



## RICHMOND RISING COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE (CSC) MEETING MINUTES

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 6:10 P.M. Committee member Guerrero calls the meeting to order, greets attendees, and declares the availability of live Spanish interpretation, free childcare, and refreshments.

#### Roll Call:

- Present: Project lead for City: Beatriz Guerrero
- Present: Project lead for GRID Alternatives: Carmen Zamudio (alternate)
- Present: Project lead for Trust for Public Land: Terence Wu
- Present: Project lead for Urban Tilth: Chito Floriano
- Present: Project lead for Rich City Rides: Mayeli Rico (alternate)
- Present: Project lead for UC Berkeley: Alice Bruno (alternate) (arrived at 6:21pm)
- Present: Project lead for Groundwork Richmond: Lorena Castillo
- Present: Community member: Tomasa Espinoza
- Present: Community member: Juana Hernandez (arrived at 6:14pm)
- Present: Community member: Montserrat Gonzalez
- Present: Community member: Judith Rocha
- Present: Community member: Curtis Rice
- Present: Community member: Jim Becker

### 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee members read the Richmond Rising Land Acknowledgment.

### 3. RICHMOND RISING AND COLLABORATIVE STAKEHOLDER STATEMENT

Committee member Guerrero gave a brief introduction on Richmond Rising initiative and the Collaborative Stakeholder committee.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No public comments for items not on the agenda were received.

### 5. REVIEW AND APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Community member Becker makes a motion to approve meeting minutes from March 2025; Committee member Zamudio seconds the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

### 6. PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

Project Leads presented project status reports for each project and Transformative Plan of the

Richmond Rising collaborative, including up-to-date financials and grant expenditures to date. The following questions and comments were received:

### **Neighborhood Complete Streets**

**Community Member Espinoza:** Do we know when the third Town Hall is taking place?

**Committee Member Guerrero:** We cannot provide an answer at the moment. We thought we had federal funding for the project, so now we have to go back and rescope to identify what we can provide, because we lost \$9.5 million from the anticipated budget.

**Community Member Espinoza:** You state that narrower streets are safer, but the other day I saw a firetruck having troubles moving through a narrower street. Have you analyzed to see if there were any problems with this movement of emergency vehicles?

**Committee Member Guerrero:** The Police and Fire Department are a part of the reviews that are facilitated by the City Planning Department. There are regular meetings with emergency service providers regarding plans under review, and these Departments will review for issues such as these.

## **7. REPORT ON COMMUNITY QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED**

**Community Member:** Regarding the loss of federal funding, is that only affecting the Neighborhood Complete Streets project?

**Committee Member Guerrero:** The projects that are affected by federal funding are the Neighborhood Complete Streets and the Richmond Wellness Trail. For the Richmond Wellness Trail, only specific traffic lights and some construction areas will be removed from the project. There will be larger impacts overall to the Neighborhood Complete Streets Project. Both projects are going to have to rescope. However, no other project will suffer from loss of federal funding.

## **8. COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **8.1 Youth Fellows Introduction and Nomination Discussion**

Youth Fellows Project Manager Gaby Zacarias Lopez presented on the status of the Youth Fellows Program. Then the newly admitted Youth Fellows attending the meeting introduced themselves, including what drew them to apply and what they hope to get from the Fellows program. There are still 5 open Fellows positions, and Rich City Rides has been actively recruiting youth aged 16-24. Gaby encouraged Partners to think about how Fellows can be involved in outreach and engagement efforts. Gaby will be sharing out a form for Partners to request use of the Fellows for outreach efforts, which will include details on upcoming projects and events. Fellows will begin working in May.

Lopez states that there are currently only two seats on the CSC available for Youth Fellows, and asks if there can be additional seats added to the CSC for Youth Fellows.

**Committee member Guerrero:** There is no problem with opening up additional positions seat on the committee.

**Project Analyst Eusterbrock:** There is no limit if the Committee decides to open more seats allocated for Youth Fellows.

Committee member Rice motions to add two additional spots for Youth Fellows; Committee member Zamudio second. The Committee approves the motion unanimously.

## 8.2 **Bright Saver Presentation on Renter Solar Program**

Cora Stryker presents on the non-profit organization Bright Solar and the potential for collaboration with Richmond Rising to implement rooftop and backyard solar options.

**Project Analyst Eusterbrock:** Can you clarify the capacity of Bright Solar to install?

**Cora Stryker:** Capacity is matched to demand. There are currently 100 at hand and ready to be installed. If more are needed, an order can be made for delivery within a couple months.

**Project Analyst Eusterbrock:** Can these be installed only in single-family homes, or can multi-family homes be involved?

**Cora Stryker:** They can be installed wherever; the only necessary action for installation in multi-family housing is HOA approval.

**Community Member Espinoza:** If you're a renter, do you need permission from the owner or landlord of the dwelling?

**Cora Stryker:** Yes, you do need landlord permission for installation.

**Project Analyst Eusterbrock:** Are there any income limits to the installation?

**Cora Stryker:** No, these are for people of any income; however, we mainly want to assist people who cannot currently afford solar.

**Community Member:** What are the cons to this program?

**Cora Stryker:** The main one I can think of is that landlord approval is required.

**GRID Executive Director Arthur Bart-Williams:** The main issue I perceive is that this is a new program, and there may be related issues along the way.

**Cora Stryker:** For example, there were recently challenges with installing on a deck, so going forward we've learned from that and are mainly focusing on backyard installation.

