

**THE MARINA BAY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
MINUTES FOR JANUARY 9, 2008 MEETING**

The first meeting of the MBNC for the new year was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Virginia Finlay. Other officers present were: Barbara Norrish, Vice President; Pat Kiely, Secretary and Gregg Lustig, Treasurer. As usual, there was a round of self-introductions of all present.

Before the start of business, Dennis Dalton of the Marina Bay Northshore Condominiums reminded the gathering of the one hour “Red Cross Ready” Disaster Preparedness training class that will be held at the Harbormaster’s Conference Room on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM.

And Gregg Lustig reminded everyone present of the importance of being a member of the MBNC to support the work of the community and that dues are still \$10 per person per annum.

1. The Beat Officers were not present due to police business elsewhere in the city.
2. The announcement of the Slate, Nominations from the Floor and Election of MBNC officers for 2008 was handled by Gregg Lustig. Through a unanimous vote, Barbara Norrish was elected as the new President; Diane Hedler will serve as Vice President and Pat Kiely will act as Treasurer. We are still in need of a Secretary for 2008. Virginia Finlay is now the Immediate Past President.
3. Supervisor John Gioia, who represents West County on the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, and also a Marina Bay resident, talked about what County government does, e.g. it runs the criminal justice system, health and social services (County hospital), animal services, hazardous materials control and cleanup as well as violence prevention programs. The Board of Supervisors is also currently working on new youth centers in Richmond as well as a new County Health Facility in West County. He emphasized how important it is for the City and County to work together.

Supervisor Gioia pointed out that Doctors Hospital in San Pablo is a public hospital with 25 emergency beds that is vital to West County. The “good news” is that the facility is trying to emerge from bankruptcy and the operation has been stabilized to the point where it can stay open. Alta Bates in Berkeley and Kaiser Permanente in Richmond are the other nearby emergency rooms. The County also operates a health center located at 37<sup>th</sup> and Macdonald and is currently exploring two sites for a new building: One is near Doctors Hospital in San Pablo and the other is the Kragen’s store location on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street near the RichmondPAL facility.

As for the impact on the Marina of the recent oil spill, oil did get washed ashore, and the response was delayed because of complicated federal and state laws governing the “incident command structure”. Supervisor Gioia is going to try to set up a committee to get certification for the pre-training of independent citizens in case something happens to the shoreline again. Supervisor Gioia asked that if members of the community see any “patties” (residual oil spill clumps) on the shoreline that they contact the County Hazardous Waste Department to arrange for cleanup.

Regarding the construction of a grade separation at Marina Bay, it is an issue of public safety since the railroads now want to double the trackage to and in Richmond due to the expected future growth of the Port of Oakland. Some tracks would come through the Marina and he understands the need to mitigate the effect to our community. He is also calling for locomotive improvements so as to mitigate the effects of diesel fumes on our air quality at Marina Bay. It was noted that the “Quiet Zone” applies to the “through” trains only and does not apply to the switching of trains.

About the ferry service, through a half-cent sales tax subsidy created by Measure C, there would be enough money to fund the ferry. The Supervisor believes that property values could go up with the advent of the ferry service, and that it would make Richmond a “more regional” city. His time estimate for ferry service to commence is two to three years. He commented that Berkeley has full funding for their ferry but that they still need to decide where it will go. He also said that there is a new governing body for ferry service on the bay, the Water Emergency Transit Authority (WETA). This new body will have a governing body of five members, three of whom are appointed by the Governor, one by State Senator Perata and one by the Speaker of the Assembly, Fabio Nunez. Money that the County has set aside can only be used by Richmond and Hercules.

As for Code Enforcement in the Marina, there are very few issues here because we do not have any serious blight issues (overgrowth, vacant homes or trash). He commented that code enforcement against problem liquor stores in Richmond and in North Richmond has been ongoing and successful. He was pleased to announce the recent closing of just such a problem liquor store in North Richmond cited for numerous building code violations.”

The Contra Costa County Budget was discussed. Supervisor Gioia stated that the retirement system is fully funded but that the retiree health benefits are unfunded. A shift must occur towards pre-funding health benefit costs and in negotiating new terms for county employee health benefits with the unions. A reduction of services may also be required to make up the shortfall facing the county. The amount of the unfunded health benefit cost is \$140 million per year out of a budget of \$1.5 billion per year.

Questions from the audience included queries regarding:

The Praxair proposal to develop approximately 21.5 miles of pipeline to carry hydrogen from their proposed facility at the Chevron Refinery to the Shell Refinery in Martinez that is underway. The proposal will undergo review by the County, not the City of Richmond, as the proposed pipeline is located in the County.

The Chevron appeal to the Assessor's Office for a reduction in property taxes is undergoing the review process at this time.

The Department of Public Works is reviewing the request for the construction of a sidewalk on Marina Bay Parkway adjacent to the Marina Bay Community.

Currently, there are no applications on file with the city for development of the vacant site next to the Longs Drug Store.

There is some discussion about looking at higher tolls on Bay Bridge for peak hour usage; however, this idea has proved to be very controversial.

The city and county are working together to try to stop the ongoing theft of wire and metals within the region. Much stiffer penalties and stronger processing requirements are just a few of the ideas currently under consideration by the authorities.

President Finlay closed the meeting with her thanks to the executive board members and liaisons for all of the work they have performed throughout the year on behalf of the Council and the community. In addition to the Board members noted at the beginning of the minutes, the following individuals represented their Homeowner's Associations during 2007:

Diane Hedler, liaison from The Beach  
Pat Kiely, liaison from the Marina Bay Northshore Condominiums  
Gregg Lustig, liaison from Breakers  
Janie Nutt and Ellen Schultz, liaisons from Promontory  
Margie Torres, liaison from the Shores at Marina Bay  
Nevil Niel, liaison from Bayfront

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9PM. Next meeting is Wednesday, February 13.

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Kiely, Secretary, MBNC

