

**Special Meeting of the
North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee
Joint Expenditure Planning Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 26, 2010

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Richmond City Hall

440 Civic Center Plaza

Richmond, CA 94804

Members in Attendance:

Nathaniel Bates, **Chair** - Richmond City Councilmember

Dr. Henry Clark, Member - NRMAC Representative: Unincorporated Area

Tom Butt, Alternate – Richmond City Councilmember

Maricela Navarro, *Alternate* - NRMAC Representative: Unincorporated Area

Members Absent:

Maria Viramontes, Member - Richmond City Councilmember

Joe Wallace, Member - NRMAC Representative: Unincorporated Area

Richmond City Councilmember Alternate Mayor Gayle McLaughlin

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia

Johnny White, Member -

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Comment

A representative from Richmond Ranch, an organization that provides training to youth around food production and food systems, voiced his concern that their organization submitted a proposal in October 2009 but had not received any feedback regarding denial or acceptance of their proposal. The Richmond Ranch representative stated his desire to understand the process and receive feedback on the initial proposal submitted, and wanted the opportunity to work with the Committee. Committee staff explained the process for proposal submission which included the initial submission of brief proposals/statements of interest in October 2009, as well as the official process approved by the Committee with applications due in March 2010. Staff also stated their willingness to discuss proposals with organizations prior to final submission.

Gymme Crye from Communities United Restoring Mother Earth (C.U.R.M.E) representing the North Richmond “Lots of Crops” garden project addressed the Committee and asked about the contract process and availability of stipends for the “Lots of Crops” garden. City staff mentioned that there was no longer a specific strategy included in the 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan for stipends. Committee member Bates informed Mr. Crye that he should speak with Committee Staff member LaShonda Wilson after the meeting for more information regarding the proposal selection and contract process.

3. Discuss and provide direction to staff regarding intended use of funding allocated under the North Richmond Green Outreach strategy

Committee staff member LaShonda Wilson reminded the Committee of the phased approach approved by the Committee for the development of the 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan and stated that all strategies, with the exception of specific mitigation-funded staff positions, were not fully funded during Phase 1. The Committee planned on allocating additional funding during Phase 2 to the strategies that were either unfunded or under funded during Phase 1. Staff stated that amongst the strategies under funded in the Preliminary 2010-2011 Expenditure Plan (phase 1) was the North Richmond Green Outreach strategy (Strategy #5) for which a total of \$8,000 was allocated. Ms. Wilson informed the Committee that between January and February 2010, she received two proposals from the Community Services Coordinator (CSC) to fund banners and little league in North Richmond. Funding requests for both proposals totaled \$13,876.25 which is more than the \$8,000 allocated under the North Richmond Green strategy in the 2010-2011 Expenditure Plan. Staff stated that she informed the CSC of this issue via email stating that she did not have authority to fund both requests and asked clarifying questions on both proposals. Staff reported that she did not hear back from the CSC initially but did speak with Committee member Clark who expressed his concern that only \$8,000 was allocated and that action needed to be taken by March 1, 2009 to fund the little league proposal. Committee staff Wilson stated that after conversations with Committee member Clark and Chair Bates, staff was instructed by Chair Bates to schedule a Committee meeting to discuss the intended use of funds under the North Richmond Green Outreach strategy before expending any funding. Committee staff member Wilson explained to the Committee that staff was requesting clarification as to the intended use of funding allocated under the North Richmond Green Outreach strategy and if possible, for .

Committee member Clark addressed the Committee and acknowledged that there may have been confusion amongst the North Richmond representatives and the CSC in terms of the budget process. He stated that it was never his intention to reduce the \$50,000 allocated in 2008/2009 to \$8,000 in Phase 1 of 2010/2011 with the possibility of adding funds during Phase 2 and that he does not remember voting on the item. He stated his belief that for unknown reasons there has been and still is too much conflict around funding North Richmond Green and he is upset by this process in terms of having to go through different changes to try to access resources for North Richmond Green programming and that it was people in North Richmond that worked to make the mitigation funds available in the first place. He wants and looks forward to clarity on this issue because the community is in an uproar and does not want to accept this anymore. Committee member Clark requested that North Richmond Green be fully funded.

Committee Member Bates stated that the that in 2008/2009 the amount was \$50,000 but that collectively the Committee approved the Preliminary 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan budget which included \$8,000 during Phase 1 with the possibility of adding additional funding, which has not been voted on, in the amount of \$42,000 in Phase 2. He expressed that he was concerned with changing or overturning the Committees vote as to approval of the preliminary 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan without all members present. Committee staff member Wilson stated, for the record, that she never told the CSC that little league or banners would not be funded but that there was only a certain amount of funding available

so both could not be funded at this time. Committee member Tom Butt asked about the banners and what they were for. Staff tried to explain the idea behind the banners and directed Committee member Butt to the quote for banners provided in the packet. Committee member Butt also asked if there was anyone at the meeting available to answer questions about little league. Community Services Coordinator Carla Orozco addressed the Committee about the email sent by Committee member Wilson regarding the amount of funding available under the North Richmond Green strategy. In response, Committee member Wilson read the email to the Committee.

Committee member Bates asked how much it was going to cost to fund the North Richmond little league baseball. Staff stated that the Community Services Coordinator had asked for \$7,700. Committee member Bates suggested that \$7,700 be used now for little league and wanted to know what the significance about the banners was. Committee member Clark stated that the purpose of the banners was to uplift the moral of North Richmond and to beautify the area. A discussion occurred about the fiscal agent for North Richmond Green and where the funding goes once paid out. Staff informed the Committee that both Community Housing Development Corporation of North Richmond and Neighborhood House of North Richmond (NHNR) both have access to the funds but that funds would be paid to different entities depending on the type of expenditure. Committee member Clark stated that North Richmond Green is coordinated through the NHNR because that is where the CSC is located. There was discussion about the types of information being requested by City staff regarding the little league program.

A representative from North Richmond Residents for Change addressed the Committee about his concern that they cannot see the change that is supposed to take place in the community with mitigation funds. He showed the Committee a petition signed by the community.

Committee member Bates stated that the CSC should submit the proper application as stated in the Neighborhood House Contract to Committee Staff after phase 2 of the 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan is approved for possible funding of the proposed banners. Committee Member Butt moved to allocate \$8,000 to Neighborhood House of North Richmond for the funding of Little League Baseball under Strategy 5. Committee member Bates seconded the motion.

Committee member Bates stated that there was a motion and second to proceed with the allocation of up to \$8,000 for the baseball program. There was no opposition to the motion so the vote was unanimous.

Dr. Clark submitted one (1) signed letter from Committee Member Johnny White, who was not able to attend the meeting because he was in the hospital, to support what the North Richmond community stated at the meeting. Committee member Clark requested and Committee member Bates stated that the letter could be placed in the record.

4. Receive report from staff regarding the difference in amount of mitigation funding dedicated to pay for code enforcement staff working in Bay Point and North Richmond.

Chair Bates requested that this agenda item be continued to next meeting.

5. Adjourn

The Committee adjourned the meeting at 4:00PM.