MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, July 28, 2011

LOCATION: Annex Senior Center, 5801 Huntington @ Santa Clara

STARTING TIME: 7:00 PM SHARP

(Length of time per agenda item is only approximate; more time allotted if necessary.)

1. **Call to order:** Pledge of Allegiance; welcome and introductions; announcements – 3 min.

2. **Minutes** of June 30, 2011 General Monthly Meeting – 2 min.

3. **Finance Report:** Tom Hoffman, Treasurer (finance report given quarterly) – 3 min.

4. **Board Officer announcements:** Correspondence – 3 min.


6. **Special Guest:** Bob Gerner, Owner of The El Cerrito Natural Grocery invites community input on commercial uses and building design of the former Sherwin Williams Paint building (corner of San Pablo Avenue and Panama), that would compliment the Natural Grocery and benefit the community.

7. **Proposed Building and Planning Projects:** 10 min. ea.

   a) See above.

8. **In brief – Reports; project & committee updates:** 5 min. ea.

   a) Streets/Traffic Committee Update: I-80 Central Avenue Interchange Improvement Project; Carlson Corridor Upgrade Project, Jeff Jones, chair

   b) Planning/Zoning Committee Update: Richmond General Plan, Mary Selva, chair

   c) Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council Update: Garland Ellis and Jerry Yoshida, RNCC representatives and board members

   d) 66th public meeting of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) is Thurs. 8-11-11, 6:30-9pm, Richmond Multi-Purpose Room (located in basement) of 440 Civic Center Plaza (the old Hall of Justice at the downtown City Hall). CAG is a group of volunteers who provides an opportunity for all affected and interested citizens to openly learn, discuss and provide advice to the CA Dept. of Toxic Substances Control regarding cleanup activities at the former Stauffer Chemical/Zeneca site. Public participation is strongly encouraged. CAG provides an open forum for public input. To serve on CAG, contact Carolyn Graves at 625-4459. For more info: http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=07280002#

9. **Good of the Order** limited to brief general interest announcements; adjournment. Contact RANC, 375-7769.

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**Our 37th Year! – “Together We Continue To Make A Difference!”**

YOUR PARTICIPATION in this wholly independent volunteer group is significant in our City’s decision-making process. Many thanks to July mailer volunteers: The Richmond Annex Seniors and Tom Hoffman.
Richmond Annex Senior Center
5801 Huntington – 510-620-6812
Open Mon. thru Fri. 9am – 4pm

**AARP Driving Safety Program:**
Thursday, August 11th & 18th, 9am - 1pm, $12 AARP members; $14 non-members (check only); AARP Driver Safety Program is nation’s 1st and largest refresher course for drivers age 50+ that’s helped millions of drivers remain safe on today’s roads. Tune up your driving skills and update your knowledge of the rules of the road. Learn about normal age-related physical changes, and how to adjust your driving to allow for these changes. Reduce traffic violations, crashes, and chances for injuries. Instructor: Ron Perrin. To register, call 620-6812.

**Qi Gong** – Pronounced “chee gung”
The answer to aging gracefully, feeling full of life and energy, less stress and fewer aches and pains is Qi Gong. This very soothing exercise class is based on traditional Chinese meditative principles. The exercise focuses on meditation and some light movement. Wednesdays, 10am - 11:30am. $ .50 per class. Instructor: Jerolyn Miner

**Sewing Circle**
Enjoy sewing in a peaceful and naturally lit space. Bring in your favorite sewing projects and use our new electronic sewing machines. Staff assistance is available for basic questions about the use of sewing machines and help with your project. Tuesdays, 1pm - 4pm and Thursdays, 9am - 12pm. $1 per class. Instructor: Recreation Staff

**Computer Basics**
Overcome your fears and enjoy one-on-one assistance as you venture in the basics of computers. From turning the computer on and off to making the vocabulary of the computer easier to understand, we are here to help you! Learn at your own pace in a tranquil setting about the Internet, email, Microsoft Office, etc. Tuesdays, 9am - 1pm. $3 per hour. Instructor: Dave Rohrer and/or Staff Drop-in: Mon. - Fri. 9am - 4pm. $.50

