



Meeting Minutes

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY East Richmond Heights Municipal Advisory Council

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

6:30 PM Open Door United Methodist Church, 6226

Arlington Blvd |

[https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/89528918999?](https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/89528918999?pwd=4uftQvRgGrauBDkPTc6DbK4VqlQiAB.1)

[pwd=4uftQvRgGrauBDkPTc6DbK4VqlQiAB.1](https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/89528918999?pwd=4uftQvRgGrauBDkPTc6DbK4VqlQiAB.1)

Jon Sargent (Chair), Victoria Lynn Curtis (Vice-Chair), Jinwei Zhang, Joann Pavlinec, Pam DeWitt, Bara Sapir

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

1. Roll Call and Introductions

00:00:13

Present	Pamela DeWitt, Bara Sapir, Jon Sargent, and Jinwei Zhang
Absent	Victoria Curtis
Non-voting	Joann Pavlinec

2. Treasurer's Report

00:00:40

The Treasurer's Report reflected a balance of approximately \$2,137.

3. Approval of Minutes

00:00:55

Council reviewed the previous meeting minutes, which were approved unanimously without discussion.

This was approved.

Motion:	DeWitt
Second:	Zhang
Aye:	DeWitt, Sapir, Sargent, and Zhang
Absent:	Curtis
Result:	Passed

[26-2235](#)

Attachments: [4.15.26_erhMACMinutes](#)

4. Presentations

P.1. Presentation by Contra Costa County Supervisor's Office

00:01:47

Supervisor John Gioia's Office provided an update on ongoing county initiatives, including the development of a proposed Countywide Noise Ordinance for unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County. Staff discussed potential regulations addressing outdoor amplified sound and construction-related noise. Proposed provisions would limit outdoor amplified sound after 10:00 PM on Fridays and Saturdays and after 8:00 PM on other evenings. Construction-related noise regulations would apply to projects requiring building permits and could be enforced through the Conservation and Development Department and the Sheriff's Office. Staff noted that additional regulations related to vehicle noise, leaf blowers, fireworks, and gunshots are not currently recommended due to existing regulations or enforcement challenges.

During the update, the Council also acknowledged the resignation of longtime Council Member Joann Pavlinec following eight years of service. Appreciation was expressed for her dedication and contributions to the East Richmond Heights community. Supervisor Gioia's intent to appoint Bara Sapir to a regular Council seat was announced, and residents were encouraged to apply for the remaining alternate vacancies.

Questions were raised regarding enforcement of potential noise ordinance violations. County staff explained that complaints would continue to be routed through existing law enforcement and dispatch systems, with enforcement mechanisms dependent on the final ordinance language.

P.2. Presentation by Sheriff's Office Bay Station Commander, Lt. Brian Fitzgerald

00:07:34

Lieutenant Fitzgerald of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office provided a public safety update for East Richmond Heights. The report included recent calls for service involving residential burglaries, vehicle-related crimes, and vandalism. The Sheriff's Office also provided information regarding a regional investigation involving a search operation in Dublin that did not result in the discovery of human remains.

Council members discussed crime trends and public safety concerns throughout the community. Residents were encouraged to continue reporting suspicious activity and utilize available reporting tools.

P.3. Presentation by Richmond Police Department, Sgt. Savannah Stewart

00:10:14

Richmond Police Sergeant Stewart provided crime statistics for the previous 30-day period, including reports of vehicle thefts, auto burglaries, and incidents involving tampering with vehicles. Additional attention was given to reports of suspicious activity in the Harbor View, BART, and Capitol Hill areas, where increased patrol activity is planned.

During the discussion, Sergeant Stewart noted that Toyota and Honda vehicles continue to be among the most commonly stolen vehicles in the area. Residents were encouraged to take preventative measures to reduce opportunities for theft.

P.4. Presentation by California Highway Patrol, Officer Rivera (tentative)

P.5. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Update, Michelle Rinehart

00:13:37

Michelle Rinehart provided updates on wildfire preparedness and community resilience efforts. Staff highlighted the Contra Costa Wildfire Mitigation Program, funded through Measure X, which focuses on hazardous fuel reduction, wildfire risk mitigation, and public education.

The Fire District emphasized the importance of community engagement and announced ongoing efforts to update the Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Residents were encouraged to participate in future outreach opportunities and preparedness activities.

P.6. CERT Incident Command Post Location for East Richmond Heights, Diane Richwine & David Swanson

00:29:54

Discussion focused on the importance of Incident Command Posts (ICPs) and neighborhood-level emergency preparedness. Fire personnel and community members discussed the value of establishing neighborhood meeting locations, organizing local response teams, and maintaining communication tools such as handheld radios. The role of the County's Emergency Operations Center and community training opportunities were also reviewed.

5. Discussion Items

DI.1. East Richmond Heights Music Festival

00:54:48

Council members discussed planning efforts for the upcoming East Richmond Heights Festival. Organizers reported ongoing volunteer recruitment efforts and encouraged greater community participation to support event operations. The Council emphasized the importance of volunteer involvement in ensuring a successful event and discussed future opportunities to promote the festival throughout the community.

6. Subcommittee Reports

SR.1 Land Use Committee: Joann Pavlinec, Jinwei Zhang

7. Regional Historical Presentation

00:57:29

The Council received a historical presentation regarding the former Wildcat Canyon Sanitarium and its significance to the area's history. The presentation reviewed the property's origins, including its operation by Dr. Henry Nelson Belvel, and discussed notable events associated with the site, including fires, legal disputes, and community controversy.

The presentation emphasized the importance of preserving local history and documenting the stories that have shaped East Richmond Heights. Council members and attendees discussed opportunities to

continue highlighting the community's historical resources. The presentation is expected to continue at a future meeting.

8. Agenda Items / Speakers for Upcoming ERHMAC Meetings

9. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

01:27:17

During public comment, residents raised concerns regarding activity on a portion of land near Kensington Avenue. A resident reported observing individuals performing retaining wall work without visible permits and sought clarification regarding ownership and permitting requirements.

County staff explained that property ownership and access questions involving abandoned rights-of-way or disputed parcels may require review by private legal counsel, title companies, or relevant county departments. Residents were encouraged to contact the Conservation and Development Department or County Real Estate Division for additional information regarding permitting and land use questions.

Council members discussed ongoing efforts to develop a community banner for use at Council meetings and community events. Preliminary design concepts were reviewed, and members discussed banner dimensions, placement, and artistic direction. Staff agreed to provide measurements of the designated display area to assist with final design development.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for June 17, 2026

Adjourn

01:33:13

The Council will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Council meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Council less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at Open Door United Methodist Church (6226 Arlington Blvd, Richmond, CA 94805) during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at www.contracosta.ca.gov. If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the committee will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

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