

Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 03, 2021 6:00 PM



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- **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Maryn Hurlbut at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was delayed due to technical difficulties.

- **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Maryn Hurlbut, Joey Smith, Brendan Havenar-Daughton, Soheila Bana, Allison Blakeley, Eleanor Thompson, Remi Payne, Pardip Saini

- **AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION**

- There were no changes to the published agenda

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS & REPORTS THROUGH THE CHAIR**

1. The next Commission Roundtable work session will be held on February 9, 2021
2. Next Commission meeting- Wednesday, March 3, 2021 will be held in a Zoom meeting
3. Currently \$413.08 in the Commission Trust Account
4. Membership Changes: none
5. Anyone wishing to speak during this meeting must send an e-mail to rec.parkscommission@gmail.com by 6 pm the day of the meeting with subject line = "rec&parks commission speaker" and state your comments and "Open Forum" or "Staff Reports" as example of topic to be discussed. You will be given "call in" instructions in a return e-mail.
6. Remembering Black History Month
7. Farewell and following winds to Yader Bermudez, Public Works Director
8. Ethics Training reminder to complete
9. December- February Commissioner Birthday shout outs to Chair Hurlbut and Commissioners Blakeley and Saini
10. Brown Act- found online, review updates.

- **OPEN FORUM**

- There was only one speaker for Open Forum.

Garry Hurlbut, the President of Richmond Tennis Association (RTA) shared with the Commission that after several months of not being able to play tennis due to COVID-19 restrictions, they were finally able to play at Nicholl Park on Tuesday night. He went on to say that they had a great time practicing and appreciated to be back. He was pleased to say that because of the restrictions and closure imposed by the Recreation Division, they have zero cases of Covid-19 infections. He thanked the Recreation Division for working with them to keep the people active and safe. He added that they are very anxious to get back on the courts.

He also shared that RTA is applying for the ECIA grants to refinish and resurface other tennis courts in Richmond. Chair Maryn Hurlbut thanked Garry Hurlbut for his service to our community. On Commissioner Joey Smith's question about the Hilltop Green Tennis Courts,

Garry Hurlbut responded that they are in the process of replacing the nets and resurfacing the courts.

- **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- APPROVE – January 13, 2020 minutes

Chair Hurlbut called for a motion to accept the minutes. Moved by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Saini, the minutes passed unanimously.

- **AD HOC REPORTS-** Chair Maryn Hurlbut mentioned that very little was done on these items and ask that the people on the top of the list to please be prepared to give a short statement on the March Meeting- where these AD HOCs stand and what is the plan for the next quarter..

- Associate Commissioner Program – in legal
- Online Recreation & Parks Commission operations guidelines created by commissioners – on hold
- Creation of “Walk of Honor” as collaboration – Concept Paper – in progress with Pogo Park
- Creation of tree planting locations for spring 2021 – Commissioner Liaison Report – on hold
- Create new business cards for Joey, Remi, and Brendan. Eleanor and Allison- cards ready for printer
- Create monitoring protocol for temperature & humidity at the Plunge- being addressed by Public Works

- **STAFF REPORTS**

- Public Works Department – oral & visual report provided by Jose Urquilla, Superintendent of Facilities and Greg Hardesty, Superintendent, Parks and Landscaping
- Library & Community Services Department – oral & visual report provided by Ranjana Maharaj, Community Services Administrative Manager. Ms. Maharaj introduced the new Interim Library and Community Services Director, Jim Nantell, to the Commission. Mr. Nantell shared his experience with the Commission and indicated he looked forward to working with them.

- **PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, & ACTION ITEMS**

Darlene Drapkin, USAPA Ambassador and associates Debra Bernhardt and Cathy Taruskin provided an overview of the sport, Pickleball, with the Commission. They shared pictures of the community’s involvement in Pickball. They said there is growing interest in this sport since it can be played indoors as well as outdoors. They said this sport not only provides positive results for a cleaner environment and supports physical health, but this sport also comes with a very minimal cost. She said this is a popular sport because it is a multi-generational sport that can be played by youths and adults alike.

Ms. Drapkin informed the Commission that BTA Park hosted a Pickleball day on November 20, 2020. She said that the Love your Block Grant helped establish the BTA Park Pickleball. They are looking to apply for the ECIA Grant in collaboration with the Richmond Tennis Association (RTA). Their hope is that RTA would help with converting an existing tennis court to make it a multi-purpose court and by painting Pickleball lines. Ms. Drapkin said she is also hoping to collaborate with other organizations such as RPAL, Neighborhood Councils, Weigh of Life, etc. to promote Health and Wellness.

Interim Library and Community Services Director, Jim Nantell, said he was involved with Pickleball sports in 1973 and shared pictures of him and Mr. Pickle in his (their) pickle costume with the Commission.

- **Commissioner Liaison Reports**

- Chair Hurlbut asked Ranjana Maharaj regarding updates on Snow Ball. Ms. Maharaj reported that there were only 6 participants for the 2020 Snowball. She said that once staff receives information regarding the participant’s school, she will be able to share with the Commission when the monetary awards can be given out. She said she will provide a report at the March Commission meeting.
- Chair Hurlbut thanked Brendan Havenar-Daughton for his technical support, especially since the Commission had experienced some technical problems at the start of the Commission meeting.

- **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- **Chair Hurlbut**

- Reported that she is working on getting the broken button for the drinking fountain at the Veteran's Park fixed.
- Said that the Commission is working on the Bylaws which would be reviewed at the next roundtable meeting.

- **Comm. Smith**

- Reported that the Tennis Courts at Hilltop Green is in bad condition. Garry Hurlbut said he will look into it.
- Said due to the recent weather, the parks are looking extremely green.

- **Comm. Bana**

- Said that she emailed her report to the Commissioners so there was nothing to add.

- **Comm. Saini**

- Said that life is coming back to normal at parks since people are using the parks.

- **Comm. Blakeley**

- Reported that there were fewer activities at parks due to the weather conditions.

- **Comm. Branden Havenar-Daughton**

- Said that he will reach out to Greg to discuss potential tree planting in the Hilltop district.

- **Chair Hurlbut**

- **ACTION ITEMS RECAP**

- No action items.

- **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM RECOMMENDATIONS**

- From previous commission meetings:
 - Presentations on any of the ad hoc committee completions
 - Commission Business Plan
 - Budgets
 - Bylaws

- **ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Helen Mirabella, Office Specialist