

NORTH RICHMOND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 3, 2024

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, N. Richmond, CA 94801. The meeting is also available on ZOOM.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m. Board members present were: Glory Lopez, Annie King-Meredith, Beverly Scott, Donald Gilmore. Absent were: Princess Robinson, Dulce Galicia, and Jorge Rico Vera.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Upon reviewing the agenda and the minutes, Annie motioned to accept the agenda and the minutes. Beverly second, all are in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A North Richmond resident complains about the diesel trucks coming through the community. He thanks the Sheriff's Department for enforcing the no parking law on street sweeping days.

Cynthia thanks everyone who participated in the N. R. Annual Music Festival.

Asha Setty, Public Participation Specialist /CA Department of Toxic Substance Control. Asha says that the DTSC job is to protect California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

Asha announced that the Center Point company will not start work on the cleanup until after the school year in 2025. DTSC received an application from the VIOLA company, they are applying to renew their lease for the next ten years. DTSC will be sending out notices to inform the public. Public hearings will be ongoing.

PUBLIC COMMENT CONTINUED

Ryan Lau, External Affairs Representative/A.C. Transit: The A.C. Transit Realign Project will be ending on 9/11/2024. There will be two more public meetings, scheduled for September 9th and 10th - the location will be at the AC Transit headquarters building in Oakland. The project should go into effect in March 2025.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORTS

Officer Sakai and Sargent Deputy Rodriguez/CCC Sheriff's Department: Reporting for the month of August 2024. Copper wire theft is an ongoing investigation. Annie says that thieves are stealing copper wire from the infrastructure at the Davis Chapel Church.

A press conference hosted by Supervisor John Gioia was held today, the subject was the theft of copper wire. All concerned parties attended the press conference.

The theft of construction tools has become a big issue in N. R. Construction workers that leave their tools in their vehicles overnight, are being vandalized. Please lock your vehicles and secure your work tools, or take them inside of your house overnight. Neighbors need to start looking out for each other,

Sergeant Deputy Rodriguez introduces himself to the NRMAC. He has been working in the area for the last three months. He has been with the department for seven years. Sergeant Rodriguez says that he is fluent in the Spanish language.

Annie has a comment about the ongoing parking problem at Davis Chapel Church. The congregation members are getting highly upset. Residents are taking up all of the parking spaces, including the ones that are designated for church members' parking.

Lately, the Sheriff's Department has been monitoring the situation, and progress is being made in resolving the issue. Annie thanks them for doing a fine job.

For the month of August, there was one commercial burglary and one residential burglary. Eleven stolen vehicles were recovered in the last three months. There was one grand theft reported.

PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations

Latifah Abdullah, Community Engagement Manager Urban Tilth Farms/North Richmond Farm Construction Update: The farm has ten acres of land, located on Brookside Drive.

The Summer Youth Apprenticeship Program participants graduated last month. It was a very exciting experience for the youths. They went on field and camping trips. The youths received pay for their participation. They learned a lot this summer.

Some N. R. Elders were interviewed, contributing their knowledge about N. R. Latifah would like to thank Paulette and Janine for their contribution. Paulette is also on the advisory committee.

If you are interested in working with the advisory committee, you are more than welcome to do so. Right now the committee is working on the history part. They are gathering information about what should be included in the History Walk at the farm.

At the beginning of last year, the community came out and helped to put in the Rain Gardens.

Accomplishments from January 2024 to June 2024 were:

Phase (1): Installed underground utilities, and completed the installation of all municipal water and electrical infrastructure for Phase (1). Installed sanitary sewer pumps and electrical control panel. The electrical designs were approved for Phases (2) and (3). Began Brookside Drive frontage improvements.

With all the construction going on, the farm wanted to continue daily operations. They completed moving and installing of all temporary facilities so that Urban Tilth food access (CSA, VeggieRX, and FREE Farm Stands), urban agriculture, fruit tree distribution, and Just Transition Programs can continue on site as construction moves forward. The move included office trailer and cooler moves, vegetable wash & pack rebuild, and a children's garden.

Annie asks if they will have bee hives at the farm.

PRESENTATIONS and Proclamations Continued

Y'Anad Burrell, Community Affairs/EBMUD - Presenting Updates:

Representing Ward One, under Director Lesa McIntosh, Lesa is retiring, her term expires on December 31, 2004. Ward One covers the cities of Crockett, Hercules, Rodeo, and San Pablo, portions of Richmond and Pinole, and communities of North Richmond and Selby.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many customer bills were put on hold, and customers were temporarily exempt from paying their bills. EBMUD wanted to make sure that no customers went without water. Now it is post-COVID, and EBMUD is required by law to ask customers to pay their bills. Twenty million dollars in bills are overdue.

That's a lot of bills that are past due. Homeowners and business owners must call EBMUD to avoid a lien being placed on the property. The number to call is 866-403-2683, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. If you need help you may set up a payment plan or extension. Customers may enroll in the Customer Assistance Program. There are income levels to qualify for these plans. Renters are advised to call EBMUD to avoid disruptions to their water service.

