

## **Marina Bay Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes for November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

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

- 1. Beat Officer's Report:** Officer Rick Krug, our beat officer, reported that there were no problems, incidents or crimes reported in Marina Bay for the month of October.
  
- 2. Update on Contra Costa County Issues by Supervisor John Gioia:** Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County Supervisor, and resident of The Breakers subdivision at Marina Bay, gave an overview of issues that are currently under consideration by our Board of Supervisors.

**The Economic Health of the County:** Supervisor Gioia spoke at some length about the financial difficulties that the County is facing due to the substantial drop in tax revenues. In addition to the drop in property and sales taxes, the State of California has also inflicted deep cuts in funding to the County. Additionally, the County is experiencing unsustainable benefit costs for its employees and retirees. The County has been forced to cap retiree and employee health care costs as the Pension fund has continued to be clobbered by the stock market's performance over the last year. As an employer, the County must make up the shortfall funding of these benefits.

**Indian Gaming and Urban Casinos:** Supervisor Gioia prefaced his remarks by stating that he has campaigned against bringing urban gaming to the area because of the negative impacts to the community. He said that although the casinos are seen to be "cash cows"; they may also bring about increased crime, may have a deleterious effect on small local businesses, and a drop in property values may occur.

Currently, there are two tribes petitioning the Bureau of Indian Affairs to put land "into trust" for them so they would have the legal authority to build casino projects in North Richmond (the County) and Point Molate (the City). The County has an opportunity to provide contracted services to the North Richmond facility prior to the granting of trust status by the Bureau. If the County does not contract to provide these services prior to the granting of trust status, the County would lose the opportunity to do so thus losing funding sources that the County desperately needs at this time. The Board of Supervisors needs to take action to protect this revenue stream of approximately \$12,000,000. It would seem that the monies realized from the project would be needed to mitigate the effects of the potential problems that the casino would create.

Currently, the Casino San Pablo is operating in San Pablo. Also under consideration is the Point Molate project in Richmond and the North Richmond casino project in the County. Supervisor Gioia stated that 3 casinos in such a small geographic area “will certainly, assuredly and irretrievably change the face of our community”.

Supervisor Gioia will be publishing an opinion piece in the editorial section of the West County Times on this Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The Richmond Planning Commission is currently scheduled to have another hearing on the project in January, 2010.

- 3. Alan Wolken, Richmond Redevelopment Agency Director:** Mr. Wolken, Director of the Richmond Redevelopment Agency provided an overview of the projects currently affecting the Marina Bay neighborhood and community.

**Meade Street Emergency Bypass Road:** Contract negotiations have been completed for the construction of the Meade Street Emergency Bypass road which will allow traffic to continue up the eastern stretch of Regatta Boulevard and connect with Mead Street. This bypass will allow traffic to flow in and out of Marina Bay when the long trains are moving through the community. The required easements are currently in place, agreements with University of California, Berkeley and the railroads have been inked and funding has been secured due to the benefit agreement reached with Pulte Homes the developers of the Anchorage Townhomes subdivision. The Department of Toxic Substance Control has approved the plans for the bypass and work is expected to begin in 6 or 7 months.

**Marina Bay Grade Separation:** The Marina Bay Grade Separation is also fully funded at this time. THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR THE CREATION OF A MARINA BAY ASSESSMENT DISTRICT TO PARTIALLY FUND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT. By December of 2010 the engineering documents will be finalized and the long and difficult construction project will commence. The construction will take occur during an 18 to 24 month period and completion is expected in 2012. Although the term “grade separation” can mean either an overpass or underpass; an underpass is what will be constructed at Marina Bay Parkway between Meeker Avenue and Regatta Boulevard.

**Marina Green Redesign:** Marsha Vallier and her team at Vallier Design, is working on a redesign of the Marina Green. Turf design, lighting, rest room design et cetera will be included in the plans. This project is fully funded.

**Bay Trail Improvements:** Currently, improvements are underway regarding the bollard lights, landscaping, and trail improvements. Repainting is ongoing and some fountains are being relocated. Acorn lighting is being installed at Lucretia Edwards Park. Some fencing issues that have developed between Orton

Development and BCDC on the Bay Trail adjacent to The Craneway are being resolved.

**Signature Properties Commercial Development Agreement Adjacent to the Anchor Cove Subdivision:** The Development Agreement for a commercial, mixed-use subdivision adjacent to Anchor Cove between Signature Properties and the Richmond Redevelopment Agency has been extended for an additional 2 years (from 5 to 7 years).

**Ferry Service at Marina Bay:** The Water Emergency Transportation Authority is continuing to work with the Richmond Redevelopment Agency on the creation of Ferry Service to and from San Francisco from Marina Bay. At this time, WETA has provided the funding for the development of the required Environmental Impact Report and an Environmental Consultant is being hired for the project. An area near the Harbor Master's Office is under consideration for the placement of the Ferry Terminal.

**Irrigation System at the Marina Bay Parks:** Nineteen master controllers will be installed this Spring to better irrigate all of our public spaces. A "Rain Master" system, which is satellite controlled and operated with state of the art computers, is being installed and hopefully will be impervious to wire theft.

- 4. Tony Norris, Supervisor of Richmond Parks and Recreation:** Mr. Norris spoke about the formation of the Marina Bay Parks Advisory Committee that will monitor and have oversight within the Landscaping and Lighting Management District. Don Niccols, a member of The Breakers Board of Directors, discussed the formation of the HOACOM (Home Owner's Association Committee) which will be made up of one representative from each subdivision in Marina Bay. HOACOM is an offshoot of ELDAC, and will in turn nominate and vet five HOA members to the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will have a total of nine members which will consist of 5 Homeowners, 1 Neighborhood Council member, 1 Harbor Master appointee and 2 commercial property owners.

#### **5. Old and New Business:**

**Nomination Committee:** A nomination committee has been formed for the election of next year's officers for the Marina Bay Neighborhood Council. If you are interested in serving as an officer please contact the committee. The slate of prospective officers will be announced at the December Holiday Potluck. Elections will take place at the January, 2010 Council meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the January meeting.

**Holiday Potluck:** The annual Marina Bay Neighborhood Council Holiday Potluck will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Harbor Master's Building. This is a great opportunity to meet you neighbors and to expand your circle of friends. Bring a pot-luck dish to share....beverages are provided by the Council and a

good time is had by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Zablotsky

Acting Secretary for the Marina Bay Neighborhood Council