 5:00 p.m. Board members present were: Beverly Scott, Don Gilmore, Dr. Henry Clark, and Karen Garcia. Aaron Morgan, Lily Rahnema and Annie King Meredith absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Upon arrival of a quorum, at 5:25 p.m., motion to approve minutes and the agenda. The agenda and minutes were reviewed and approved by all board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Lau, External Affairs Representative/ AC Transit: Reports that more hydrogen buses are coming on the bus lines soon. The formerly vacant bus yard, located on 22nd Street in Richmond is used as the parking facility for the buses.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS

Lt. Buford, Officer Cumberson CCC Sheriff's Dept. and Robert Nelson, Special Assistant to Sheriff Livingston: Reports for January and February 2019. Crimes have been down in recent months. Last Thursday, a man was found deceased in the Wildcat Creek, near the Verde School. No children saw this incident; it was not within the children's view. An autopsy was conducted, and no foul play was determined. Cynthia said that the individual was and OG from the neighborhood.

There has been a rash of commercial burglaries on business along Parr Blvd.

Karen asks if the sheriff's had a list of individuals that were wanted by the law, pertaining to the North Richmond community. The reply was that sometimes, that type of information hampers investigations.

Karen also states that homelessness situation is out of control in the area. There is an extremely large homeless encampment, located along Fred Jackson Way.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT/ AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED

The sheriff's say that going into these camps involve hazmat and homeless outreach. The homeless will be moved out, just to relocate elsewhere. When you put the people out of one site/camp, they just relocate and set up at another site/camp. Not every homeless person, wants placement from core teams, they just want to be somewhere else homeless. Besides, being homeless is not a crime.

Robert Nelson, Special Assistant to Sheriff Livingston, is expanding community outreach efforts of the office, geared toward the North Richmond community. The sheriff's department and Mr. Nelson are excited about the outcome of the events for children, hosted by them during the Xmas Holiday season, at the Senior Center.

Karen asked about the strategic plan from five years ago. Nelson says it was about identifying areas to focus on, and involved business community and other stakeholders. The strategic plan runs out in 2020. Don ask Robert to obtain the plans from Nelson to provide the plan for the NRMAC's review.

Meredith Gerhardt, Emergency Planning Coordinator - Emergency Services Division to Sheriff Livingston: Meredith of emergency preparedness says that evacuation planning and other emergency issues is a priority. She is also involved with the sound the alarm program, the county emergency warning/alarm system. It is suggested the residents sign up for the emergency warning system.

The smoke alarm issue program, will focus on three communities. It involves installation and education in addition to the hardware given away. In collaboration with the Red Cross, the program will install smoke alarms in Parchester Village on May 4th. This work will continue into the month of May.

A question was asked, in case of an evacuation, would public transportation be involved. Answer is more than likely; their services would be requested.

Another question, is disaster emergency kits available to the public. Presently she does not have access to emergency kits, perhaps the Red Cross would have emergency kits available.

Officer Hodges/RPD: Reporting for the months of January and February 2019. There were three assaults with deadly weapons, six stole vehicles, one vehicle pursuit. Crime is down, homelessness is the big issue.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT/AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED

A question was asked about the boundary lines of Beat Five. Beat Five boundaries are from Mac Donald Avenue/Saint John Apartments to Brookside Drive/Homeless Shelter. Reason this question was brought up, in order to receive true crime statistics relating to the North Richmond community.

Bruce Atkins, NR Resident: Bruce says that he feels that he is being threatened by law enforcement, particularly sheriff's deputies. Lt. Buford says that he should feel free to make a complaint and the department will investigate. Bruce was very upset, about an incident that occurred at Fifth and Market, involving him and the sheriff deputies. He feels that he was unlawfully detained, and this one in particular officer ram shacked his vehicle. The incident was recorded by people in the community, and is posted on face book.

NRMAC members expressed their concerns, pertaining to what's taking place in the community, between law enforcement and residents. This is a matter between the sheriff's department and Mr. Atkins. Lt. Buford was willing to discuss the issue, with Mr. Atkins outside of the meeting.

Later in the meeting Princess Robinson responds concerning this incident. She stated the same officer tonight that had an altercation with Mr. Atkins is the same deputy (last year) that had a problem with Aaron Morgan a NRMAC board member. This particular officer has had several complaints, brought up against him regarding his working relationship within the community.

Don asks what can we do to intercede. How will we address it? It is asked of Robert to do research into police review board. Robert will reach out to Lt. Buford to find out more information about the situation with the deputy.

PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations

Mario Rinaldi/Housing Authority CCC, on Las Deltas: Reporting on the status of the Las Deltas Housing Projects. Have had challenges assisting residents in getting housing. For those that have vouchers, finding housing is hard. Out of (220) units, there are ten families remaining. Three qualify for public housing, and seven have vouchers. Two families are scheduled to move out this week. The goal is to have all the units vacant by the end of April, for sure by summer time.

The biggest challenge in closing is, the vacant units. The homelessness/squatters are a major problem. It's a cat and mouse game, it is cold and people breach units.

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PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued

They move from house to house, where ever they could gain entry. The company Vacant Property Security has been contracted to secure the vacant units.

It is being considered to put up barriers around the main campus. On the scattered sites, residents are needed to get license plate numbers and report to Tania, so we can bust some of the people dumping trash at various sites. That will send a powerful signal. We are in for a tough problem for a long time, with these vacant sites, and we'll need to work together and do more. You are urged to please report anything you see to Tania, Mario or Robert Rogers for proper routing. Let's all work together.

