

**Marina Bay Neighborhood Council**  
**Meeting Minutes of July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President, Virginia Finlay. The other officer present was Ruth Zablotsky, Secretary. As usual, self introductions of those in attendance were made.

**BEAT OFFICER'S REPORT:** Officer Rick Krug and Sergeant Tod Opdyke both attended the meeting. As usual, we all heaved a huge, collective sigh of relief to hear there was no significant crime in the last month...only a few minor service calls. Regarding the noise problems in Vincent Park, Sgt. Opdyke mentioned that the Department is working closely with the HOA at Sunset Pointe on this particular issue. There were some questions about noise abatement and apparently the current municipal ordinance is at odds with City policy. We'll be looking into resolving this conflict. There are also plans in place to restore the Police Boat service in the harbor. Graffiti is on the increase and that will be dealt with as well. There is a new CODE ENFORCEMENT PHONE NUMBER...in case you see graffiti: 965-4905. Property crimes are up all over Richmond due to economic factors. Both Sgt. Opdyke and Officer Krug reminded everyone that property crimes are more prevalent in hard economic times and we must all be vigilant as a community and as individuals.

**EAST BAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS:** Mr. Jordan Simmons, Artistic Director of the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts ("EBCPA"), introduced two of the young student musicians at the Center and the students performed a series of classical music performance pieces. Their performance was awe inspiring.

The center is 42 years old and serves between 2,000 and 3,000 students per year. Currently, they are embarked on a hugely ambitious capital fund raising campaign for the rebuilding of the historic "Winters Building" at 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Macdonald Avenue. Please go to [www.eastbaycenter.org](http://www.eastbaycenter.org) for more information AND while there, you can make a donation on their website.

The total focus of the reconstruction and the programs of the Art Center is the youth being served. These young people, while they may have their own personal artistic preferences, learn chamber music, jazz, dance, ethnic music across a wide range of traditions. The two young women who performed for us during the early part of the evening are part of a group of 65 students who are on FULL scholarships for a four year diploma and once done, they will go right on to college.

A seven minute video (rough cut...it's still being edited) was also shown. Impressive is an understatement. A few local students were the focus in this particular clip. The students in this film have already graduated from the program and seemed wise beyond their years as they shared their experience and insights.

Students can be started at EBCPA as young as age two years of age in any of the offered idioms. As Mr. Simmons eloquently stated, "We're a community of artists and we're putting meaning into the music."

The Winters Building is a very old building, with outdated standards of construction, is in a highly deteriorated condition and is unsafe seismically. It comprises 12,000 square feet. This facility may well become the centerpiece of the neighborhood because of the exceptional architectural beauty of this historic building. And even though the reconstruction of the building is taking place, the façade of the building has been retained. The full gutting of the innards of the building and the seismic retrofitting are phenomenal -- as we quickly saw in the slide show presented by Mr. Jordan. To make the building seismically safe, SIXTY new foundation piers have been put in (the slides on this part were very impressive!!). When completed, the building will have two new theatres, new acoustics, fixed seating, balconies, offices, new high-capacity bathrooms, and 15,000 reconfigurable square feet of performance space. The target for the completion date on all the new construction is January 30, 2011.

Many sources (of which some will be very impressive as you read this list) have been financing the gutting and reconstruction of the Winters Building, chief among them: the William and Flora Hewlett

Foundation, <http://www.hewlett.org/>, which put up \$2.5 million; Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency put up \$3 MM, and various other foundations have been contributing as well. The land was donated by the City. Currently, there are 280 local donors. The Center has applied to various other foundations, such as the Kresge Foundation, for assistance. Please refer to the following web site for additional information:

[http://www.kresge.org/index.php/program\\_updates/article/kresge\\_announces\\_new\\_national\\_strategy\\_for\\_arts\\_and\\_culture\\_program/And](http://www.kresge.org/index.php/program_updates/article/kresge_announces_new_national_strategy_for_arts_and_culture_program/And)

The Center has managed to put aside a reserve fund of \$500,000 for the next several years should any unforeseen major expenses arise. So far, \$13,000,000 has been raised and the whole project should cost between \$15.5 and \$16,000,000. The Center will be open six days per week, with a staff of 20, and a faculty of 50. Mr. Simmons stressed that \$1, \$10, \$100,000 contributions are all EQUALLY welcome. Mr. Simmons stated that if anyone wants to contribute as little as a single dollar, that amount would be as much appreciated as larger donations...it all adds up and everyone will be acknowledged regardless of donation size.

