

**Special Meeting of the  
North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee  
Joint Expenditure Planning Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

Monday, October 26, 2009

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Richmond City Hall

440 Civic Center Plaza

Richmond, CA 94804

Members in Attendance:

Nathaniel Bates, **Chair** - Richmond City Councilmember

Dr. Henry Clark, Member - NRMAC Representative: Unincorporated Area

Joe Wallace, Member - NRMAC Representative: Unincorporated Area

Luz Gomez, Alternate - Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia

Johnny White, Alternate - NRMAC Representative: Unincorporated Area

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Members Absent:

Maria Viramontes, Member - Richmond City Councilmember

Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Public Comment**

Angela Moore, Center Director at Center for Human Development and Pilar Reber and Patricia Algera of Richmond Ranch spoke during open forum about the proposed and current projects and programs conducted in the North Richmond community.

**3. Approve Minutes – September 24, 2009 Meeting**

*Minutes for the July 8th 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.*

**4. Receive Reports -**

**a. Expenditure Plan Implementation Update for October 2009**

*The Committee accepted the October 2009 Implementation Update.*

**b. Tonnage & Revenue Update**

Staff reviewed the tonnage and revenue update and informed the Committee that the total actual revenue is expected to be less than the total projected revenue; however, staff will not know by exactly how much the total difference is until the final payment for 2009 is received sometime in early 2010. Staff informed the

Committee that the 2008-2009 budget was okay although actual revenue is lower than projected due to the number of strategies with unexpended funds. The Committee asked staff to provide them with a list of which unfunded projects are to be carried forward to the next Expenditure Plan cycle.

*The Committee accepted the 2008-2009 Tonnage & Revenue update.*

## **5. Action – Discuss and provide direction regarding the North Richmond Eco-Academy proposal**

Barbara Becnel, Executive Director of the Neighborhood House of North Richmond (NHNR), provided additional information to the Committee about NHNR's request to receive funding from the Committee to support an upcoming grant opportunity from Chevron for vocational training for green jobs due on October 30, 2009. Ms. Becnel reviewed the summary of the draft proposal that was provided to the Committee in their agenda packets.

Ms. Becnel requested the following from the Committee:

- To collaborate with NHNR and other entities as partners in the proposal
- Requesting \$103,000 from Strategy #17i in the 2008-2009 Expenditure Plan. This money would cover some of the cost for rehabilitation work for Phase I of North Richmond Eco Academy
- Requesting \$38,610 from Strategy #17a in the 2008-2009 Expenditure Plan. This money would cover ½ of stipend cost with matching from Chevron for work & training.

Ms. Becnel envisioned that the Community Services Coordinator would be involved in this project and that he/she would provide progress reports to community and relay community feedback/input back to the Committee.

The project with Chevron can take longer than a year to implement, so NHNR is submitting it as an 18-month project just to be sure there is adequate time.

Ms. Becnel stated that this is only Phase I of the project. NHNR is not trying to obligate the Committee to any future phases or funding, but they may come back to the Committee in the future.

Chair Bates asked if NHNR intended to use mitigation funding to supplement the amount being sought from Chevron. Ms. Becnel stated that the intent was to pursue goals using some of the funding set aside by Committee several months ago.

Alternate Gomez asked if NHNR had talked to Redevelopment yet, since a portion of the project is a capital improvement project. Ms. Becnel informed the

Committee that discussion was started but that certain problems arose regarding the bidding/solicitation process.

Member Clark stated that the Committee approved the EcoAcademy concept at the meeting in May 2009 and that it had already been approved by the City Council & Board of Supervisors.

Mayor McLaughlin asked if the County Housing Authority already provided authorization for use of the buildings and stated that the City has solar & weatherization training programs already in place. Ms. Becnel stated that she is in conversation with the County Housing Authority regarding property acquisition and knows that it will take multiple months to go through detailed/involved process with Housing Authority, but that ideally concurrently youth can be going through some life skills, job readiness training, city solar panel, weatherization-type training, etc.

