

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 4, 2025
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
515 Silver Street
North Richmond, CA 94801

MINUTES

Meetings are conducted in person at the Corrine Sain Senior/Family Community Center, 515 Silver Street, North Richmond, CA 94801. The meeting is also available on ZOOM.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. Board members present were: Annie King-Meredith, Beverly Scott, Princess Robinson, and Glory Lopez. Absent were Donald Gilmore and Dulce Galicia.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Upon reviewing the agenda and the February minutes, Annie motioned to accept both documents, Princess second, and all were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leticia Chavez, N. Richmond Resident: Leticia complains about a foul smell in the air. This has been going on for the last two weeks. She and other residents have made calls to the BAAQMD. They said that the smell might be coming from the local landfill, Republic Services West Contra Costa Landfill. BAAQMD said that the landfill is not under their jurisdiction.

Annie says that the community is going to get bad smells from the landfill. As garbage and trash decompose, it emits an awful smell into the atmosphere. Over time the smell gets worse and worsen.

Leticia says that sometimes the awful-smelling odor makes your throat sore and irritated. A lot of residents in the N. R. community continue to complain about the bad odor that's being emitted into the air.

Jose recommended that the residents call the CCC Environmental Health Department.

The phone number is (925) 608-5500. Cynthia suggested that residents contact an environmental justice organization such as Communities for a Better Environment. This issue will be tabled until the next NRMAC meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

Joey Smith, Director/EBMUD Ward One: Ms. Smith is the new director for Ward One at the East Bay Municipal Utility District. She has been an employee of EBMUD for 32 years.

She is inviting the NRMAC and residents to a meet-and-greet event. The date is March 12, 2025. Please contact Y'Anad Burrell, Community Affairs Rep. II. Must RSVP to attend the event. Ph # (510) 287-7208.

Janine Shaheed, Community Engagement Manager/Corrine Sain Senior-Community Family Center: Janine announces the center will have Zumba Exercise classes every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. On March 6th, the Advisory Council on Aging will meet. There will be a Focus Group Presentation. The time will be from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Youth Entrepreneurship Program: The Young Boss Network Youth Program will begin on March 12th, at 4:30 p.m., at the senior center. This is an 8-week pilot program. High school and college students (ages 14-22).

The Youth Entrepreneurship Program is designed to equip young individuals with essential financial literacy, entrepreneurial skills, and personal development strategies. The 8-week pilot program offers a condensed, high-impact version of the 8-week curriculum, focusing on core concepts, hands-on learning, and mentorship.

For more information, you may contact Janine Shaheed, at (510) 255-9203, or Darrell Davis, (510) 221-2573.

Corrinie Sain Community Center Blood Drive: Thursday, March 20, 2025. The event starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. Patients fighting sickle cell disease may require regular blood transfusions to avoid a health crisis. You can make all the difference.

To schedule your appointment or for more information, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: CHDC. All presenting donors will receive a \$20 Amazon Gift Card (via email) and a Red Cross Sickle Cell T-Shirt.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

Latifah Abdullah, Community Engagement Manager/Urban Tilth Farms: Latifah announces the Rudy Lozito Fellowship Program. The program will host 4 W. Contra Costa County Latifah adults at the N. Richmond farm for seven months of training in sustainable and regenerative farming practices. These practices include but are not limited to seasonal organic crop production, minimal till farming, soil-based carbon sequestration techniques, drip irrigation installation, and repair, animal husbandry/poultry farming, and nourishing the soil while working alongside staff to steward the land and cultivate resources for the community.
announces

The 7-month fellowship requires a 20-hour-a-week Monday-Friday schedule, from 9 am-1 pm. The program will run from April 7th, 2025, to November 14, 2025, and participants will be compensated at \$22.00 an hour. This will include some basic benefits such as sick leave, holidays, and a wellness fund allocation. You may apply online at UrbanTilth.org/employment. Fruit tree giveaway at Verde Elementary, North Richmond, and Richmond residents. The date is 3/16/2025 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Mohan Kaiki/Board of Directors Member/Nepali Community Center: Mr. Kaiki announces the opening of a new community center in the North Richmond Community.

The Nepali Community has established a community center at the Davis Chapel Church in N. Richmond. This is an invitation for N. Richmond residents to join them for an open discussion to strengthen and enhance the Nepali Community Center.

Tony Ucciferri, Deputy Executive Director/HACCC: Another phase of the development process for Las Deltas has started. The market rate units are currently getting appraisals. Those remaining units must be sold at Fair Market Value.

The RP for possible developers has been issued. HACCC is in the process of transforming below-market-rate units to the nonprofit developers.

Tony introduces Bee Coleman, a new employee at the HA. She is the new fellow through their partnership with Bays's Future. She will be working with the below-market-rate developers and will be focused on some of N. Richmond's MOU goals and targets.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

Bee says hello to everyone. She is excited to be on board with the HA. She looks forward to meeting everyone in person.