**Community Member:** Considering the requirements and the new Federal Administration, are there any concerns with legality that would increase barriers to receiving this service?

**Cora Stryker:** Because they are detached, there are no legal issues associated with the Administration.

**Project Analyst Eusterbrock:** Are you able to support tenants talking to their landlords regarding potential installation.

**Cora Stryker:** Yes, one our partners is the Western Director of the Electrification Program for Rewiring America, and we can coordinate with them on trainings on how to talk to your landlord.

### 8.3 **Orchard for ALL! Fruit Tree Annual Giveaway Report**

Committee member Floriano presents recent updates on the Orchard for ALL! Fruit Tree Giveaway, stating that 100 trees have been distributed and 30 of them have been planted. Committee member Floriano requests that attendees let their contacts know about the giveaway, which includes fruit tree and services, including assessment and pruning of trees, for all residents of the Project Area.

No comments were received for this item.

### 8.4 **Ride Today / Richmond Community Foundation Connection Follow-up**

Committee Member Becker gives a presentation on the local carshare program Miocar. Local car-sharing program Miocar operates similarly to the electric bike program.

A key issue is that charging stations are being vandalized because people are looking for any copper present in the chargers. To combat this issue, Richmond Community Foundation is working to partner with the Ride Today program.

Becker also shares about an upcoming "Ride-a-Car" event taking place in June 2025.

**Project Analyst Eusterbrock:** Have you tried putting up signs signaling that there is no copper in the vehicles charging dock?

**Committee Member Becker:** Yes, and we have also installed cameras. However, the cameras are also being vandalized and/or stolen. However, there is new technology that is in the testing phases that would charge through a pad under the pavement, so that the car only has to be parked over the pad and it charges. If this technology works effectively, RCF will be interested in adopting this.

**Committee Member Lopez:** You had mentioned a sign-up fee; how much is the original

fee?

**Community Member Becker:** There is an initial sign-up verification fee of \$20; however, that will be returned to the user after sign-up.

**Community Member Espinoza:** Does the program work everyday of the week? If there's an accident, who covers the accident?

**Community Member Becker:** The program runs 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. If there's an accident, any damage to the car is insured. However, if you hit someone, the drivers insurance is responsible for any personal or property damages or litigation; the Miocar insurance only covers the vehicle and any damage done to the vehicle.

## 8.5 Earth Day Project Partner Coordination

Committee member Floriano and Urban Tilth Green Community Engagement Assistant Brenda Rodriguez discuss details regarding the upcoming Earth Day celebration on April 10<sup>th</sup>. There is an informational meeting upcoming but no finalized date. Partners are more than welcome to register for the event.

**Committee Member Castillo:** Are we able to do a service project, and if so, do organizations promote it as in partnership with the event?

**Committee Member Guerrero:** Yes, I believe that this is possible. Coordination with Richmond Rising and Urban Tilth coordinators is necessary if organizations want to advertise their own specialized project for the Earth Day celebration. Once the next meeting date is confirmed, it will be shared with partners.

## 8.6 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Update

Committee Member Guerrero presents updates regarding the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant award. Although \$9.5 million was awarded to this program, the new Administration is likely to cancel this award. Although there is uncertainty regarding the award, the deadline to provide plans for the Richmond Wellness Trail and Neighborhood Complete Streets projects is August 2025. Therefore, work will continue on these projects as if there is no award expected. Fortunately, the Richmond Wellness Trail recently received funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to cover the design work but is still working to identify funds to cover the construction costs. The priorities for each project, as dictated by community engagement, will be schools and spaces near the greenway. Both projects are working with their engineering teams to identify resource needs going forward; additional information regarding an engagement meeting for Neighborhood Complete Streets is to come.

No comments were received for this item.

## 9. AGENDA REQUESTS FOR NEXT MEETING

**Committee Member Lopez:** Can we do a committee nomination next week to confirm the addition of one or two more seat to the committee (specifically, for Youth Fellows)?

**Committee Member Guerrero:** Yes, we can. Next week we can confirm the addition of more seats to the Youth Fellows Program and we will review applications.

## 10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Committee Member Guerrero:** I want to highlight the Earth Day celebration taking place April 19<sup>th</sup> at Unity Park.

**Committee Member Gonzalez:** Florico dance events will be taking place this summer; will provide additional information regarding dates and times to come.

**Committee Member Lopez:** There will be a college/career fair at Richmond High School from 1 - 5PM on April 8<sup>th</sup>. This event is not only open to high schoolers, as the allowed age range is from 16-30 years old. Please spread the word about this event.

**Committee Member Rico:** Juneteenth Day Freedom Parade registration is now open through the Richmond Police website, and more information can be found on the City of Richmond site. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Merchants are still registering organizations for the Cinco de Mayo Street Fair. The cost to register is \$150, and each organization that signs up will receive a 10x10 space at the fair.

**Lifelong Climate Health Promoters Program Staff, Nanci Andrade:** Thank you to the partners for filling out the forms and talking more about the Climate Health Promoters Program. Emails will be sent out soon regarding partnership; recruitment is still ongoing. Climate Health Promoters Program is a 6-week program where different aspects of community health in Richmond will be discussed, then a 6-week training will follow, and lastly, a partnership with a Richmond Rising project partner will take place.

**Member of the Public:** Urban Tilth is doing cooking demonstrations and food giveaways on April 14<sup>th</sup> (partnership with Lifelong) and April 17<sup>th</sup> (partnership with Fierce Advocates).

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.