**Gentle Gym**
Remember Jack LaLanne? His advice to seniors: “You’ve got to exercise. You’ve got to put the time aside to take care of your most precious possession 20-25 minutes at least three times a week!” Gentle gym is a low impact aerobic workout that gets your body moving and your heart rate up. This class is designed for all abilities! Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9am - 10am. $.50 per class. Instructor: Chiung Tung Li or Staff

**Line Dancing**
Join this rip-roaring way to get the exercise you need to be fit. We offer beginning and intermediate line dancing for seniors with all abilities. This program is fun with a capital “F”. Mondays, 10am - 11am. $.50 per class. Instructor: Peer Instructors

**Healthy Walking**
Put pep back in your step in this casual, non-competitive activity. Walking is a fun way to get the exercise you need. Those with canes or walkers are welcome! Tuesdays, 11am -12pm. Free. Instructor: Recreation Staff

**Luncheon Theme Parties!**
Please join us as we celebrate birthdays, holidays and special events for wonderful food & entertainment. Call 620-6812 for advanced reservations one week prior to event or drop by for seating available.

**Bridge**
Nothing is as unifying as bridge partners. Join us for good times and laughter. All levels are welcome! A good reference book that can help you learn bridge is called, “The Fun Way to Serious Bridge” by Harry Lampert, at local bookstores. Mondays, 12pm - 3pm. $1 per person. Instructor: Jean Fike

**Mahjong** – Pronounced “mah-shong”
Hone your skills in patience and strategy in this traditional Chinese tile game of Mahjong. We offer beginning and intermediate classes where the setting is friendly and the outcome is fun! Tuesdays (Advanced), 11am - 4pm. Thursdays (Beginning), 1:30pm - 4pm. $1 per person. Instructor: Norma Dougherty & Vivian Ko

**Scrabble**
Keep your mind fresh and your competition thinking. This word game is both literary and strategic to get the most points from your letter selection. Tuesdays, 1:30pm - 3pm. $.50 per person. Instructor: Vivian Ko

**Movies & Popcorn**
Join us at the Annex Senior Center for movies & popcorn on our new flat screen TV. Participants select the movies and staff brings the popcorn! 4th Wednesday of each month. 1pm - 3 pm. $1 per person.

**Blood Pressure Screening**
Free monthly screenings that help you keep your blood pressure under control. The screenings are conducted by a professional nurse. So you are in good hands. 3rd Wednesday, 12pm - 1pm. Free. Provider: Hakim Adal, RN

**Gardening Project**
Join in the fun of gardening and reap bountiful results! Help keep our vegetable garden alive and productive. Learn how to compost, prune, grow vegetables. Come away with good tips for your garden! Thursdays, 10am - 12pm. Instructor: Recreation Staff

**Music Sing-A-Long**
Come for the music. Stay for the fun! You don’t have to be a singer to sing-a-long. Our piano player is no longer with us and we miss him dearly. We are looking for a permanent piano player to carry on this wonderful tradition. So please come forward. We’d love to have you on board! Fridays, 1:30pm - 4pm. Free. Instructor: Vivian Ko

**Beginning Conversational Spanish**
It is never too late to learn Spanish. If you’re wondering why you should consider learning Spanish, there are several good reasons to do it. Learning Spanish or another language improves memory skills. It will help you to communicate with more than 300 million people around the world who speak it. Learn basic vocabulary, grammar, and practice conversational Spanish in a supportive environment. Fridays, 10am - 11am. $2 per class. Instructor: Genoveva Sirlopu

**Beginning Conversational Spanish**
For dates and times.

**Annex Senior Explorers**
The Annex Senior Explorers are a group of seniors who like to venture out for fun local daytime excursions. Explore UC Botanical Gardens, Tilden Park, or Annie’s Annuals; visit Lawrence Hall of Science; tour San Francisco; shopping excursions in Vacaville, Napa Valley; holiday & gift shows. Annex Seniors are on the go! Call 620-6812 for dates and times.