Princess asked Tony if he could provide information to people who are interested in purchasing property for the other remaining sites. Tony says that HA has a website where all of the information is updated regularly.

Dillion Avery Harp, Community Engagement Manager/RichmondLand: Dillion is the new CEM at RichmondLand. He encourages people to join the program. He will be making a presentation to the NRMAC next month.

Vanessa Bell/Property Manager at 1265 York Street, N. Richmond, CA.: The building is in despair. The owner has abandoned the building. The County did an inspection and found the building to be in substandard conditions. The current residents will probably end up homeless. Vanessa is trying to get things under control.

Annie suggested that she talk to Daryll, who is in the Mitigation Program.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORT

Deputy Officer Sakai/CCC Sheriff's Department: Reporting for February 2025. There were three select crimes. This consisted of an auto burglary, a residential burglary, and a stolen vehicle that was recovered at the fire access trail on Brookside.

The department has sixteen new trainees from the Sheriff Training Program. Some of them may be dispatched to the N. Richmond community.

Glory asked the officer about an incident at Verde School. Where someone had broken into a classroom at Verde School. The officer is not aware of the incident.

Lieutenant Ernest Loucas/RPD: Reporting for February 2025. The department recently wrapped up a nine-month-long investigation. Several streets in N. Richmond were involved. This investigation is ongoing.

There were eighteen calls in February for abandoned vehicles. Seven calls for sidershows and a number of calls for assaults.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS CONTINUED

There are a large number of mental health issues at the homeless encampments. An enormous number of stolen vehicles end up at the encampments. In the last thirty days, there was a decrease in crime. There was an increase in the number of reports. Illegal firearms and the manufacturing of drugs are of great concern.

PRESENTATIONS

Daryll Davis, Director of Community Engagement, Kalu Dennis, Community Service Coordinator - CHDC-Mitigation Fee Funded, and Jose, CCC Environmental Health.
North Richmond Presentation of Wild Cat Creek and Beautification Banner North Richmond Green Mitigation Fee: the presentation starts by announcing CHDC Community Resource Center's Health Fair. Wednesday, March 19th. Location: 1540 Fred Jackson Way, N. Richmond, CA 94801 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The event offers community members a fantastic chance to connect with local health advocacy organizations and CC public resources in N. Richmond, allowing them to explore the services that are available to them.

Wildcat Creek Environmental Issues and Recovery Solutions: They have been doing a lot of mitigation work over the past years. The work has been mainly centered around Wildcat Creek. A lot of residents and school personnel have been complaining about the conditions at and around the creek area. They feel like it's time to come up with some solutions.

They started their presentation with the history of the creek. The creek was a source of survival for Indigenous Tribes. The community developed a flood control department in the area between 1951 and 1958. N. Richmond was developed during WWII when segregation led to a community on the Wildcat-San Pablo flood plan.

The N. Richmond Model Cities Plan in 1971 featured Wildcat and San Pablo creeks as recreational, educational, and economic assets for the community.

The creek has environmental issues. There are homeless encampments at the creek. This presents the lack of sanitation, illegal trespassing, and illegal dumping. The homeless people have been offered social services. The mitigation team always goes out and addresses the homeless people prior to doing a major cleanup. SOS and

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

CORE does go out to the creek and do outreach. Trying to make sure the homeless people get the help that they may need.

Wildcat Creek continues to serve as a refuge for the unhoused in N. Richmond. The trash left behind damages the ecosystem. There is trash on the walkways and the waterways. Wildcat Creek is a high dumping area that continues to be a focus for the mitigation team. A lot of money and effort is put into keeping the creek clean.

The fish ladder has been damaged for many years due to the 3-ft of sediment that has settled over the years, due to the constant foot traffic and illegal dumping that occurs daily at Wildcat Creek. The fish ladder used to be the home of the steelhead trout. Now the fish ladder is dry, and the only time you see water is when it rains. Wildlife is basically nonexistent in the creek.

There is increased waste and pollution at the creek. Waste such as discarded material waste, human waste, and chemical runoff. Since 2014, about 5,000 tires have been dumped in the creek. The homeless people salvage the tires for the rims to be recycled for money. Then, what's left of the tires they are burned up at the creek. Tire fires are a critical issue. Sometimes, they make their makeshift houses with the tires.

Degradation of aquatic habitats: Erosion from foot traffic and the construction of makeshift shelters can erode creek banks, destabilizing the ecosystem. Habitat loss and the presence of human waste and debris disrupt the natural environment, leading to the loss of habitat for various species. Water quality, pollution from waste, and runoff lower water quality, making it unsuitable for aquatic organisms.

Human activity at the creek disrupts the natural behavior and breeding patterns of wildlife. The destruction of vegetation forces animals to relocate, and they face the risk of starvation.