Marylin Doss, Verde School Teacher/Mural at Verde School: Received an \$8,000 grant from the City of Richmond, to do a mural at the Verde School Bridge and the wall of a building on the school grounds. Will create mural and mosaic on the bridge. Fred Alvarado is the artist assigned to the project, along with the participation from the students at Verde School. Wants to beautify the only public school in North Richmond. The goal is to teach the children about art and the value of the environment.

A survey was passed out, for residents to have input on the project. What they want to see in the mural and what represents the community.

Karen would like to attend planning meetings. She will be put on e-mail mailing invite list. Karen suggests preserving the butterflies, that are presently painted at the bridge.

Cynthia says that there were butterflies painted at Lucky's store. They did not try to preserve any of them, and yes they were a part of NR history. Those butterflies were painted and signed individually by youths that lived in NR. Cynthia also stated that community input was collected for the mural at Lucky's store, none of the input was taken into consideration. It appears that the committee had a set mind on how the mural should look.

Marilyn says that nothing is final and the input is valuable. A block party is scheduled for 5/25/19, to celebrate the completion of the project.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

DISCUSS/RECOMMENDATION - Item MS18 - 0015 subdivision of parcel at 513 Grove Avenue: Would like to sub-divide the large parcel of land into four lots. Wants to divide into four lots, all between 4,000 and 5,000 square feet. Property is owned by private owner. Not sure about what the plans for development of the property are. Residential is most likely. Probably four single family homes. Multi family is possible too. Application has been turned in and it is taking a long time to process.

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ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION CONTINUED

In the past, Mr. Butch and his wife owned that property for years. There is an article written up, about one of the first U.S. Postal Offices in the county, was located on the property. There was a grocery store and a laundromat, and Mr. Butch's large house.

Robert says applicant should maintain lot, while waiting to develop, and will give contact information of applicant to Tania for follow up.

Discussion centers on issue that this is a big lot in a residential area. Must be subdivided to be developable. Want vacant lots to be developed into housing.

Dr. Clark ask that the developers come back to the NRMAC to keep them informed on the developmental process. Robert says that Supervisor Gioia is keen on increasing housing.

Beverly motions to pass subdivision of four lots. Karen seconds saying that she wants to encourage housing development. Passes with four ayes.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORT

Robert Rogers, District Coordinator/Supervisor John Gioia's Office: Robert gives report of various activities and events in the community.

Healthy Richmond host NR Planning meeting March 7, 2019, 6-8 p.m., Verde School.

North Richmond Employee Softball Game, Lucky A's Baseball Field, 12 – 3p.m., March 16th BBQ, Watershed Stewardship. Support community efforts in changing and improving Wildcat Creek/ Bay Trail in North Richmond.

NR Missionary Baptist Church 100th Anniversary. Saturday, April 13th, at 6:00 p.m. Hilltop Green Community Center, 1095 Parkside Drive, Richmond CA. Tickets \$75.00. For other information call, (510)- 232-7751.

North Richmond Earth Day, Sat., April 20th, 2019. Verde School, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Shields-Reid Center, 11:00 - 2:00 p.m. Music, food, booths, and art.

Want to get involved, call Tania at (510) 253-9221 or tpulido@communityhdc.org

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OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORT CONTINUED

Don Gilmore, Director/CHDC: Don reports that applications for Heritage Point are about to open up. Applications will be accepted on-line only. CCC Housing Authority will post the application on their website on April 1-5, 2019. Looking for volunteers to help get the word out. Very low and low income. Las Deltas former residents will be given priority. Construction should be completed by the end of October.

Legacy Court is another project, 43 units, hoping to start construction in late 2020. Focusing on providing housing for homeless veterans.

Tania Pulido/Community Service Coordinator, CHDC: There was a multi-agency street clean up on Market Street last week. Shield's and Reid children after school program, is utilizing the Senior Center building after school. They will be there until November, while Shield's and Reid is under renovation.

Tania continues to address the issue of illegal dumping. Dumping along the rail road tracks is at its worst. Recently did a cleanup along Giaramita. Workshops and other environmental activities are ongoing.

Princess Robinson, Director, and De Andre Evans/North Richmond Urban Tilth Farm:

The farm was the host of a huge event, that attracted over (150) people. Every other Saturday is Garden Day, and every 4th Saturday is community volunteer day. Various groups have been hosting events at the farm.

Princess is serious about cleaning up the creeks. She states that she has volunteered, and worked on projects at creeks, throughout the Bay Area. Compared to the miraculous upkeep and development, of other creeks, vs the upkeep and development of the NR creeks.

The rest of the Bay Area, puts NR to shame. NR creeks are a disgrace to nature and environmental justice. Why should such neglect be given to the creeks of NR? The creeks are all part of the Bay Trails, or EBRPD, etc.

*Officer Abernethy/CHP: Officer Abernethy reports for January and February 2019.

Report's for the months of January and February 2019. Have been towing vehicles with expired registrations. Finding vehicles with expired tag: (2011, 2016, and 2017).

Sixteen stolen vehicles were recovered out of NR. Two vehicles were towed. Three abandoned vehicles were towed. Yellow (72) hour warning stickers are being placed on parked vehicles. Working extra hard on traffic/speed enforcement.

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*Officer Abernethy/CHP Continues

Members of the audience, spoke about the street sweeping signs. The street sweepers are not complying to the signs. Officer Abernethy asked, had any new street sweeping signs been installed.

Beverly suggests a partnership with neighborhood crime watch to make better relationships with law enforcement. Karen says she appreciates Abernethy and his attitude, and wishes others, like some of the Sheriff's Deputies were more cooperative and better with working with the community.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

515 Silver Avenue – North Richmond, CA