**Casino Over-Nighters**
Richmond Annex Senior Center offers a variety of Reno or Tahoe overnight trips throughout the year. Come along and play your favorite games of chance while dining at the buffet, or just enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery! Pick-up and return at Annex Senior Center. Call 620-6812 for dates and times.
Richmond General Plan Adoption Timeline: (Revised for the 3rd time. Dates could be subject to change.)

July 26, 2011 – City Council Presentation on General Plan
August 15, 2011 – Release FEIR and Final Draft General Plan
September 1, 2011 – Planning Commission Action Meeting: Commission to provide a formal recommendation on the Final Draft General Plan and FEIR to City Council
October 18, 2011 – City Council Action Meeting: City Council to take action on FEIR and Draft General Plan

The Richmond General Plan is a blueprint for residential, commercial, and industrial development, including important goals & policies for our shoreline, schools, parks & recreation, traffic & circulation, and many other elements. The Richmond Annex Neighborhood Council (RANC) has been working diligently on the General Plan to ensure that Land Use Elements are designated properly for the Annex area, including other elements that affect our quality of life. RANC requested several changes to protect our Bay view corridor (which will also be addressed in the upcoming Zoning Ordinance), including our schools and shoreline, which is now reflected in the Draft General Plan. However, there are some outstanding issues that still need to be addressed. If the proposed Traffic Level-of-Service is not changed under the Circulation Element, it would limit public review and not require an EIR Traffic Study under CEQA Guidelines for large developments. This is a strategy used by a few cities to bypass EIR Traffic Study and quickly move forward with large development—e.g. Emeryville, where their level-of-service standard is “F”. Level-of-Service (LOS) is defined in terms of a letter grade ranging from A to F. LOS A is no congestion; LOS B is very light congestion; LOS C is light congestion, occasional back-ups on some approaches; LOS D is significant congestion on some approaches, but intersection is still functional; LOS E is severe congestion with some long back-ups; LOS F is total breakdown or gridlock. The proposed LOS Standards would allow the level-of-service to deteriorate to LOS E for Central Ave., Carlson Blvd., San Pablo Dam Rd., Richmond Parkway, I-580, and would “maintain a LOS Standard of E,” as stated in the Draft General Plan. The proposal would also allow the level-of-service to deteriorate to LOS F for San Pablo Ave., 23rd St., Cutting Blvd., Macdonald Ave., and would “maintain a LOS Standard of F,” as stated in the Draft General Plan. Moreover, the proposed LOS Standards for ALL of our residential streets would allow the level-of-service to deteriorate to LOS E and would “maintain a LOS Standard of E,” as stated in the Draft General Plan. This implies that traffic flow would not have to be mitigated until after the LOS Standards have reached “E” or “F.” Both “E” and “F” are unacceptable levels-of-service. Currently, our local residential and collector streets operate at LOS A and major thoroughfares operate at LOS C (some at LOS D & E during peak periods). The City’s goal should strive for an achievement of C or D on major thoroughfares and LOS A or B on local residential & collector streets. This goal is consistent with 90% of CA cities.

The I-80 / Central Avenue Interchange Improvement Project:

The Project Manager is proposing to make this project categorically exempt from CEQA review, meaning there will be no environmental study to determine the effects of these changes along Central Avenue and no public input. This is the stretch along Central Avenue between San Pablo Avenue all the way down to Rydin Road (Costco). We will be meeting with their project team to recommend that this project should not be categorically exempt and suggest more solutions to help improve the traffic flow along Central Ave.

Annex Senior Center:

AARP Driving Safety Program: Thursday, August 11th & 18th, 9am to 1pm, Richmond Annex Senior Center. Cost is $12 AARP members (check only) or $14 AARP non-members (check only); Instructor: Ron Perrin. The AARP Driver Safety Program is the nation’s first and largest refresher course for drivers age 50 and older that has helped millions of drivers remain safe on today’s roads. Tune up your driving skills and update your knowledge of the rules of the road. Learn about normal age-related physical changes, and how to adjust your driving to allow for these changes. Reduce your traffic violations, crashes, and chances for injuries. Drive more safely. For more information or to register, call 620-6812.

