Richmond Annex Neighborhood Council

Draft General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Board Members Present:

- President - Andres Jimenez, present
- Vice President - Marlene Arata, present
- 2nd Vice President - unfilled
- Treasurer - Tom Hoffman, present
- Secretary - Mary McDonald, absent
- Board Members - Chip Gribble, present, and Dave Harris, present

RANC Officer Reports:

- DECISION: David Evans moved approval of the August 27 RANC meeting minutes, seconded by Kate Pennington. Unanimous vote for approval. PASSED.
- *RNCC Report (Garland Ellis):*
    - The Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council is an umbrella organization for all Richmond neighborhood councils.
    - Oct 24—Fall Festival at Nichol Park, 12-2pm, games, displays, pumpkin displays, animal farm. Same date—Floating Pumpkin Patch at the Richmond Plunge, do have to sign up
    - Disabled & wish to have a blue designated curb painted outside of your home?—Richmond City does that for you. Contact them
    - RNCC—website is being upgraded, and other websites can be linked
    - CAG (Citizens Advisory Group for Zeneca)—digging holes between now & January by the Bay Trail, injecting chemical to cause the heavy metals to solidify and not seep into the Bay. California Ridgeway's rail on the endangered species list isn't breeding between now & January, so that gives the window for this project; lots of rain will impact the ability to do this work. Report due out addressing radiation at Zeneca
- *Treasurers Report (given by Andres tonight)*
    - Recent Expenditures—new website (up & running)—$224 ($400 budgeted); Block Party— $2354 actual ($2700 budgeted)

El Cerrito/Richmond Annex Walk & Roll (Janet & Steve Byron)

- San Pablo Avenue is a high injury zone (lots of pedestrian & bicycle crashes). San Pablo Avenue is technically a state highway, under the jurisdiction of CalTrans**.** The state highway portion ends at Cutting, where it goes onto I-80. Also, a high number of T-intersections on San Pablo.
    - Bikeway battles in El Cerrito—Folks ask, "Hey, why can't bikes and pedestrians use the Ohlone Greenway?" Answer—it doesn't go everywhere that folks want to go.
    - A Richmond Annex resident named Donna Revecho died at Waldo and San Pablo in December 2025, from being hit in a crosswalk.
    - Local Road Safety plan was passed in El Cerrito a few weeks ago.
    - CalTrans has a repaving project for San Pablo Avenue, including better crosswalks, better lighting, flashing beacons at crosswalks, narrow travel lanes to 10 feet. $13M project.
    - San Pablo Avenue Safety and Access Project. Hearings & workshops will be announced soon.

- Crosstown Connect. An El Cerrito project. $8M from BART to link schools, etc., from BART to the Bay Trail safely with a new Bikeway. Go to https://www.elcerrito.gov/638/Circulation-Plan-for-Bicyclists-Pedestri for more information.
- I-80/Central Ave Interchange Project—3 traffic circulation changes proposed. Construction expected to start Summer 2027, and last 3 years. Done deal.
- I-80/Bike/Ped Underpass Project-- $2.5M cost. Scheduled for 2027.
- Adams Street/Cerrito Creek crossing from Carlson—recommend a road diet to narrow the road and provide more space for pedestrians and cyclists. Planning grant funds have been obtained and a public planning process will be initiated in 2027.
- Richmond's capital improvement dashboard—dashboard of every capital improvement process going on in Richmond—https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/158/Capital-Improvement-Program
- El Cerrito/Richmond Annex Walk & Roll contact info—website at https://www.ecrawalkroll.org/ , email at info@ecrawalkroll.org. They meet every other 2nd Wednesday. Next meeting is October 15.

City Reports:

- *Richmond Police* – (deferred for tonight)
- *Public Works Capital Improvements*—hoping for them to come to a future meeting. Ideas to bring up include a stop sign at San Luis & Sacramento, a bike path from the Bay Trail to Costco, missing curbs (RANC has a map) & storm drains.

Project & Committee Updates:

- *Traffic Committee* – September meeting was cancelled. 61 traffic survey responses so far (hyper local a bit so far). A map of the concerns will be brought to the next meeting. Hope to continue to gather survey responses, build coalitions, and speak at an upcoming City Council meeting on a unified ask. Richmond will only listen to us if we have data, so the survey responses are very important.
    - Working on finding a new meeting time, other than third Tuesdays of the month. Meetings are at the Red Oak office— 7502 Fairmount Ave, El Cerrito. Go to info@richmond-annex.org to get on the email list. Fill out the Traffic Survey to help identify traffic concerns of the community. Some concerns brought up at the meeting were issues on Columbia Avenue which is a Safe Routes to School street, and also uncontrolled intersections in parts of the Annex.
- *Event Planning*
    - Block Party will be on Saturday 9/26 from 11 to 3. Live music, bouncy house, food truck, shave ice machine, popcorn machine, scavenger hunt, book swap, local artists & talent. All volunteers are welcome to help.
- *Digitization* - the RANC web site is up! Go to: https://richmond-annex.org/
- *History* - the history committee has started to compile a history of the Annex and plans to have a booth at the block party. Members can view historical documents we have compiled at Annex History. The Senior Center also has pictures to share.
    - David Evans shared about an article that he wrote for RichmondSide on his interviews of Bob Gerner, founder and general manager of The Natural Grocery Company, which includes El Cerrito Natural and the Prepared Foods Annex. Bob grew up in the house next to the Senior Center in the Richmond Annex
- *Beautification Committee* – New labels have been placed next to the native plants at Huntington Park. Also, a survey will be forthcoming to ask about what people would like to see at the Park. Community input data will help us organize. Love Your Block

grants help neighborhoods make a difference.

- *CERT* – Chip Gribble shared that the forecast is for a really wet winter. ARkStorm was the original forecasting group, focused on past mega storms. ArkStorm 2.0 started in ~2015. The forecast for this winter is a record. To prepare, we could post info on the richmond-annex.org website for reporting localized flooding, blocked storm drains, etc., and report these timely as neighbors when we see problems developing. Consider having potable water stocked up at home in case our water system floods. Richmond will supply 10 sandbags to use—Corporation Yard at Ohio or fire station at Bay View are where you can get these. More info on forecasts at www.weatherwest.com.

Community News and Notices:

- Community Resources
  i. Senior Center - Monthly Calendar: https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/69655/ANNEX-CALENDAR

     Sign up to volunteer at https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/forms.aspx?FID=167

  ii. Recreation Department - https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3452/Recreation-Programs
- Richmond Shoreline Alliance - www.richmondshorelinealliance.org
  i. Monthly meetings on 3rd Wednesday, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, sign up on website above or email info@RichmondShorelineAlliance.org

  ii. Toxic Tour at Zeneca site - June 27 & 28, 11:30-1, sign up: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf4lRZFS309Hb0KcPxGwLGm9wjpkmleGHUGrM2Hzvjq6bOTZg/viewform
- City of Richmond app: use to see events, city notifications, and report issues such as potholes:
  i. iPhone app: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/city-of-richmond-ca/id1556904637
  ii. Android app: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.civicapps.richmondca

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 29 (final general meeting of the year)