

**Marina Bay Neighborhood Council
Minutes of August 8, 2007 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Virginia Finlay. Other MBNC officers present were: Pat Kiely Secretary and Treasurer Gregg Lustig. As usual, there was a round of self-introductions, and the President reminded the full-house gathering that it only costs \$10 per person per annum to become a member of the MBNC.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you, new neighbors included, that everyone has something to give. So, in October when the MBNC will be announcing the annual search for a Chairperson of the Nominating

1. Beat Officer's Report: Officer Leah Thomas, a native Richmonder, who still lives in the community, stood in for the vacationing Officer Opdyke. She stated that there were 10 false alarm calls for service. 7 to 10 calls for extra patrol on the beat, and a few calls about suspicious vehicles. There was one residential burglary in The Breakers, plus one stolen vehicle that was recovered. The Officer reminded us to let the Police Department know when you go on vacation so they can try to schedule some extra patrols to drive by your vacant residence.

Copper theft has become a big issue here...of wiring at night by very fast and efficient thieves so we need to be the police "eyes on the street and the parks" and be alert and call police when we see something that doesn't feel right to us. Call 911 for copper theft and any other emergency issues, such as any movement in a vacant house...or 233-1214 the non-emergency line.

There was also some discussion of the need for a Yield sign at Melville Square and the Park entrance/exit, as well as speeding still being an issue around Sunset Pointe.

2. Mayor Gayle McLaughlin: The Mayor reported that "much has happened since January."

- a. The Office of Neighborhood Safety, which will have outreach workers going into violent neighborhoods, has been well-funded by the City Council and the City is getting national attention for our violence prevention programs.
- b. Reclaiming Richmond is an attempt to make our city a flagship for Green business.
- c. Solar Richmond is moving forward to train young people in Richmond to install solar which will give people the opportunity to take advantage of the green economy.
- d. Richmond passed a Green ordinance granting zero permitting fees for six months for solar installation.
- e. General Plan Update: It is in full swing. Transportation is a big component; there is a climate change element (first city ever).
- f. The Youth Corps is addressing the roots of violence with job training and increased summer youth work programs as well as the possibility of the Corps working on the Greenway Project if funding can be found.
- g. Richmond Police Department: Recruitment continues to be a challenge but progress has been made.
- h. Paint removal on ships at Terminal 3: We should do it with a watchdog approach but we would have to repair the dry docks first and this would be a costly undertaking.

- i. Ban on Styrofoam? The Mayor feels that the City should implement a ban, and although we don't have many grocery stores, the ban could apply to restaurants. The Planning Department continues to review the issue.
- j. Grant money to Richmond from Chevron? Looking into it. As for our relationship with Chevron, it will require scrutiny as we don't need more pollution. The Refinery expansion plans are currently being reviewed by the City. They also haven't done their part for jobs for Richmond yet.
- Mayor McLaughlin urged us to feel free to call her with community concerns.

3. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Jim Mallory, Marina Bay Northshore Condos resident, urged us to look into the free classes because September is National Preparedness Month AND it is not a question of IF we are going to have a disaster but WHEN! **REACT** (Richmond Emergency Action Community Teams) regularly sponsors the classes which give training in disaster preparedness, fire suppression, disaster first aid, light search and rescue, terrorism awareness, shelter in place, and how to organize your neighborhood. For more info call the Office of Emergency Services at 510-620-6866 or visit their website at: www.ci.richmond.ca.us/reactinquiry September 12 is the next cycle and October 11 after that. **The idea is that together we can prepare more effectively and efficiently to respond to and recover from the next major emergency. In the meantime, put a gallon of water per person per day in your car and in your residence.**

4. Home Front Festival by the Bay: Judy Morgan, President of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, reported that the new black promotional banners are up on major thoroughfares throughout the city. She ran down the highlights of the numerous events for the two day party in Marina Bay Park which are too numerous to mention here so please check out the website: www.homefrontfestival.com for the full schedule of events that will take place the last weekend of September, starting Friday night the 28th. **It is going to be quite a party: new, upgraded, updated – different than anything Marina Bay has seen before, so mark your calendars for September 28, 29 & 30.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9PM. Next meeting is Wednesday, September 12.

Respectfully submitted:
Pat Kiely
Secretary, MBNC