Richard Annex I-80/Carlson Overpass Mural Project: The mural will be touched up by the same artist, Tom Taylor.

The Richmond Annex Mural will be cleaned and touched up with fresh paint in August 2011. Completed in 1998, the Annex Mural Project was a joint effort with our Neighborhood Council, community, and the Richmond Arts Department. The mural won a National Award from NUSA (neighborhoods USA) in 1999. In addition to improving Richmond’s image with public art, the mural also represents the longtime efforts that Richmond Annex spent in preserving the Pt. Isabel shoreline and marshland areas. Major achievements include 2/3 reduction in heavy-industrial zoning, Battery Bay Peninsula cleanup, prevention of a golf driving range, siting and expediting the Bay Trail from Central Avenue to Marina Bay portion, Hoffman Marsh Preservation, and changing the land use designation to Light Industrial (lower intensity uses), allowing open space and recreational use.
1. **Call to Order:** Mary Selva, President, presiding. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Minutes:** of May 26, 2011, approved.

3. **Finance Report:** Tom Hoffman, Treasurer, Finance report given quarterly.

4. **Richmond Police Dept. Report:** Beat Officer Cedric Tagorda not in attendance. He can be reached at (510) 621-1212. Ext. 7152 or ctagorda@richmondpd.net; his patrol hours in the Annex area are Mon. thru Thurs. 11:30am – 9:30pm.

5. **I-80 Central Avenue Interchange Improvement Project:** This is the stretch along Central Avenue, between San Pablo Avenue and all the way down to Rydin Road (Costco). Apparently, the Project Manager is proposing to make it categorically exempt, meaning there will be no environmental study to determine whether the project should have an EIR or at least a Negative Declaration. Since the project will be categorically exempt from CEQA, there will be no public input. The Richmond Annex neighborhood has been concerned about these changes and would like to explore better solutions to improve the traffic flow along Central Ave. Dave Harris described improvements for configuring the signalization at Pierce and I-80.

The 1st project, proposed for 2011, includes closing the I-80 on-ramp (to Oakland/San Francisco) at Central near Pierce Street and no left turn onto Jacuzzi Street during weekends (the busiest days) and sending the traffic down to the I-580 on-ramp at the corner of Central Avenue & Rydin Road, making it the main freeway entrance to Oakland/San Francisco. Besides the long vehicle queues, delays, and backups at the signalized Jacuzzi Street, the plan also includes adding signal lights at ALL the intersections. This includes Central & I-580 to San Rafael (top of the overpass) and Central & Rydin Road (near Costco). This could cause traffic to back up all the way down to Costco (west) or Jacuzzi Street (east), making the trip prolonged and arduous for both Costco customers and Park visitors to access Costco and Pt. Isabel Regional Shoreline Park, and even more significantly, exiting Costco and the park. Central Avenue is the sole access to Pt. Isabel. No alternative roadway exists. There is only one way in and one way out! There are no emergency provisions for police, fire, ambulance, earthquake, or other events which could impact public safety. During the weekends especially, Costco and Pt. Isabel Regional Shoreline Park are packed to the max and the area reaches critical mass!

The 2nd project, proposed for 2014, would relocate the signal light at Pierce Street & Central Avenue to San Mateo & Central and would make San Mateo Street the main key route to the Pacific East Mall. Currently a dead end street on the south side of Central Avenue, San Mateo would become a through street. A new road would be constructed, leading to the Pacific East Mall.

**Facts:** Pt. Isabel Regional Shoreline Park is the most busiest and largest public off-leash dog park in the nation. It adjoins the 40-acre Hoffman Marsh Preserve, the Bay Trail, and now tallies 1.5 million visitors per year (not counting dogs). Combine this with the most busiest and highest earning revenue Costco in California, with its high volume of customers, the 16-pump Costco Discount Gas Station where 30,000 gallons of gasoline are consumed per day—Monday thru Friday and over 40,000 gallons per day—Saturday & Sunday; the Bulk Mail Center where mail is processed for ALL of Northern California, where 300 trucks leave the facility per day—Monday thru Friday, and 200 trucks per day—Saturday & Sunday. Now close the I-80 ramp to Oakland/San Francisco and make the I-580 ramp at Rydin Road the main freeway entrance to Oakland & San Francisco, and now it becomes overburdened. Sending traffic destined for Oakland/San Francisco down here will severely impact this intersection, especially during weekends!!!

