

# **MARINA BAY NIEGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

## **Minutes for Meeting of February 11th, 2010**

Meeting called to order by President of MBNC, Virginia Finlay, at 7:35 p.m.  
Officers present: Virginia Finlay, President; Ruth Zablotsky, Secretary.  
Officers absent: Barbara Norrish, VP, and Niccore Tyler, Treasurer

### **A. BEAT OFFICER'S REPORT:**

Sergeant Tod Opdyke delivered the Beat Report.

Our regular Beat Cop is Rick Krug, BUT, as Sgt Opdyke stated, ALL the Beat 1 cops were at work and all were in the Iron Triangle due to a very busy day: earlier in the day there was a fatal shooting in the Iron Triangle, another shooting at 23rd St, and several other problems. He apologized for filling in for Officer Krug and of course everyone was fine with his being the reporting officer for the evening.

There has been a rash of burglaries in greater Marina Bay. Since December 9, there have been 8 burglaries. These took place at Marina Bay Community Association ("MBCA"), The Shores, The Cove and Sunset Pointe. One of the eight occurred this afternoon at MBCA. The description of the culprit: medium-complected African-American teenager, close cropped hair, riding a bike, wearing a hoody, approximately 5'5". Fortunately (unfortunate that this even happened but fortunate that he was seen), the kid crow-barred his way into a unit on the northern perimeter of the property along the Bay Trail and was seen by the resident who provided a great description. A plan is being developed to put in an undercover police operation. Officer Krug provided details as to what that might entail.

For many months now, Sgt. Opdyke has been petitioning nearly everyone in City government to agree to name the soon-to-be-built underpass, once the railroad/roadway grade separation gets built, after Officer Moody who was killed right near that spot last year during a felony car chase. Everyone is on board with the idea. There will be a plaque-commemoration ceremony this coming Tuesday, 2/16, at City Council Chambers in downtown Richmond, 440 Civic Center Plaza at 6:30 p.m. Sgt. Opdyke has requested the Council put this on the agenda for the beginning of the meeting so that Officer Moody's family, friends, fellow police, residents, etc. can leave after the commemoration as most will not want to stay for Council proceedings.

### **B. MARINA BAY TRAIL LANDSCAPE DESIGN:**

Richmond Redevelopment Agency was represented by Craig Murray as Alan Wolken was not present. He gave a short introduction to his work both in this area and with various other related organizations and programs (e.g.: Bike to Work). The trail was built 25 years ago; it is no longer meeting Bay Trail standards. It has become very worn over the last quarter century and needs serious rehabilitation. Plans are now in place to upgrade and widen trails, trail shoulders, improve all lighting, etc. with a new \$800,000 budget (see below).

Jeffrey Peters of Questa Engineering Corporation presented a PowerPoint to the audience of the plans currently being discussed for trail rehabilitation. The PowerPoint is called Bay Trail Improvement Project. The project is a joint venture of Questa Engineering Corp., Zeiger Associates (for lighting), Richmond Redevelopment Agency, Parks & Recreation, Ghirardelli Associates (project management) and MBNC.

There are three segments to the entire area in this project:

1. Vincent Park extending to Shimada Friendship Park (Part A).
2. Shimada Park to Meeker Slough (Part B).
3. Meeker Slough Trail (Part C).

The new rehab project will build on and utilize the extensive 2007 inventory done of the entire area.

### **PLAN COMPONENTS:**

1. Trail Design/Rehabilitation: widen paved trails from 8' to 10'. Where 10' wide already, the trail shoulders will be rehabilitated as the shoulders are currently substandard.

2. Lighting improvements.
3. All landscaping will be improved.
4. Construction & maintenance.
5. Bidding & contracting.

There will be drainage rehabilitation, upgraded access to "beach" areas (repairing current erosion), and lighting rehabilitation with the focus on repairing and replacing the bollard lights. There is some talk of switching to solar/LED lighting for parts of the area, some of which would be recessed into the ground and the lights would shine upward instead of downward as the current bollard lighting does. The LEDs are considered "in-pavement" pathway delineator lighting. This generated a great deal of audience discussion, with many people complaining how this could actually be blinding or at the very least cause some visual obscuring. See [www.meteor-lighting.com](http://www.meteor-lighting.com) for more info. If we support this, we'll be the first in the Bay Area to use these. These would be used IN ADDITION to the bollard lighting. However, bollards are \$4-5000 each, whereas each LED is only a couple hundred bucks. As many of you know, many of the bollards are currently crumbling. There is also a plan is to put in some strategic overhead lighting at trail intersections. For the overhead lighting, programmable solar is being considered. See [www.inovussolar.com](http://www.inovussolar.com). The City wants to try these. NOTE: the LEDs, to reiterate, are only being considered for pathway guidance. There was a substantial amount of criticism about the LEDs, park lighting, path lighting.

**LANDSCAPING:** This consists of Planting, Vegetation Maintenance, Irrigation system improvements.

Planting & Vegetation Maintenance: this includes native planting, drought tolerant plants, vegetation management, and accent trees.

Irrigation Improvements: the plan is to relocate valve boxes and irrigation heads to accommodate the widened trails, provide greater efficiencies, connect to moisture-sensitive controllers, and prevent vandalism (copper wire theft).

Project Schedule: Spring 2010: bidding and contract awards. Summer 2010: trail & irrigation repairs. Fall 2010: planting renovation. Once work is underway, it will involve partial trail closures; there will be some workarounds to keep as much of the trail open as possible.

There was a fair amount of audience complaining about the high speed of bicyclists (this has been discussed for several years now) on the trails as they currently are configured. Some stated the new emphasis on biking versus the original intent from 20+ years ago of having the trails be for pedestrians is disappointing, and that by improving and widening the trails the bicyclists will become even more disruptive to pedestrians, people pushing baby carriages, people in wheelchairs, etc. Additional comments were made and questions asked about trail widths being 10 versus 8 feet, suggestions made about possibly striping the trail for delineation, questions asked about how the city plans to deal with the ongoing problem of copper wire theft in the electrical systems related to irrigation and lighting, inappropriateness of LED lights, questions about Security (but this is NOT the purview of the Landscape & Lighting Maintenance District; the Security contract ended on 12/31/09, which was the "sunset" date of the 25 year Redevelopment Plan for our area).

Tony Norris, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation discussed some enhancements being planned that will, however, contribute to security as a side benefit. The Harbor Master is also looking into other options but at this time, there is nothing in place for security. The contract is extremely expensive and there are no funds available, considering the economic factors involved currently.

A suggestion was made from the audience to change the LED color to red or blue so as not to blind people or obscure the beautiful view of the night sky. MBNC Pres. Virginia Finlay stated some type of traffic calming device should be considered for the trails. Comments were made that in addition to copper wire being stolen, stainless steel is now being stolen by metal thieves so using stainless steel has to be reconsidered as well.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

2/16, Mural Program for Seniors at Richmond Art Center.

2/28, Richmond Main Street Project: Salut  Ristorante joining with RMSP for every \$35 meal sold, \$10 will go to RMSP.

3/3, fundraising event for Richmond Public Library.

There is a Historic Preservation Awards Program.

New website for Berkeley, Oakland and Richmond: [www.510Arts.com](http://www.510Arts.com)

**MARCH 10 MBNC AGENDA ITEMS:**

Reports of the 2009 MBNC Officers; Trains & Quiet Zone; Crime Prevention Program Speaker

Richmond Redevelopment Agency & Engineers will discuss the underpass planned for Marina Bay Parkway at the railroad crossing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Zablotsky  
Secretary, Marina Bay Neighborhood Council