When cleanup crews go out to the creeks, the homeless people retaliate by throwing objects at them, objects such as human feces, trash, rocks etc. Rats in the area are huge; they come out of the peoples' tents and are all over the area.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

There are challenges in the cleanup and restoration of the creek. There are accessibility and safety concerns. The long-term solution is that restoring a damaged ecosystem requires long-term commitment and resources. While cleaning up, participants must wear hazmat safety suits. Heavy equipment can not be used.

Since 2017, \$718,000 has been spent by the county on the cleanup at the creek.

Suggested Solutions: Establish City and County Ordinances. Regularly monitoring or surveillance of the creek areas, support and outreach, and collaboration & partnerships. Over (15+) agencies have been involved in the cleanups.

Questions and answers: A North Richmond resident says that social outreach is not working. Annie says that there are rules and regulations that homeless people have to abide by when offered services.

Burrell asks how many families or individuals are living at the creek. Answer about 100 to 200 people at the most. Annie says CORE is there on the site, doing what they do.

Cynthia says that she is involved in a project with the Watershed. The project is entitled: Wildcat Watershed Innovation Leadership & Development. The objective is to envision a creek environment that is accessible and useable for the community. The restoration of the fish ladder. Improving access points, enhancing the quality of life for residents living near the project, recreational areas, and walking paths.

We acknowledge the work and efforts that Princess has devoted toward the enhancement and cleanup of the creek and the safety of the walking trails.

Annie asks why somebody can't be there at the creek to monitor the activities. Princess appreciates the work the mitigation is doing and would love to support it. Latifah says that DeAngelo, head of security at Urban Tilth, has offered to help with the situation at the creek.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Joseline Camacho/Proposing to establish a residential building on Willard Ave in N.R. This individual is proposing to relocate a residential building from Oakland to a vacant lot at 56 Willard Avenue in N Richmond. The application is currently under review with the CCC Planning Department. She is proposing two new units at the site. The building consists of two residential studios plus a garage.

Beverly asked Joseline if she would be living at the property or renting out the units. The units will be rented out. The board votes on the proposal. Annie asked was there any discussion on the presentation. There was no discussion. Annie motioned for the board to vote. Beverly moved that the board support the project, Princess second, all are in favor.

Kalu Dennis, Community Service Coordinator/CHDC - Mitigation Fee Funded North Richmond Green Mitigation Fee, Potential Beautification/Banner Program 2025. Mitigation is talking about doing another street banner program.

The previous banners were done 14 years ago. The cost of the banners was \$16,000. There were a lot of complaints, the banners deteriorated or flew off the poles.

Annie says the banners lasted for a while, but they should have been changed because the material wasn't the best quality.

Kalu presents estimates for the cost of new banners. He was quoted an estimate of \$34,000 by Thomas Swan Company. He was quoted a price of \$13,000 from Left Side Printing. This estimate does not include hanging of the banners or the necessary equipment that's needed to hang the banners.

Kalu talks about the poles on FJW, where the banners may or may not be hung. The decorative street light poles are the shorter poles. The brackets are not for hanging banners. Upper and lower brackets will have to be installed. Public Works is worried about the integrity of these poles if they are drilled into. Public Works will not be involved with the installation of the banners.

The standard street light poles have very few poles with brackets attached. Upper brackets and lower brackets will have to be installed. Public Works will not be involved with the installation.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Annie asked is there any place in the City that has the same design of poles. There are some existing poles in N. Richmond that are equipped for hanging banners.

The question is, what type of banners should be installed? The community should be involved in creating the banners. Should it be banners with N. Richmond history, pictures of beautification of the community, colorful banners, or banners with artwork? These ideas will be voted on in May. Tania and Kalu are going to come up with a mock banner. He will send it back to one of the companies and get a quote of what the banner would cost.

For more information or how to get involved with N. Richmond Green Initiatives contact: Kalu Dennis, CHDC at (510) 221-2595.

With funding from Chevron, it has been proposed to do a mural at the garden located at the senior center.

PROGRAM AND OTHER AGENCY REPORTS

Jessica Walden, N. Richmond Mobile Tool Library: Announces that the tool library provides tools for the community. They have over 300 tools in their inventory. If anyone has an event in March, they would be glad to table at the event. Will lend tools to organizations that are doing major cleanups or gardening.

You may contact Jessica at (510) 672-3877.

Latifah Abdulah, Community Engagement Manager/Urban Tilth Farms: Latifah introduces a new employee at the farm. Cheryll Lopez, Community Engagement Manager. Cheryll says that she is glad to meet everyone tonight. She is getting ready for Earth Day. She will be helping with the cleanup in the morning. Later that day, she will table at Shields'/Reid Park.

Latifah thanks everyone for coming out to MLK Day at the farm. It was a great success. So many people came out, representing various organizations.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

NEXT MEETING
April 1, 2025
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
515 Silver Street
N. Richmond, CA 94801