

Marina Bay Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes for September 9th, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Virginia Finlay. As usual, self-introductions were made of those in attendance.

1. Coastal Cleanup at Marina Bay: County Supervisor John Gioia (who lives at The Breakers) spoke to the audience and said this event has been a successful one since it began in 1990. This year, the event will include a healthy barbeque for the volunteers. The event is Saturday, September 19th. It starts at 9 AM and continues until Noon. Volunteers will meet at Shimada Friendship Park. The cleanup area will start at Sunset Pointe and proceed through Meeker Slough.

Supervisor Gioia also mentioned there will be an Emergency Preparedness Fair at Hilltop on the following weekend on September 26th, from 10 AM to 2 PM. He distributed flyers for this event.

2. Beat Officer's Report: Officer Krug noted that nothing of any significance had happened during the previous month and that the statistics for the community were minimal. When asked if the "Raves" were still occurring at the Ford Assembly Building he noted that they were. However, he went on to say that security has been very tight and that members of the Police force attend each event.

3. Dr. Bruce Harter, Superintendent of the West Contra Costa Unified School District: Dr. Harter gave an excellent and concise PowerPoint and Question and Answer session on the state of the school district. Lots of kids are graduating and going on to top tier and Ivy League schools and finishing with degrees. Many full scholarships being given to the students that are paid for by many fundraising efforts. Those not interested in college can learn skilled trades in the high schools. High school drop-out rates have been dramatically reduced. Truancy is also way down (in part due to the efforts of Richmond Police Department). The recession is clobbering the School District necessitating staffing cuts and furloughs with over \$52 million in lost funding over the past two years. In short, as Dr. Harter said, "there are reductions in everything." Three schools have been closed so far this year and 5 more are slated for closure in future.

4. Judy Morgan, Annual Home Front Festival: Judy Morgan, President of the Chamber of Commerce discussed the 3rd Annual Home Front Festival that is scheduled for October 3rd, 2009. The "Rosie the Riveter, World War II Home Front National Historical Park" is located in Marina Bay. She described many of the activities including entertainment, docent-led tours, music, food, boat tours, a classic car show, and a Fun Run, Volunteers are welcome to staff the festival. Check out: www.homefrontfestival.com for information and to sign up to volunteer. Volunteers get free tee shirts. Friday night, October 2nd, is the USO dance in the Craneway Pavilion: \$20 admission/\$15 seniors BUT anyone with a military ID is FREE. Go to the website referenced above for details.

5. Old and New Business: A volunteer is still needed by the Council to act as the Chair of the Nominating Committee in preparation for annual election to be held on January 13th, 2010. Only dues paying members can vote in the election. Dues are \$10.00 per year per person.

This Saturday, September 12th, 2009 at 11 AM the grand reopening celebration will take place for the renovated City Hall in downtown Richmond at the Civic Center.

Saturday, September 19th, 2009 is Coastal Cleanup Day. See above for further information.

On Sunday, September 20th 2009 The Richmond Main Street Initiative will sponsor the Jazz on the Vine fundraiser that will be held at the Craneway from Noon to 5:00 PM.

On October 30, Richmond PAL will host the first annual Masquerade Ball at the PAL Building located at 2200 Macdonald Avenue in Richmond starting at 6:00 PM.

Future Marina Bay Neighborhood Council meetings will include the following topics of interest to the community:

On October 14th, 2009 both proponents and opponents of the Pt. Molate Indian Casino and Resort will discuss the plans for the proposed casino. Tony Norris, City of Richmond Director of Parks and Recreation will discuss the formation of the Lighting and Landscaping District Advisory Board.

On November 11th, 2009 Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia will discuss the important issues facing the County. Alan Wolken, Director of the Richmond Redevelopment Agency will speak about the current status of development projects at Marina Bay.

The December 8th, 2009 meeting of the Council will be the Annual Potluck celebration.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Zablotsky,
Acting Secretary for the Marina Bay Neighborhood Council