The Mayor also asked about Phase 2 of the project regarding youth involvement/training and what was the plan for operating/maintaining the training component after Phase 1. Ms. Becnel stated the plan to have youth involved in Phase 1 as trainers & mentors. Funding from other sources (i.e. NHNE has a mentoring grant with approximately 2 years left that could be leveraged from HEAL grant for stipends) can also be used for stipends to allow for continued youth involvement going forward.

Member White stated that the project sounded great and that something similar was attempted by YouthBuild. He asked if County Housing Authority wanted to sell the piece of property and if so, was NHNR offering to purchase it as part of the project. He also asked about funding for future years to keep the program moving forward. Ms. Becnel stated that NHNR wants County Housing Authority to donate and not sell the property and that listed partners would be providing funding or other in-kind services and that they would look for other funding opportunities to help keep the project moving forward. Member Clark added that he understood that the County Housing Authority has pretty much given the green light (tentative support) for this at conceptual level, but not officially signed off.

Member Wallace stated that it is Important to target youth in the community and that he was impressed to see how many youth turned out to work on greenhouses and see the trust that the community youth have for Angela Moore, Center Director at Center for Human Development. Ms. Becnel stated that she would connect with Ms. Moore to explore how she can be involved in the effort. Member Wallace also mentioned the need for the inclusion of a transportation element into the proposal and that Ms. Becnel should speak with Christine Agular.

Alternate Luz suggested that the Committee consider the funding requested be allocated contingent upon NHNR receiving the Chevron funding (which should be known by end of December 2009). Chair Bates mentioned that there may be some legal requirements that would need to be considered moving forward.

*Motion:*

- *Go into joint partnership with NHNR to go for the Chevron grant,*
- *Recommend that the funding set aside the \$103K in 2008-2009 be carried over into 2010-2011 for potential allocation contingent upon approval from Chevron (expected in December 2009) plus \$38,610 for stipend program*
- *Partners should include Center for Human Development youth (15-26 years old)*
- *Authorize the Chair to sign letter of support (NHNR offered to draft)*

*The motion was approved without opposition.*

#### **6. Action – Provide direction regarding process for developing funding recommendations for new proposals under the 2010-2011 Expenditure Plan (Phase 2)**

City staff gave overview of staff report and noted that there are bullets for considerations related to the recommendation to develop an official process for new proposals. Staff stated that a number of organizations have recently requested mitigation fees from the Committee through the 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan and that staff informed the requestors that if needed, there would be an opportunity to further refine their proposals in the upcoming months.

Staff directed the Committee to a table in their packets that lists the name of the requestor, provides a brief description of the proposed project, and lists the amount requested for each proposed project. The information provided was meant to assist the Committee in determining the amount of mitigation fees, if any, that could be allocated in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan.

Due to the increased interest in mitigation funds, staff recommended that the Committee consider the creation and implementation of an official process as a means of allowing organizations to officially apply for funding on a consistent and equal basis.

It was decided that an Ad Hoc Subcommittee would be created to review the proposals after submitted to staff. Based upon volunteers, the following Committee members would be selected to serve on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee - members Gioia, Wallace and Mayor McLaughlin.

Member Clark stated that there are some groups that have been waiting to hear whether funding is forthcoming for months so he does not want to see them have to wait again for several months.

Chair Bates recommended to (1) have a notice and process open for at least 30-45 days, (2) that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee would be empowered to review/approve staff's draft Request for Proposals to aid in a release as soon as possible, and (3) the Committee could consider funding recommendations for proposals by January or February.

