

MARINA BAY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 11TH, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Diane Hedler. Other officers present were Barbara Norrish, Vice President, Pat Kiely, Treasurer and Virginia Finlay, Immediate Past President and Acting Secretary. As usual, self introductions of those in attendance were made.

- 1. Beat Officer's Report:** Officer Rick Krug introduced himself as the new beat officer for Marina Bay and the liaison to the Council. He was formerly stationed up at Hilltop and is a 20 year veteran of the police force. Information regarding the other new officers posted in Beat One is available on the Department web site. Officer Krug reported that 3 burglaries had occurred during the last 2.5 months and that these burglaries appeared to be an "inside job". Complaints from the audience included speeding on Marina Bay Parkway and reports of large trucks (over the posted weight) using Regatta Boulevard. Officer Krug stressed the importance of continued vigilance by the community. For immediate issues please call the Police Department at the numbers noted below. To report suspicious activity, from a hard line telephone, call 911. **When using a cell phone** do not call 911 but call 233-1214 to be connected directly to the Richmond Police Department Dispatch Unit. For ongoing issues you can use e-mail. For a general message to all of the beat officers for the Marina Bay area the address is pdbeat1@richmondpd.net.
- 2. Update on Richmond from the City Manager:** Bill Lindsay, Richmond City Manager reported that the City is not immune to the financial difficulties facing the all of the cities in the State of California. All City revenue sources have seen a down turn in their returns. Highlights of Mr. Lindsay's comments follow below.

The Honda Project at the Port of Richmond: One of the bright spots in new sources of revenue has been the approval of the Honda project at the Port. This project will include major infrastructure improvements at the facility and will generate \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000 per year of guaranteed revenues from 2010 forward. At this point in time, a lawsuit has been filed challenging the Environmental Impact Report but resolution of the lawsuit appears to be on the horizon.

Measure T: Measure T, a manufacturers tax, which was approved by the voter's became effective on January 1, 2009. A legal challenge regarding the validity of this Measure is expected by the City; therefore the monies that are currently being collected being set aside and will not be disbursed until the issue has been adjudicated by the courts.

Federal Stimulus Funding: Federal stimulus monies may be forthcoming to the City. It would appear that those dollars would be earmarked for police services and job development.

West Contra Costa Unified School District: The City Council voted to disburse \$1,500,000 to the West Contra Costa Unified School District to stop the District from closing Kennedy High School and 2 elementary schools in Richmond for the 2010 and 2011 academic school years. The rationale for this expenditure was that vacant school buildings become both a neighborhood eyesore and also creates a haven for criminal activities.

Marina Bay Parkway Grade Separation: The construction of the Marina Bay Parkway Grade Separation is currently fully funded from varied sources including state fund grants, Measure J sales tax revenues, and set aside funds for the Richmond Parkway. The City is also trying to obtain additional Federal funding for the project. It is possible that work will start on the on the grade separation in 2010.

Renovation of the Civic Center Complex: The renovations to the old City Hall Building, the Civic Center Plaza, the Richmond Civic Center Auditorium and the old Hall of Justice are almost complete. These renovated buildings will be LEED Certified and the project is expected to be completed within the appropriated budget. Employees will be phased back into the building from April, 2009 through June. The Civic Center project is part of the redevelopment of the entire Macdonald Avenue Corridor renovation.

Housing and Urban Development Funding: \$3,500,000 has been received from HUD by the City to be used in blight abatement and neighborhood stabilization.

Richmond Natatorium: The renovations to the Plunge continue on schedule. The Plunge should be completed and reopened to the public during the winter of 2009 or in early 2010.

The Bay Trail and the Richmond Greenway: Segments of both the Bay Trail and the Richmond Greenway will continue to open up during 2009.

Crime Rates: Crime rates for 2008 were significantly lower than rates in 2007. Violent crimes are a number one priority with the City administration and the Richmond Police Department.

Pt. Molate Resort and Casino: Upstream and the Guidi Band of Pomo Indians are the developers for the Pt. Molate Resort and Casino development. The Environmental Impact Report and the Environmental Impact Statement are currently being prepared and are undergoing administrative review. The

Bureau of Indian Affairs still needs to give their approval for the project to continue on to completion

The City has a contract with the developers that would call for a reimbursement for costs associated with the deployment of city services at Pt. Molate.

12th Street and Macdonald Avenue Development: The City of Richmond Redevelopment Agency had entered into a Development Agreement with A. F. Evans Company for the construction of a residential and mixed use complex at 12th Street and Macdonald Avenue in downtown Richmond. Due to the current financial conditions, A. F. Evans will no longer be the developer for the site.

Ferry Service at Marina Bay: The Water Emergency Transit Authority has contracted with a firm to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for ferry service from Marina Bay to San Francisco. At this time, the report is nearing completion. The preferred site for the terminal would be near the Harbor Master's Building.

There has been talk of a secondary "milk-run" type of ferry service (short trips) that would be of use for the National Park Service. The areas contemplated to be included in the schedule would be Berkeley, Albany, Angel Island and would be for recreational use only. Additionally, the Orton Development Company has outfitted the dock area adjacent to the Ford Assembly Building in Marina Bay and would like ferry service to occur from San Francisco to their complex at the foot of Harbour Way South.

The General Plan: Work on the new General Plan was initiated in 2007. The new plan has a new health element and a new climate change element. The initial administrative draft has been completed and the public should be able to review the document in March or April. It is hoped that the City Council can adopt the General Plan in the 3rd or 4th quarter of 2009.

- 3. Old and New Business:** A report was given regarding the newly formed committee called the Marina Bay EL DAC (Landscaping and Lighting District Action Committee) to review all aspects of the Marina Bay Landscaping and Lighting Special Assessment District proposal. Allan Hanrahan, of Sunset Pointe, will chair the committee and Don Nicholls will act as Assistant Chair. The Marina Bay Neighborhood Council will forego their monthly meeting in May in order to facilitate a Town Hall meeting regarding the proposal and the presentation of the findings of the EL DAC committee to the community.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Finlay, Immediate Past President and Acting Secretary