EBCPA's program prevents crime, gives children of all ages a purpose in life, a great education, great social skills and their staff and teachers work with the families of their student body.

Questions and answers followed the presentation: Each child costs \$675 per year. NO CHILD IS EVER TURNED DOWN FOR LACK OF MONEY!! There are currently 65 kids in the four-year program. Their scholarships are worth \$7,500/year, or for the total of four years, \$30,000. As Simmons said, "we are a need-blind place." And this is all pre-college training.

Their yearly budget is \$1,300,000 of which, most comes from foundation support. NOTE: this is pared down from the previous \$2,000,000 per year budget but in these tough economic times they have had to cut a number of corners.

The Center has after school programs and they participate in in-school programs. They also have a program just for two to five year olds! They have an apprenticeship program. The students are required to put in 2,000 hours per year. The diploma program is only five years old. All documents regarding this item will soon be posted in pdf form on the [www.marinabaycouncil.org](http://www.marinabaycouncil.org) website.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING PREPARED FOR THE NEXT DISASTER:** Jim Mallory, Public Information Officer of the American Red Cross spoke about (1) the American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Program (2) the Richmond CERT program (Community Emergency Response Training). The American Red Cross offers CPR training and AEP (Automatic External Defibrillator) training among other programs during each year that are available to the public.

The American Red Cross's "Be Red Cross Ready" program takes 20 people at a time for FREE to prepare and train them for disaster response (earthquakes for instance). He explained the importance of something as simple as their smart wallet card which, when filled out, will help people to know where to go and help avert panic, whom to call OUT OF STATE (he explained the significance of this) so that the recipient of the call can then start a phone tree without clogging local or state lines as local lines need to be freed up for emergency responders. He had several handouts (see the pdf's which will soon be posted on MBNC website). To reach Mr. Mallory: dial 510-812-3647. Also, his preferred email address is [redcrossPIO@yahoo.com](mailto:redcrossPIO@yahoo.com).

The CERT curriculum is FEMA-based and is a 20 hour course, given in 5 modules, and is offered around the city 5 times per year. Flyers were available for the attendees. Classes are scheduled based on community demand for training. 20 people must sign-up in order to schedule a class and all classes are free. Information is also available on the public safety page on the City website:

<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=339>

**MARINA BAY LIGHTING & LANDSCAPING DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE:** Ellen Schultz, Homeowner and Marina Bay Neighborhood Council representative to the Advisory Committee of

the Marina Bay Landscape & Lighting Maintenance District, was the scheduled speaker. Ellen had unavoidable out of town business and on her behalf the MBNC Secretary, Ruth Zablotsky, passed out printed pages of the Council's overhauled website's new, fully dedicated page for the Landscape & Lighting Maintenance District (which your tax dollars cover), and Virginia Finlay, Council President, indicated Ellen will be given an opportunity to speak in August, even though the August meeting will largely be about the Underpass. In the interim, go to the Landscaping & Lighting menu for up to the minute information and other resources about the maintenance district.

**NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL SPECIAL MEETING REGARDING THE GRADE SEPARATION TO BE HELD BY THE RICHMOND COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY:** The Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency will be holding an additional special meeting for the Marina Bay community during the end of August or early September to discuss the construction scheduled for the underpass to be located on Marina Bay Parkway.

Under consideration are two alternatives. One is a shortened 18 months' construction period with major road closures on Marina Bay Parkway (with the exception of emergency vehicles). The second alternative is a construction schedule spanning a 24-36 month horizon with fewer road closures. A major factor in the decision for a shortened schedule is that any financial savings that might accrue during the shortened schedule could be allocated to an enhanced design of the grade separation. On the down side, one of the major factors in a longer construction schedule decision is the protracted longer term impact of road closures on the business community.

Please see: <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=951>

**A Notice of Public Hearing regarding the issue will be mailed to all property owners by the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency. A vote may be taken during this meeting regarding which construction schedule the community would prefer.**

**Please plan on attending this most important community meeting.**

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT:** National Night Out this year will be held on August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m. The Marina Bay Community Association condominium community on Marina Bay Parkway is hosting it again in their big front driveway. Everyone is welcome; come meet members of the Police Department, Fire Department and other key personnel. See the Google calendar on the Council website for more info ([www.marinabaycouncil.org/calendar/](http://www.marinabaycouncil.org/calendar/)).

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 9 p.m.

Submitted respectfully,

Ruth Zablotsky, Secretary  
Marina Bay Neighborhood Council