Questions were asked about renters and property owners. Y'Anad says that she will look into answering these questions and concerns, and plan on coming back to the NRMAC next month.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS

Jessica Walden, Library Assistant II/North Richmond Mobile Tool Library: Jessica and her manager Stephanie Ny are trying to increase membership. They would also like to sign up other non-profit organizations. The goal is to sign up ten to twelve new members in the next (60) days.

The mobile tool library is located in North Richmond every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. The duration of the tool rental is two weeks, extensions are available.

Annie asks what type of collateral is needed to rent the tools. Latecia says that she passed out flyers at the flea market.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED

Annie talked about National Night Out. She says that it was a great success. North Richmond partnered with Parchester and the Iron Triangle.

Tony Ucciferi, Special Assistant to the Executive Director/HACCC: The housing authority is close to finalizing the purchase and sale agreements for the below-market sales of scattered sites, for non-profit developers. Should be finalized by the next NRMAC meeting.

Housing is reaching out to find opportunities for people to buy houses. Housing continues to work with development developers, and partners to find solutions for those who want to buy

The main campus is just about ready to wrap up requests for proposals. It will be a four to six months process. It is almost ready to show to a couple of partners.

Lots of factors went into the R.P. plan. It will cost about (250) million dollars to develop the main campus. Hopefully, the proposals they get will include some items from the N. N. R. Quality of Life Plan.

The new North Richmond MOU has been developed. Some of the needs that have been brought up, will be a part of the plan.

Leticia asks about the market rate units. Tony says that they are trying to close the sales of the below-market units, and then will start on the market-rate units. The sales price will be what the appraisal says.

North Richmond residents will have priority over anyone else. That is residents of N. R. or former residents of Las Deltas, once the R.P. has been processed.

A resident asks what type of housing will be at the main campus. The answer is probably mixed housing - depends on the developer. There will not be a twenty-year restriction on the land.

This opportunity is to create homeownership for N.R. residents. A question in the chat asks if there will be adequate parking. Yes, that's in the county zoning ordinance.

OTHER AGENCY PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED

Tania Pulido, District Coordinator, Supervisor John Gioia's Office: The supervisor held a press conference today, about the thief of copper wire. CCC has the highest number of thieves, Stockton did a program to curtail the theft of copper wire. CCC is offering \$5,000 for leads on copper thieves.

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Coastal Clean-up. There will be a coastal clean-up at Wildcat Creek by the Watershed Program on September 14, 2024. On September 21st, Supervisor John Gioia will host his own clean-up at Shimada Friendship Park, at Richmond Shoreline.

Next month at the NRMA meeting, the County will present on The Light-Up North Richmond initiative.

Irma Peralta/LifeLong Medical: Would like to share a flier about the next training on How to Live and Advocate for a Climate-Friendly Life. Lifelong Medical Care offers healthcare services for all ages.

The requirements for the training are you must be a Richmond resident in the Coronado, Santa Fe, and Iron Triangle areas. Applicants should be interested in Climate Justice, and be willing to participate in (20) hours of in-person and/or online training.

Training will begin on October 12, 2024. The stipend will be available upon completion of the training and service activity. This training is done in collaboration with Richmond Rising. For more information contact the program coordinator at 1-628-205-1772 or climatehealth@lifelongmedical.org.

Donald Gimore, Director/CHDC: Still has down payment assistance for first-time homeowner buyers. Assistance is available for up to \$150,000, depending on how much you qualify for. The next meeting will have an update on the status of Legacy Court.

Janine Shaheed, Community Engagement Manager/Corrine Sain Senior- Community Family Center: July 19th was Sustainable Contra Costa Day at the center. Cooking demonstrations were ongoing, taking place in various parts of the center.

OTHER AGENCY/PROGRAM REPORTS CONTINUED

The professional chefs prepared nutritional and healthy food. They were part of a Cook Smart pilot program. A special cookware was used in the cooking demonstrations. Forty-three people attended the event. They all received the cookware, consisting of pots and pans.

The American Red Cross presented an Emergency preparedness event. The garden at the center is growing and growing. They received extra funding for more planter boxes.

During the summer, the Youth Ambassador Summer Leadership Program provided youths to help out at the center. They helped with the food pantry and worked in the garden. The County WorkForce Ambassadors also visited the center.

Janine invites everyone to stop by the center. Lunch is served daily, Monday - Friday. There are plenty of activities, such as bingo, exercise, etc.

Kalu Dennis, Community Service Coordinator/CHDC - Mitigation Fee Funded: Kalu reports that the Resource Center had (150) visitors last month. They are in the process of updating the Clean Slate Program, for those who are in need of a clean criminal record

Last month they partnered with the University of CA Berkeley and twelve foreign students from Japan. Some of the students visited N. R. on a trip five years ago. They took a walk around the community, stating how clean the community was, compared to their last visit

They had a discussion panel, consisting of the twelve students, and N. R. Historians. The historians presented the history of N. R.

The vice president of SoftBank came to visit North Richmond. They call him the Microsoft King of Japan.

Latifah tells Kalu (if needed) that space at the farm is available to host workshops.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

515 Silver Street

N. Richmond, CA 94801