

**Marina Bay Neighborhood Council Meeting**  
**June 11, 2008**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Harbor Master Building, 1340 Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94804**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30.

Self-introductions were done, as usual, all around the audience.

**I. BEAT OFFICER'S REPORT:** Sergeant Opdyke is on vacation so Officer Silva reported. He said nothing is new, very few service calls in the area last month. However, there is one major issue and that is loitering and after-hours fishing on Marina Way South. Heavy police patrolling is going on and some arrests have been made (NOTE: Marina Way South is NOT the same as Marina Bay Parkway which runs thru our "neck of the woods"). He stated we can expect to see him more often as Marina Bay is part of his beat.

**II. SUNPOWER CORP,** a solar company now in the old Ford Plant, presented info regarding their Conditional Use Permit for the site. They were represented by Rita Donato and Kate Ledger (one of these two is the company's architect). SunPower now has 300 employees in their new, state-of-the-art facility. They do NOT do retail sales as their products are available only thru dealers. What they do DO at their site on Harbor Way, is assembly, design, training of installers, research & development of their "trackers" (those panels that follow that the path of the sun) and development of maximum energy absorption. They have erected a training structure on the Hall Avenue side of the building, approx. 14 ft. high, surrounded by a fence on which vines will be trained to grow and conceal the fence and the structure from the street. The training structure will have multiple roof profiles for appropriate training purposes. The site is also used to perfect their PG processes (Power Generation). All of their manufacturing is done in Malaysia and other parts of Asia. NO manufacturing is done here and there is NO environmental impact.

**III. CAG:** The next part of the evening's agenda was a very articulate and enlightening, albeit disturbing, presentation by Sherry Padgett, member-at-large on the 5 member CAG (Community Advisory Group). The other four officers of the CAG were all present. The CAG provides info on the restoration and cleanup of the former Zeneca site & also advises on ALL sites along the waterfront. They are ONLY involved in the CLEAN UP of the sites, NOT in the land use. Their ultimate mission is to ensure proper clean up. Ms.Padgett gave a very extensive PowerPoint presentation detailing the history of the chemical dumping and subsequent clean up, the CAG's mission and work, and she focused on the Zeneca / Cherokee site (this is a munitions site that is now 150 years old; Cherokee is the current owner). Originally it was the Stauffer Chemical Plant where massive amounts of toxic chemicals were produced and, unfortunately as was often the case years ago, discharged into the ground around it. Among some of these discharges was uranium! All the land in ALL the communities had been "remediated" and cleaned up in the late 1980's and early 1990's prior to construction, BUT this was all done according to OLD standards and old scientific knowledge. The CAG was actually originally formed in response to the Zeneca/Cherokee situation. Also nearby is the U.C. Richmond Field Station site which is now 68 years old.

Dr. Michael Esposito, also with the CAG, spoke quite disturbingly and eloquently, about the endocrinological changes going on in the animal life along the shore due to eating the grasses that are growing in toxic soils....one particular species (mudsucker) is now growing BOTH testes and ovaries. He was asked if any "cancer cluster" studies had yet been done for this area and the answer was essentially "not yet," but with the State Labs just up the street and also adjacent to all this toxicity, it's hoped that such a study may get done. The CAG encouraged people to get involved and find out what is going on and hopefully, greater involvement will lead to ending some of the bureaucratic bungling, buck-passing, etc. that has gone on as far as thorough clean-up. The map in the handouts shows at least TEN current companies in the area which are either still producing toxins or have in the past (eg: Catellus Commercial, Summer Chemical, Zeneca, PG&E, BioRad Labs, Pacific Hard Chrome, Union Carbide, etc.). The handout also included [1] a list of dozens of websites to refer to, provided by the Department of Toxic

Substances Control, showing a list of contaminated sites, [2] California Superfund Program Public Participation Impacts fact sheet, and [3] a California Environmental Protection Agency News Release.

**IV: OTHER STUFF:** Next MBNC Meeting: July 10; the Communication Center Manager from "911" (the emergency phone number) will speak. Also, Sgt. Opdyke will be back and will take interested parties to visit the PAL Center (getting everyone back to the Harbor Master's office in time to end the evening by 9:30).

Meeting adjourned.