



## **MARINA BAY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL** **QUARTERLY MEETING**

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – 7:00 PM

**MBNC Attendees:** Rita Mitas, Amelia Berto Morgan, Lynne Therriault; Laura Freeze Ho, Nancy Kemper, Jacob Perkins, Susan Lustig, Kyanna Williams, Sandra Lax, Patricia Carlin

**Presenters:** Officer Andrew Ingot, Richmond Police Department; Steve Orosz, Marina Bay Habormaster; Sue Wilson, Richmond District 5 Councilmember

### **Announcements/Updates:**

#### 1.) Welcome and introductions

- Rita began the meeting at 7:02 pm
- She introduced the executive committee members and volunteers for the year
- She also told attendees they can volunteer with the neighborhood council any time
- Dumpster Day
  - Hosted by MBNC at Melville Square parking lot and Shimada Park
  - Next scheduled for morning of Saturday, 8/2 from 8 am to 12 pm
- Spring equinox celebration
  - Hosted by local community of Iranians and Persians
  - Open to the public on Saturday, 3/22 from 11 am to 5 pm
- Neighbor-to-Neighbor initiative
  - Funding from Gov. Newsom's office aimed at improving social connectedness
  - 20 neighborhood councils participating
  - Marina Bay event will be held Saturday, 8/9 at Marina Bay Park by the podium near Lara's
  - Event will have food, social activities, and kid activities
  - Working in collaboration with some community partners
  - Stay tuned for additional details in the coming months
- Introduced Janice Haugan, Marina Bay resident
  - She discussed a small yet growing grassroots efforts to end illegal fireworks in the city
  - Working with various elected offices, groups, schools, and media to create awareness and a fireworks buy-back program, etc.

- Goal is to create community pressure about fireworks in the community
- Will need resident involvement for all kinds of tasks, especially to speak at council members and pass out flyers
- Contact Julie Freestone at [freestonejulie@gmail.com](mailto:freestonejulie@gmail.com) to get involved
- Introduced Crime Prevention Manager Michelle Milam
  - She thanked residents for calling in people living in vehicles around Marina Bay
  - Said there is a camping ordinance that applies to a public right of way where the city first has to offer shelter services, usually with the Bay Area Rescue Mission or GRIP
  - Then the city can post parking enforcement notices with a 72-hour notice
  - Reach out to her with issues and/or to check if an encampment may already be on her list
  - Contact Michelle at [mmilam@richmondspd.net](mailto:mmilam@richmondspd.net)

## 2.) Richmond Police Department Beat 1 Report

- Officer Andrew Ignont works in Marina Bay Mondays to Thursdays from 3 pm to 1 am
- From February 1st to now, there have been 600+ calls for service, including 52 traffic stops, 49 abandoned vehicles, 2 robberies, and 2 individuals placed on mental holds
- Question from a resident in the Shores about the sideshows and what's happening near Point Potrero
  - Officer Ignont said the department is still seeking to address sideshows, but cannot ticket anyone unless they seem them actively participating
- Another resident inquired about loud music near Vincent Park and Shimada Park when the parks are supposed to be closed after sunset
  - Officer Ignont acknowledged the issue and said the department often receives a call every night
  - Police usually stop by to shoo them away, but may start writing violations
  - Discussed possibility of putting the chain up by Vincent Park to block cars off from accessing the parking lot there
- Another person from Marina Bay complex shared about 25+ vandalized trees
  - Officer Ignont hadn't heard anything about this crime
- Rita asked if there are fewer calls about vandalized mailboxes and mail theft
  - Officer Ignont responded that this crime seems to be going down recently
  - Postal inspectors are trying to make sure mailboxes are more secure
- Laura asked if Police Department hiring has improved
  - He replied that it is, although there is still some attrition with retirement and officers switching departments
- He noted there are five different officers working this beat

## 3.) Marina Bay Yacht Harbor Gate Replacement Project

- Harbormaster Steve Orosz presented a slide deck about new gate houses for the marina
- Marina was originally developed in the 1980s
- The entry ways to the gate houses are original and it's time to replace them
- They're made of wood, so the underlying structure can't be refurbished