Two public speakers signed up to speak on this item:

1. Andy Gains, Verde Partnership Garden

Do a lot of work with K-6, kids from Richmond love to come to the garden and learning/doing things. Develop at the school (meeting with kids/parents) and then select projects within the community

2. Pilar Reber and Patricia Algera, Sunnyside Organic

Sunnyside Organic is located on 3<sup>rd</sup> & Brookside. The organization acquired some greenhouses & open land recently which used to be lettuce farming before nursery/greenhouses. They want to partner with Verde Partnership Garden. Ranch Richmond is a start-up entity that is a non-profit interested in hiring local youth such as partnering with the Center for Human Development (CHD). There is a possibility that the youth would come from CHD and Richmond Ranch would provide the land/activity. Per Committee member Wallace's suggestion, Sunnyside Organic should pursue discussions about CHD possibly acting as Fiscal Sponsor/Agent.

Member Clark stated that staff should contact Mr. Kevin Adkinson regarding the B.A.L.L. Project in order to address issues due to him abandoning a project he started.

**7. Receive Presentation(s) – Verbal update(s) about mitigation funded strategies**

Staff provided brief updates on a variety of strategies.

Cece Selgram from Flood Control reported that the FEMA mapping project was still in progress, Flood Control is engaging with FEMA to make sure they consider natural barriers, and that the County is trying to fight the good fight. A state grant is now moving forward in order to prove that the levees are up to specifications. There may be a need to employ youth through YAEC to conduct vegetative work using NRMF funds so that surveys can be conducted and to develop hydrological models.

Dr. Clark asked about the Community Flood Control report that was provided at the North Richmond MAC meeting regarding whether North Richmond is included in the flood plain. He stated that he wants clarity on the process.

Barbara Becnel from the Neighborhood House of North Richmond (NHNR) provided an update on the Community Services Coordinator (CSC) position. The CSC job opportunity was posted on Craigslist and also sent e-mails to various neighborhood organizations (copy will be provided to Committee members). Flyers planned to be distributed at Senior Center and other areas. NHNR is already receiving some interest and applications on the job announcement. The deadline to apply for the CSC job is 5pm on November 9, 2009. NHNR will do initial reviews of the applications to determine which applicants meet the minimum qualifications. Dr. Clark, Supervisor Gioia and Mayor McLaughlin were designated to participate on the final review panel.

**8. Action – Consider approving recommended 2010-2011 Preliminary Expenditure Plan to be submitted for final approval by the City and County (Phase 1)**

Staff gave a brief verbal report of this item based on the staff report provided in the agenda packets. Staff reminded the Committee that at their meeting on September 24, 2009 meeting, the Committee discussed a preliminary budget and listing of recommended strategies for the 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan and provided direction to staff regarding the allocation of funds to cover the entire cost of strategies involving mitigation-funded staff; however, a Committee member raised a concern that a large percentage of funding in Phase 1 is dedicated to staff positions.

Staff explained the phased approach to developing the 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan which involved:

Phase 1: Development of a Preliminary 2010-2011 Expenditure Plan budget based solely on the amount of Mitigation Fee funding expected to be collected in 2010 and 2011 projections (currently estimated to be a total of \$1,177,611) and does not include any funding received in 2008-2009.

Phase 2: Development of recommendations for allocation of any of the funding that may remain from the 2008-2009 Expenditure Plan would occur in Spring 2010, which would be treated as a proposed Amendment to supplement the initial budget established for the Preliminary 2010-2011 Expenditure Plan.

Staff informed the Committee that the Preliminary 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan would have to be brought before the Richmond City Council and County Board of Supervisors for approval before the end of 2009.

Staff shared with the Committee the remaining timeline for development of 2010/2011 Expenditure Plan which included consideration and final adoption of recommended amendments to 2010-2011 Expenditure Plan with additional funding allocations during one of these regularly scheduled Committee meetings in April or July 2010.

*The Committee approved approving recommended 2010-2011 Preliminary Expenditure Plan to be submitted for final approval by the City and County prior to January 1, 2010 (Phase 1)*

**9. Action – Provide direction regarding meeting schedule for 2010**

The next regularly scheduled meeting date was tentatively set for the week of January 25, 2010 with a possible meeting date for Wednesday, January 27, 2010 from 3:00pm – 5:00pm

**10. Adjourn**

The Committee adjourned the meeting at 4:59PM.