

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

515 Silver Avenue – North Richmond, CA 94801

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Beverly Scott at 5:06 p.m. Board members present were: Beverly Scott, Dr. Henry Clark, Annie King Meredith, and Andrea Bailey. Aaron Morgan arrived at 5:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

The agenda and minutes were reviewed and approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cynthia Jordan/Intern, Northern California Asthma/Breathmobile Program: The van continues to service students at Verde School. There is a decrease in participants, due to the displacement of students the lived in the Las Deltas Housing Projects. Staff will be participating in the North Richmond Earth/Green Day Event in April.

Princess Robinson/Urban Tilth Garden: The newsletter has been distributed in the community. Urban Tilth will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt, all children are invited.

Erika Ito/Love Your Block: The City of Richmond/Love Your Block: Announces that they will be hiring a new manager for a mobile tool library.

Stephanie Ny/Love Your Block: Reports that she has funding to hire four residents in North Richmond to help with beautification projects.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS

Officer Munguia/RPD: Reporting for February 2018. There was one auto burglary on Sanford. Four violent crimes and (19) property crimes. RPD has an app and encourages people to use it.

Annie and Dr. Clark share concerns with child safety and potential gun violence near Shield's and Reid Park. RPD has arrested some youths that were suspected as gang members.

Annie states that a toddler was walking in the streets on Willard and Leo. This incident occurred during a storm/in the late hours of the night. RPD officers were notified and the parents were reunited with the child, all turned out well.

Cynthia asks that statistics be specific to North Richmond rather than the full Beat Five.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED

Lt. Buford, Deputy Culberson and Deputy Brooks/CCC Sheriff's Department:

Reporting for February 2018: Crime was down in February by (50%). Residential burglaries went from a high to zero. Also, two in custody for the terrible shooting at 5th and Market, that left three injured. The two arrested for the incident are brothers, named Hicks. One of the brothers was arrested in the state of Georgia, where he has resided for many years. He moved from CA to Georgia, for a better life. He was out here visiting his relatives.

There are squatters at the Las Deltas Housing Projects, due to vacant units. Beverly Scott asks Robert to invite Housing Authority to the next meeting to report on Las Deltas Housing.

For issues in North Richmond you may call the department at, (925) 646-2441.

Officer Abernathy and Officer Bruno/CHP: Reporting for the month of February 2018.

One arrest was made for a warrant, on Fred Jackson and Pittsburg. Abandoned and stolen vehicles, continues to be an issue. Eight stolen vehicles were recovered. Fourteen vehicles were towed, eight parking tickets, and many more warnings were issued.

The department is working on the big-rig issue, to stop them from going into neighborhoods. The officers are making warning and education stops. Any vehicle over five tons is not allowed in North Richmond, they should take the parkway.

Tania thanks them for their great work in making streets safer for the children.

PRESENTATIONS and PROCLAMATIONS

Richard Muro/Love Your Block on Earth Day and Mural Project: Presenting designs that came from public outreach sessions. Many sketches that show cultural fabrics integrated together. The audience and NRMAC were asked to place stickers on favorite sketch.

Cynthia Jordan expresses concern that there should be more pictures of great NR leader and depictions of the community, past and present. Annie King Meredith thinks the artwork may be too busy and cluttered. Aaron Morgan says the mural should reflect NR, and the history, which he says he doesn't see much of. Dr. Clark suggested that the designs should be a border on the building, top or bottom or both. The visual history of NR should be presented on the mural. It was suggested that the designs that were presented does not reflect NR. It's just one big blob of cultural colors.

PRESENTATIONS and PROCLAMATIONS CONTINUED

Nabila Sher of Bay Area Community Resources on Alcohol Sales. Single alcohol sales are a problem in many communities, and affect young people especially. Colorful packaging is an example of how beverage makers are marketing alcohol to young people, and adding sugar too. Works to reduce this, through education and enforcement, including stings. City of Richmond has barred single sales of alcohol, but only on stores that were established since 2005.

