



RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL
"BUILDING NEIGHBORHOODS BLOCK BY BLOCK"
"...of the people, by the people, for the people"

2004

P. O. Box 485 - Richmond, CA 94808 - (510) 620-6512

Eleanor Loynd
President

February 1, 2005

Sandi Genser-Maack
Vice-President

Mayor Anderson & City Council Members
Richmond City Hall
1401 Marina Way South
Richmond, CA 94804

By Fax & Mail
Fax: 620-6542

Rhonda F. Harris
Treasurer

Donald L. Woodrow
Corresponding Secretary

Re: Planning Retreat Jan. 29, 2005

Jerry Yoshida
Sergeant-at-Arms

Dear Mayor & Council Members,

Doris R. Brown
Public Information Officer

I was at the retreat on Jan. 29. There were about 50-60 people in attendance. The meeting went well until the last 20 minutes when everything just started to fall apart. Here are some of the problems.

George H. Schmidt
Rev. Andre Shurnake
Naomi Williams
Directors-At-Large

1. The retreat was not on the city's website. WCCUSD Board Member Karen Fenton mentioned this problem at the meeting.
2. There were 7 City Council members in attendance. During the last 15 minutes, Mr. Cromartie asked the Council members to move up front so they could vote on Initiative #4. The City Attorney said that they could not vote, but that Mr. Cromartie could poll the Council. I do not think that even polling the Council was appropriate. Because there were no microphones, those in attendance could not hear the comments made by Council members. (See Note)
3. I stood up and requested a "Point of Information". I was ignored. I wanted to know if the audience was going to take part in the polling.
4. The agenda item was described as "Consensus & Action Taken on Proposals #1-2". The residents and business people in attendance were never asked to show their consensus for or against any of the 3 listed proposals. That was a major mistake.
5. The City Council was asked to vote or express their opinions in a poll of Initiative #4. Initiative #4 was not part of the packet which listed the initiatives.

Neighborhood Councils

- Achison Village
- Belding/Woods
- Carriage Hills North
- Carriage Hills South
- Coronado
- Cortez/Stege
- Countryside
- East Richmond
- Eastshore
- Sobornitz Hills
- Fairmeade/Hilltop
- Greenbriar
- Greenridge
- Hilltop Green
- Hilltop Villages
- Iron Triangle
- Laurel Park
- Marina Bay
- May Valley
- North & East
- Panhandle Annex
- Parchester Village
- Park Plaza
- Parkview
- Point Richmond
- Pullman
- Quail Hill
- Richmond Annex
- Richmore Vill./Met. Square
- Santa Fe
- Shields-Reid
- Southwest Annex

Note: In the West County Times of 1/30, on page 32 "Politics", "The law only prohibits private gatherings of a quorum of a board or the polling of its members as a means to sidestep the open meeting rules."

I think that the City Council members should again ask for a written description, from the City Attorneys, on what kinds of action they can take at public or private meeting such as this.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Loynd
Eleanor Loynd, RNCC President

cc: Mr. Cromartie, Plan. Mgr. City Attorney City Mgr.