- Current design not doing well in keeping unauthorized people out
- Have some designs in and pending permitting
- Shared an overview of new designs with modern glass and aluminum
- New gates won't be down on the docks but more on the land, while preserving sightlines
- Marina is paying for it
- Timeline for construction is 6-8 weeks minimum after permitting approved and dependent on contractor availability
- Minor impacts to the Bay Trail as some construction materials might be around
- He has been harbormaster since 2008
  - In 2022, the lease was sold to Safe Harbor, a different company, which meant a different logo and branding, but marina is operating pretty much the same
  - Safe Harbor also brought in capital improvement money
- Unlikely that new slips will be built at this time
- The disintegrating dock near Lara's is not part of the yacht harbor parcel
  - Believed to be under the control of the developer who owns Lara's property, but there may not be a formal written agreement with it
  - Lara's landlord doesn't have the interest or financing to repair it, nor does the City
- A resident inquired if there will be any more yacht shows in the future
  - Steve said it doesn't seem likely at the moment
  - One show happening in the Bay Area is happening now in Sausalito
  - He is keeping an eye open for opportunities like for a broader maritime festival, but would need sponsors and organizers
- Reach out to [sorosz@shmarinas.com](mailto:sorosz@shmarinas.com) with questions

#### 4.) Meet Councilmember Sue Wilson

- New councilmember for District 5 introduced herself to members and took questions
- She was speaking from a WCCUSD school board meeting where they're discussing potential budget cuts
- Started out with a presentation
  - Her priority is the budget process on the city council for the next two months
    - The city has been in a strong financial position for the past four to five years
    - Has extra revenue this year we haven't had before
    - Wants a solid process for community input—finance department running three public meetings in April (same meeting, 3 options)
      - Can attend in person or virtually to have a say about how Richmond is spending its money
    - If you have ideas, email her at [sue\\_wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:sue_wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us)
  - Also has a newsletter twice a month; subscribe at <https://votesue.us22.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=76925e0306e55e1c82fcaee4c&id=999112e75b>
  - Immigrant facing policies are important to her agenda as well

- Council agreed to take \$1 million from city budget surplus of \$6 million to assist anyone who is having legal issues being undocumented
  - Council is also strengthening sanctuary city policy based on a San Francisco ordinance that is working well and has withstood legal challenges
    - This policy would put into municipal code what the City has already been doing for many years in not directing any city resources to help ICE administer warrants for undocumented individuals
  - Encouraged members to read *Richmondside* and *Grandview Independent* for local news
- Next she opened up the forum for questions
  - What will she do about pickleball at the Craneway?
    - She too is against it and tried to organize against pickleball being located there
    - Noted there are many administrative agencies that can step up to enforce the rules and regulations around the Craneway, but that's not happening
  - Will she refute the City Council's resolution in fall 2023 about Palestine and Israel?
    - Councilmember Wilson said the resolution doesn't condemn the local Jewish community, but it was in support of the Palestinian community
  - Is she aware of the increasing noise pollution from a factory near Regatta?
    - She said she was not aware, but will check with code enforcement
  - What can be done about late night train noise?
    - Rita noted her communications with multiple departments in an attempt to establish a quiet zone for the area
    - Councilmember Wilson said she can follow up and to be in touch
  - What is the status of the Area FM toxic waste site near Lara's?
    - Rita noted she received a report about this site from the state, but the City of Richmond hasn't responded about next steps since last fall
- Will the trash in Meeker Slough be cleaned up?
  - Initially a fast response from Public Works, but there are toxicity issues in the water
  - Requires someone who has hazardous material training with the right PPE and Public Works doesn't have the expertise in-house, so they put out a request for bids to have a contractor clean it regularly
  - She'll follow up with Public Works next week
- Will budget and staffing for Marina Bay Park be increased?
  - Councilmember Wilson suggested residents should come to the budget meetings and share about issues like this that they care about
  - Everyone wants to beef up park upkeep around the city
  - A city-wide problem that the City is understaffed because they don't want to overspend long-term
  - You can also lodge complaints with the City on the dedicated "City of Richmond CA" app or at <https://www.strongtownsrichmond.com/report-issues>

- Will the City do something about the fast cyclists on the Bay Trail?
  - She responded that this is the East Bay Regional Park District's jurisdiction
  - Indicated she will learn more about the issue, especially with the advent of electric bikes
- Does she have any additional budget priorities for Marina Bay?
  - Out of a budget of \$200 million, the surplus is only \$6 million, which doesn't leave much room for discretionary spending
  - She agreed with the City Council's decision this week to allocate \$500,000 to the recurring flooding at the entrance of Parchester Village, an historic area which was the first place in California where Black Americans could buy houses
  - Overall, Councilmember Wilson said she doesn't really have a list of priorities, because she wants to first participate in the budget meetings and get community input
  - Some priorities, however, may be road and pedestrian safety on Carlson, as well as improving public spaces and increased emergency housing

Meeting concluded at 8:33 pm

-Laura Freeze Ho  
MBNC Secretary