Some of the tactics that are used to enforce codes/laws: Provide alcohol beverage training to license sellers. Do impact inspections, give stickers to determine age of person, do minor decoy (undercover operations), shoulder tap operations, and if retailers sell to minors they do get a citation.

Asks NRMAC to support a letter to the City banning single container sales. Must reach out to Nabila for draft letter for Chair and Vice Chair to be signatories to.

Ruben Hernandez of DCD on County Cannabis proposed ordinances: Cannabis use is legalized in California. Commercial cannabis, however, is prohibited in unincorporated CCC. County considering allowing cultivation, manufacturing and distribution. We want to hear from MACs about buffers, sizes of buffers, etc. There are costs, enforcement costs, to current prohibitions. Tax revenue could come from liberalization. Ballot measure for tax on commercial cannabis may be on November ballot. Tax revenues would go to the general fund of the county.

As of now you can grow six plants inside your house, not on the outside.

NRMAC will provide additional feedback regarding policy over the next month, in writing, and Robert Rogers will facilitate.

Annie King Meredith says to make it yards rather than feet, bigger buffer zone. Aaron Morgan says he wouldn't support it, nor would Dr. Clark, if the tax went into the general fund.

NRMAC members generally express skepticism or opposition to cannabis businesses in the NR area. Rogers asks Hernandez for email file of presentation, and will work to get written feedback from NRMAC members individually and the community members, to help Hernandez build his file of community feedback.

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Lashonda White/Veolia Mitigation fund: Lashonda states that the funding has sat for a few years. We continue to collect the money annually as part of their conditional use permit. \$25,000 per year for programs and projects in the Iron Triangle and North Richmond. Been collecting an a dedicated fund, and now have about \$155,000 available. Funding decisions are to be made by January 2019. We need five panel members for the fund, required via the permit. One member from the Iron triangle, one NR, one West County Toxics, and two from the business community. Need the members on the panel, to award grants.

North Richmond annexation process is a long process, still ongoing. Built a FAQ form, not yet done, 14 pages. The process is very complicated. Hoping to get feedback, and we are passing it out tonight. We will mail out to every door direct. Goal is to have all outreach done and submitted to council by June. Hope to submit to LAFCO by April, but nothing would be approved for six months.

Alex Lopez of California Pallets: Mr. Lopez is hoping to move his pallet business from Hayward to North Richmond. The intended location is, 57 Parr Blvd. Mr. Lopez has been in business for eleven years. Have locations in Hayward and Stockton. Says he will bring jobs to the community. He states that they grow every year. Presently the company has (37) employees working at the Hayward site. The average pay is \$25.00 an hour. There will be opportunities for local residents. The company has a net worth of 12 million a year.

Mr. Lopez says they are located at the corner of Richmond Parkway and Parr, so no traffic in the neighborhood. On an average there will be twenty-five truck trips per day. He says they've worked with the fire marshal to make sur that they don't have fire dangers. They will be installing a fire hydrant as well. Contracts with Amazon, Whole Foods, Tesla and Home Depot. He wants his employees to live close as possible to NR and in NR. The site is currently a towing yard. He has acquired a few acres of land from the towing company.

*NRMAC votes to extend the meeting by (10) minutes.

Aaron Morgan makes motion to support project, Dr. Clark seconds. Four members vote aye. NRMAC asks the applicant to return.

Tania Pulido/Service Coordinator, CHDC/Mitigation Fee Funded: Tania gives report of community work. Dr. Clark expresses concern about the condition of some of the community gardens in NR. Janie explained, presently the gardens are on hold due to funding situations. They hope to have the situation straighten out soon.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NR Earth Day/Green Festival will be held in April at Shields and Reid Park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Next Meeting
Tuesday, April 3, 2018
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
515 Silver Avenue – Richmond CA

