

Marina Bay Neighborhood Council Minutes of April 11, 2007 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Virginia Finlay at 7:30 PM. All MBNC Officers were present, and, as usual, there were self-introductions of the full house. Vice President Barbara Norrish opened the meeting by announcing that membership in the MBNC is only \$10 per person per year and that residents can sign up at the meeting or get the application online at our website www.marinabaycouncil.org

1. Beat Officer's Report: Officer Tod Opdyke stated that there were 86 calls last month mainly because "burglar alarms are such a problem. Over 95% were false alarms." Only 26 calls related to "suspicious circumstances." He praised the gathering because more residents are calling to report suspicious activity so that the police are getting several descriptions for the same incident. Sunset Pointe had its first residential burglary and they have started a Neighborhood Watch Program. So has the Marina Bay Condos. "If crooks know we will call, they will stay away!" Also, we should report any obscene telephone calls to the police.

There was an attack on a small, leashed dog by 2 unleashed dogs in Marina Bay Park around noon on April 8th. One of the attacking dogs was a pit bull. Unfortunately, the leashed animal was severely injured and required surgery but will survive. The owners of the unleashed dogs fled the scene before the police could be notified. Officer Opdyke said that the attack is considered a felony in Richmond. To report a vicious dog attack in progress call 911 **on a hard/land line**. The most expedient way to contact the police departments of Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito or Kensington while **on a cell phone** is to dial (510) 233-1214. Richmond contracts animal control services to Contra Costa County. To contact the Contra Costa Animal Control division during normal business hours during the week call (510) 374-3966. To contact the Animal Control division after normal business hours or on the weekends; contact the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department at (925) 646-2411. When in doubt about a situation, and you are **using a hard/land line dial 911**.

In response to a complaint about cars speeding on Marina Bay Parkway, Officer Opdyke does not recommend speed bumps because "vigorous enforcement works best." That means when you see the traffic wagon that announces your speed in Marina Bay the motorcycle traffic cops are sure to follow. And that means that Marina Bay residents are going to be ticketed! Reminder: 25 mph is the speed limit on Regatta Blvd. and Marina Bay Parkway and other local streets, except it is 30 mph from Regatta Boulevard and Marina Bay Parkway to the freeway entrances.

2. Watershed Project Update: Martha Berthelsen, Public Programs Coordinator, led us through the activities of the Project (via a fascinating slide show). The Watershed Project offices are located at the University of California Richmond Field Station. Their mission is to protect local watersheds and to educate surrounding communities through community participation. "Watershed" means land that drains into the water. The Project also conducts scientific surveys, public workshops about gardening and nature, directs student programs, holds workshops for educators, and offers internships for college

students. Martha pointed out that 80% of marsh land around the Bay Area has been lost and that marshes help protect water quality, habitat for birds and endangered species. The Project is involved in restoring West Stege Marsh along the Bay Trail between Marina Bay and Pt. Isabel in Richmond. For further information about this and other programs and workshops, call 510-665-3546 or visit www.thewatershedproject.org

3. Homefront Festival by the Bay Report: Marina Bay Residents, Diane Hedler, Pat Kiely and Lucy Lawliss (also a representative of the National Park Service), gave a general description of the updated, upgraded and upcoming First Annual Homefront Festival by the Bay which will be held the weekend of September 28, 29 and 30, 2007. The Festival celebrates the launching of the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park that weekend, and invites all residents (and friends) to come together for fun, entertainment and a unique multi-cultural celebration along the Richmond Bay Trail in Marina Bay Park. There are 16 committees hard at work to bring this party to life...from marketing to logistics to Art & Culture to entertainment and public safety. And, of course, there is a substantial historical component to the Homefront. As an example, we live in Kaiser Shipyard #2 where 747 Liberty Ships were built at a rate of one a day at the height of the war. The Ford Building retooled and made tanks instead of cars. The SS Red Oak Victory Ship, which is currently being restored and will be on display for the festival, is moored at Shipyard #3. The festival will build regional and national recognition over the years. This first year is key in engaging local residents, businesses and organizations to sponsor and participate so that we can bring the community together in a multi-cultural exchange of music, art, and activities for everyone in Richmond. The festival will also enhance the image of Richmond's residential and business community. The festival website is under currently construction and will provide additional information at: www.homefrontfestival.com

4. Ferry Update: Virginia Finlay stated that there are ongoing key stakeholder meetings with the Water Transit Authority and Design Community & Environment Group to see if we can work out some issues regarding population density around the proposed ferry site. The re-design of streets and the underpass issue also need to be taken into consideration. The consultants mentioned above are on the agenda for the May 9 Marina Bay Neighborhood Council meeting and they will come with new information and new maps for all to see. It is definitely a work in progress.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9PM. The next meeting is May 9, 2007.

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Kiely
Secretary, MBNC