

## **Marina Bay Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes for October, 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Virginia Finlay. Other officers present were Pat Kiely, Treasurer. As usual, self introductions of those in attendance were made.

- 1. Beat Officer's Report:** Officer Krug stated that there was virtually no crime in the Marina Bay neighborhood. Just a nice, safe community. When asked how long we might expect the Police Department to keep its headquarters in Marina Bay, he stated that they should stay here for at least 5 or 6 more years. Staffing at the Police Department is currently at 186 officers and they are hoping to have 195 officers on patrol by January of 2010.

Continued vigilance by the community is important. 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 e-mail address is [pdbeat1@richmondpd.net](mailto:pdbeat1@richmondpd.net). To contact our beat Sergeant, Tod Opdyke, the e-mail address is [topdyke@richmondpd.net](mailto:topdyke@richmondpd.net). To contact Officer Rick Krug, the e-mail address is [rkrug@richmondpd.net](mailto:rkrug@richmondpd.net).

- 2. Pt. Molate Casino and Resort:** Andres Soto, Organizer of the "Save Pt. Molate" group gave an impassioned and lengthy report as to why he and his organization believe the plans for a casino and resort is a very bad idea for Richmond and stated "we believe it will ultimately be damaging to the city." He distributed a great deal of documentation (copies of letters from the Office of the Governor, letter from US Senators to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and a letter to Salazar from various Native American representatives, position papers, historical information, a draft called "Gambling with Our Future: Casino San Pablo's Impact on Local Communities One Year after the Introduction of Slot Machines"). He also stated that his organization believes there are faulty assumptions and claims about the project in the EIR. Much of the focus of Mr. Soto's talk was on the increase in crime and impacts on local businesses associated with opening urban casinos. There were comments and questions that followed.

Jim Levine, Managing Partner of Upstream Point Molate, LLC (the developer), was not present due to illness. Suzanne Loosen, Community Outreach and Sustainability Coordinator for the Pt. Molate project spoke on behalf of Mr. Levine. Most of her commentary had to do with the building construction LEED

certification program and that the plans called for the platinum (highest) designation. See: <http://www.nrdc.org/buildinggreen/leed.asp>. She reiterated that it will be a "five star resort".

There are claims that thousands or hundreds of new jobs will be created for Richmond residents. However, potential employees will go through a rigorous screening process (criminal background checks, financial background checks, etc.). Many arguments for and against the proposal were presented.

3. **Nomination Committee:** A Nomination Committee will need to be appointed for the January 2010 Council elections. A call for volunteers was made by the President.
  
4. **Old and New Business:** Virginia Finlay, President of the MBNC, mentioned also that sometime next year the Meade Street emergency bypass should get underway prior to the work to be done for the new Marina Bay Parkway underpass. Alan Wolken, Director of the City of Richmond Redevelopment Agency will discuss those and other items of interest to the community at the November Council meeting. Additional items of interest on the agenda will be Supervisor John Gioia speaking about Contra Costa County issues and Richmond Park Supervisor, Tony Norris, speaking about the formation of the Lighting and Landscaping Assessment District Advisory Committee.

An announcement was also made about Supervisor John Gioia and Assembly Woman Nancy Skinner coming to do their regular monthly breakfast meet and greet at the Marina Bay Community subdivision on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Zablotsky  
Acting Secretary for the Marina Bay Neighborhood Council