

**THE MARINA BAY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR MARCH 11, 2009 MEETING**

The third meeting of the year of the MBNC was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Virginia Finlay. Other officers present were Pat Kiely, Treasurer, who also acted as temporary Secretary for this meeting. As usual, there was a round of self-introductions of all present.

- 1. Richmond Emergency Food Pantry:** John Stiles, Board member and Robin Gillies, member, described the vital work the Pantry is doing for low income families, especially in this down economy. Founded in 1971 to provide food for those in need in West County, the Pantry found a permanent home at the Grace Lutheran Church, 2369 Barrett Avenue, Richmond, in 1978. The Pantry is a 100% volunteer 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that provides food to approximately 20,000 individuals annually. Food and financial support are provided to the Pantry by numerous donors. And more than half of the annual operating budget is donated by individuals in our community. Every penny raised, beyond insurance and the cost of a once-a-year fundraising mailing, puts food in the hands of those 20,000 recipients. This year the Pantry has been particularly hard pressed to distribute enough food because of the current economy. If you wish to donate, you may send a check (tax deductible) to:

**Richmond Emergency Food Pantry
P.O. Box 2598
El Cerrito, CA 94530**

- 2. Richmond Convention and Visitors Bureau:** Michelle Itagaki, Director, presented an overview of the operations and activities of the non-profit Bureau and the role it plays in bringing new business to the City of Richmond. Their slogan is “Thirty-two miles of shoreline and a San Francisco Bay experience!” Formed in 2004, the bureau is funded by the TOT (Transit Occupancy Tax) and the Tourism Business Improvement District. All 603 motel and hotel rooms in Richmond collect \$1 per night for the non-profit bureau which has ten board members.

Michelle pointed out that Richmond is the perfect location to “play in the Bay” — water sports, museums, historic Point Richmond, two unique islands, live theatre, excellent shopping, attractive hotels, diverse dining, our very own National Historical Park (Rosie the Riveter) right here in Marina Bay, and much more...a lot of which most Richmond residents don’t even know about. The new office is located in historic Point Richmond where the welcome mat is out at 201 West Richmond Avenue, Suite B. She pointed out that without leaving Richmond you can.....Visit the [Red Oak Victory Ship](#), an example of the industrial muscle that helped win WWII right here at home. Examine the first Model A to roll off the assembly line of Ford's Richmond plant on exhibit at the [Richmond Museum of](#)

[History](#). While you're there, check out the largest collection of auto repair manuals west of the Mississippi. Bring your best friend, Fido, to the #1 dog park in North America - our very own Pt. Isabel Dog Park! Rated by PETA, Pt. Isabel has something for everyone in the family including a café.

3. Beat Officer's Report: Officer Rick Krug, our beat officer, is on duty Monday through Thursday from 4:30 PM to 2:30 AM. There were 100 calls for service but no trends other than medical and fire calls, and there were no residential burglaries. False alarms were down to 4!

Officer Krug further commented about the 580 freeway homicide near Regatta Blvd. and just off of Marina Bay Parkway exit...that there is no cause for alarm because it was an "isolated event" that had to do with a rap video shoot at Shimada Park and then escalated into a shooting on the freeway. Officer Krug did remind us, however, that if anyone sees an activity getting out of hand in our parks, or anywhere else in Marina Bay, be sure to call the RPD as they will check the people at the activity out.

4. Old and New Business:

1. President Finlay followed up by saying that "we should never be afraid to call the police."

For crimes in progress, medical emergencies, or fire call 911

Richmond Police Dispatch, to report suspicious activity call 233-1214

Report anonymous tips (Richmond Police) call 232-TIPS

The Police Department Sergeant for Marina Bay/Beat One is Sergeant Tod Opdyke who is available by telephone at 621-1212 extension 7035 or by e-mail at todopdyke@richmondpd.net

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Kiely, Treasurer (and acting Secretary for the evening)