CLOSING THE I-80 ON-RAMP AND Sending the traffic to I-580 on-ramp at Rydin Road & Central Avenue JUST TRANSFERS THE PROBLEM DOWN HERE, making it a burden for Costco customers and Park visitors, and creating idling problems near our shoreline. Emissions from internal combustion engines in cars, trucks, motorcycles, and air contaminants including carbon dioxide and volatile organic compounds that are harmful to the environment and our health, particularly when vehicles are idling at a signalized intersection. This would further increase pollution levels and degrade Hoffman Marsh and the Albany/Richmond Wildlife Sanctuary, which are both located at the intersection of Central Avenue & Rydin Road.

7. **Streets/Traffic Committee Update:** Jeff Jones gave update on the gantry bridge structures proposed for the I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility Project (Crockett to Oakland). Several of our Board members met with their project team twice. The 1st meeting was to present some alternative locations for the gantry bridges. The 2nd meeting took place in Oakland and resulted in a favorable outcome. Caltrans agreed to shift two out of the three gantries to alternative locations. Gantry structure #9 was shifted from the Van Fleet area to the area south of Central Ave. Gantry structure #11 was shifted from the Jefferson area to Carlos, where the structure will be hidden behind eucalyptus trees. Ganties would have blocked G.G. Bridge and Bay views for residents on lowered sloped areas, as well as detract views for others. Although we wanted gantry #10 removed altogether, the project team needed a 3rd gantry structure in this area (Tehama vicinity) and pointed out that it wouldn’t block views at this location, but could be a detraction.

8. **Building and Planning Projects:**

   a) Stephan Menzi, representative for three 270 SF redwood multi-story balconies/decks (totaling 800 SF) at rear of 5812 Sacramento, presented plans. RANC supports the decks; however the lower basement area is being converted into living area (700+ SF). This would effectively increase the living area to almost 2,900 SF. There’s only a single-car garage with a short driveway. A 2nd car would not be able to park in short driveway, because it would block the sidewalk. Sacramento and Fresno off San Joaquin (west of I-80) is renowned for overcrowding and especially parking conflicts. The Multi-Unit Zoned District has had parking problems for years. Lot size is generous (7,500 SF) with plenty of room on east side of building for an uncovered off-street parking space. Lakireddy Bali Reddy, who owns a substantial number of properties in the Bay Area, plans to rent the building and tenants would benefit in having a 2nd off-street parking space. Motion made by Jeff Jones, seconded by Jerry Yoshida to approve the decks and recommend that owner provide a 2nd off-street parking space and show landscaping on the plans, was supported.
b) Richard Doore, contractor for 800 SF deck at rear of 1527 Merced, presented plans. Material is tongue & groove and made out of composite material, which is meant to last. Company has been in business since 1962. Motion made by Jerry Yoshida, seconded by Beryl Golden to approve deck, subject to handrail and construction details and some type of lattice or other material around lower perimeter of deck to cover storage underneath, was supported.

9. Richmond General Plan Update: Garland Ellis explained the proposed Traffic Level-of-Service (LOS) Standards under the Draft General Plan. For details, see adoption timelines and remaining issues attached to newsletter. Public hearing dates are subject to change.

10. UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL): Garland Ellis talked about the LBNL proposal, a federally funded research and development center under a prime contract with the US Dept. of Energy that issued a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for a 2nd campus. UC Berkeley narrowed its selection down to 6 finalists (Richmond Field Station on the South Shoreline (adjacent to Stauffer/Zeneca site), Alameda Navel Air Station, Brooklyn Basin in Oakland, Golden Gate Fields in Albany, Emery Station in Emeryville, and Aquatic Park in Berkeley). The project is massive and would accommodate 2 million gross square feet of buildings and would be 3,000 feet in length on the Richmond Field Station 90 acre site, with room to grow. Some of the qualifications (as stipulated in UC Berkeley’s RFQ application) for any City to be chosen are:

- The site should require minimal or no environmental remediation or have a funded plan to address remediation.
- The site should be proximate to either existing or planned restaurants, convenience stores, post office, banks, auto repair/gas stations, child care facilities, hotels or motels and no more than a 10 minute commute.
- The site should be proximate to publicly-accessed recreational facilities, such as gymnasiums, health clubs, and outdoor fields.
- The site should be readily accessible to a variety of public transportation.
- The site should have minimal occurrence of highly-compressible ground surface conditions (e.g. areas prone to liquefaction).
- The site should facilitate infrastructure development (roads, underground utilities, pedestrian walkways, etc.).

The City will host a welcoming reception and town hall meeting on Thursday, July 21st, 6 to 9pm in the Richmond Auditorium.

11. RNCC Update: Jerry Yoshida, RNCC representative, gave report on Cyber Tran, an Ultra Light Rail Transit (ULRT) system developed at US Dept. of Energy, who is currently negotiating with UC Berkeley to build a full-scale test facility on open land at the Richmond Field Station (RFS). The test facility would allow officials to observe the performance of Cyber Tran’s technology and also serve to confirm the appropriateness of Cyber Tran ULRT technology for local urban/suburban applications. The track would comprise of 3,000 feet of elevated track structures, including two offline stations. A minimum of two vehicles, each holding up to 15 passengers, would be operated under radio frequency control and computer automation. If federal funding is approved, the 1st phase of the transit station deployment would be from the RFS, which would exit RFS at Regatta Blvd. and go to Cutting Blvd., then down to the Del Norte BART Station.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

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**RANC Membership Application**

Please complete form and send it with your annual membership dues, $5 per household, $3 for seniors, and $10 for businesses to: **Tom Hoffman, Treasurer, Richmond Annex Neighborhood Council or RANC, P.O. Box 5436, Richmond, CA 94805.** Make check payable to RANC or Richmond Annex Neighborhood Council. Do not send cash.

Name_________________________ Phone #________________ Fax #________________

Address________________________ City________ State________ Zip_____

Email address (if you have one)__________________ Date__________ Amount________

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐ *Willing to do Volunteer Work*

* If you are interested in joining any one of the RANC committees, please check one of the boxes below:

☐ Parks & Shoreline ☐ Fairmont School ☐ REACT
☐ Planning/Zoning ☐ Streets/Traffic; Carlson ☐ Stauffer/Zeneca Cleanup Advisory Group
☐ Code Compliance ☐ Annex History ☐ I-80 Soundwall Landscape Maintenance
☐ Alvarado School ☐ Annex Block Party ☐ Welcome Wagon
**Important Meeting Date:** Thursday, July 28, 2011

- **Special Guest:** Bob Gerner of El Cerrito Natural Grocery invites community input on new uses for former Sherwin Williams Paint and building design.
- I-80 / Central Ave. Interchange Improvement Project
- I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility Project Update
- Richmond General Plan - **Public Hearings**
- Carlson Improvement Corridor Project Update

**Richmond Annex Neighborhood Council**

**Founded 1974  PO Box 5436, Richmond, CA  94805  *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* **

**WE THE ANNEX**

Working together nearly 60 years, local residents have built and nurtured the stable, uncrowded, family-oriented character of the Greater Richmond Annex.

We enjoy the traditional low-density neighborhoods, public access shoreline, and healthy environment rare in urban areas today.

**THIS IS NO ACCIDENT!**

Since the 1940’s, Annex residents and businesses have organized to preserve and enhance these special qualities, now increasingly threatened by economic and political pressures.

Good neighborhoods, as good families and sound businesses, succeed by working together for common benefit. Just as we don’t expect others to pay our taxes or cast our vote, we can’t expect others to bear our share of keeping the Annex the kind of neighborhood we want for our families.

If not already serving on one of our committees or special projects, please join your neighbors as an active voice in our shared Greater Richmond Annex neighborhood where . . .

“**TOGETHER, WE CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**”