

MARINA BAY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 9TH, 2010

Virginia Finlay, President, called the meeting to order at 7:40.

Also present, Ruth Zablotsky, Secretary.

Not present: Barbara Norrish, Vice President and Niccore Tyler, Treasurer.

Self-introductions followed in the usual round-robin fashion among attendees.

I. Beat Officer's Report: The Beat 1 Police Report was provided by our wonderful (and naturally funny) Sergeant Tod Opdyke (Officer Krug, our regular Beat Cop, was in another part of the City dealing with an assault case). Tod stated the stats are very low for the most recent reporting period. There were 20 miscellaneous calls for service, all "insignificant," and he reminded us that in the last two years all of Beat 1 had only two reports of "violent crime" but both reports had questionable aspects in terms of the actual reporting of those incidents.

He stated residential burglaries are rare in Beat 1, notwithstanding the January episodes. Beat 1 includes Pt. Richmond and there were 5-6 burglaries there recently. However, in relationship to the Pt. Richmond crimes, two female culprits were caught there in their car and one even had evidence in her lap (stolen laptop). Tod thinks they may be responsible for the rash of incidents in Pt. Richmond. The two women are now in police custody thanks to the efforts of Officer Anderson.

There were some questions about an incident on Thursday, May 20, that necessitated the presence of several police cars, numerous police officers and the closure of Bayside Drive (street off of Marina Bay Parkway that leads to the Promontory subdivision entrance as well as to the back gate into Marina Bay Community Association's Bayside Court). There is a young man whose mother lives in the area. He has had years of mental health issues which the mother is aware of; he was seen in our area waving a knife in the air, etc. A strong police presence was mobilized; they were able to "corral" him and he was subdued with one of the officer's tasers. If the police were not empowered to use tasers, Tod stated, more than likely deadly force might have been used. The young man was taken into custody.

II. Old and New Business: Ms. Finlay made a series of miscellaneous announcements and indicated which documents were available for picking up on the front table. Announcements included info regarding Pt. Richmond Farmer's Market, the City budget, the new City website, how to sign up for Richmond Police Department's free emails on stats, incidents, etc. and finally, there were fact sheets available for the Grade Separation presentation.

III. Marina Bay Parkway Railroad Crossing Grade Separation Project: An update was presented regarding the "Officer Bradley A. Moody Memorial Underpass" (the presentation is available online on the City website as well as on our website).

The presentation was once again the big ticket item of the evening and was introduced by Alan Wolken, Director of Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency. With all the funding in place, at long last, things are finally moving forward on the project. A PowerPoint presentation portraying and outlining the physical parameters of the project was shown and short recaps of funding, stakeholders, project features and roadway features were provided. Slides showing cross-sections of the roadway were presented as well, showing the four vehicular lanes, the median strip, the pedestrian sidewalks, the bike paths, retaining walls and landscaping.

Project logistics were reviewed by Natalina Bernardi of BKF Engineers, Design Team lead. As stated, funding is secure but now "bid-ready" documents are needed by year-end.

David Gates, Architect (with Gates and Associates), reviewed the aesthetics of the overall project and the four possible plans currently on the drawing board. NOTE: part of the property generally deemed unsightly near PG&E will be upgraded with beautiful landscaping (the particular parcel is owned by the

City). There is a commitment to design the overpass, etc. with architecture that the community at large can be proud of and that will create a "gateway" experience to the area, with a beautiful "arrival zone."

Preliminary landscape plans were shown, including (assuming there is adequate funding) a police memorial park on some land the City owns (in the area between PG&E's northern perimeter and the State laboratories). This is where all of Richmond's fallen policemen and policewomen would be memorialized if this memorial park is created.

Schematic architectural diagrams were shown for four possible overpass plans ranging from contemporary/traditional to much more modern looks. At the end of the presentation a straw vote showed that the Plan #2 drawings were the most popular design in the room followed by Plan #1. All plans had some nautical references in keeping with living in a coastal neighborhood.

A wide-ranging Question & Answer session followed with queries about landscaping, street and pedestrian lighting, timing of project and design. Additionally, discussion ensued regarding the verbiage on the railings above the roadway that is located on either side of the overhead train tracks. Possibilities included Richmond, or Marina Bay, or Marina Bay, Richmond, OR, nothing at all. There was also Q&A about noise, closures and impacts on the shopping center. The Meade Street Bypass that will be located on an edge of the UC field station is a part of this project so that residents will not be landlocked during excavation, construction, etc. The Meade St. Bypass will be the first component to be constructed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15, Next meeting date: July 14 (always 2nd Wed of month).

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Zablotsky
Secretary, Marina Bay Neighborhood Council