

Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 6:00 PM



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

Meeting called to order by Chair Hurlbut at 6:02 p.m.

- **ROLL CALL**

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

Chair Hurlbut provided a brief overview of the meeting procedures and informed the attendees that due to the large number of speakers, they would be allowed one minute to speak on an item.

- **AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION**

- There were no changes to the published agenda.
- Commissioner Bana made a motion to change the order of the agenda to hear the disc golf item after the Open Forum. This item was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS & REPORTS THROUGH THE CHAIR**

1. The May 11th Commission Roundtable is cancelled.
2. The Next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 via ZOOM
3. Currently \$413.80 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 12 pm the day of the meeting with subject line -“rec&parcs commission speaker” and state your comments and “Open Forum” or “Staff Reports” as example of topic to be discussed.
6. If you need an interpreter at this meeting, call 510-620-6793 at least seven calendar days before the meeting.
7. The Snowball award checks have been mailed out to the recipients. She thanked staff Sharolyn Babb and Mapuana Bal for facilitating this event. Snowball received a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 that will be used towards the 2021 Snowball recipient awards.
8. The Commission needs to revisit the priority list of action items that are still pending to re-prioritize the items.

- **OPEN FORUM**

- Garry Hurlbut announced that he and Maryn Hurlbut are launching a new 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization called the Hurlbut Benevolent Fund to support their long term goals of giving back to the Richmond community. This means that both Garry and Maryn will be stepping down from their active roles in the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council and Recreation and Parks Commission respectively. They will continue to keep their current roles with the Richmond Tennis Association (RTA) and Hurlbut Tennis and Garden Park.
- Leisa Johnson made comments that Commissioners and Councilmembers should allow for representatives from both sides of a hotly debated agenda item to present and participate in the question and answer sessions. She encouraged the Commission and new officers who will be serving on the

Commission to draft and adopt a policy to guide future processes on controversial agenda items. She asked that city staff provide more improved guidance to the boards and commissions so that they can carry out their duties to the best of their abilities.

- Councilmember Nat Bates made comments that the way the agenda is written creates a violation of the Brown Act. He said the agenda states that if someone wishes to speak during open forum is required to send an email requesting to speak. This means that people who don't have access to computers are not being accommodated. He suggested that individuals who wished to participate in the meeting should be allowed to do so by allowing them to call in the day of the meeting. He suggested that the city attorney should advise the Commission on the proper process on this issue.

- **ACTION ITEMS:**

Hilltop Lake Park Proposal to construct disc golf course with vote – East Bay Golf Club. Receive Staff Presentation and take action to recommend to the City Council: deny, approve the proposal, or appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to prepare for further review at a future Commission meeting.

Commissioner Bana opened this item by stating that the Commission had already heard from people who represented opinions for and against this issue and requested an opportunity to vote on this item. Assistant City Attorney, James Atencio, reminded the Commission that since this item was listed under the action item where a staff is supposed to present a report, he said the Commission should allow for the staff report, discussion and public participation prior to voting.

Library and Community Services Director, Jim Nantell, said the Commission was provided with a staff report relative to this item which provided a timeline of actions leading to the work in preparation for the construction of the disc golf. This was in response to questions from the Commission and the public as to how did we go so far down the road with creating a disc golf course. He said all the documents are made available on the website for anyone to access.

Mr. Nantell said there were some questions raised regarding the revising of the agenda and he wanted to clarify the reasons behind it. He said that the Chair had indicated that she had appointed an ad hoc committee at the last meeting in preparation for the discussion of this item. He explained that if that was the Chair's intention, under the Brown Act Law, the appointment of the ad hoc committee would need to happen at a public meeting where the agenda calls for this action. He added that if that is still the intent, then the appointment could be made at this meeting. Given that this action had not been stated on the posted agenda, in order to move this item into an actionable item, the City Attorney's Office advised staff to make the change. Therefore, it was necessary to revise the agenda.

Mr. Nantell added that it is clear that there is a need to establish a clear policy on how to process the types of requests such as the construction of the disc golf. He said staff will develop policy documents for the Commission and Council review and approval.

The Commission opened comments from the public on this item.

The following speakers spoke in favor of the Disc Golf Course:

- Jonathan Braidman said that at the last meeting, they were told a specific process would be provided to them to address this project, but they had not received any information on that. Regardless of that, the East Bay Disc Golf Club has decided that at this point they do not have a desire to push forward with this project or devote their volunteers, donors, the donor's time and funds on a project if most people surrounding the park oppose it even if the Commission approved this item. He stated that residents from this area have been misled about the information on disc golf. He invited the Commission and people who are interested about this sport to join them at a park where they are playing to witness the sport activity.
- Scott Riley gave comments in support of the Disc Golf Course at Hilltop Lake Park.

The following speakers spoke in opposition of the Disc Golf Course:

- Lauren Lober gave comments in opposition to the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Elsa Stevens gave comments in opposition of the Disc Golf Course construction.
- Janice Wickland gave comments in opposition of the Disc Golf Course construction.
- David Sharpels gave comments in opposition to construction of the Disc golf Course.
- Rosie Sorenson gave comments against the construction of Disc Golf Course.
- Kurt Jensen gave comments against the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Anita Carswell gave comments in opposition of the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Robin **5174 gave comments against the building of a Disc Gold Course at Hilltop Lake Park.
- James **2352 gave comments in opposition to the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Elaine Dockens gave comments in opposition to the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Patricia Aguilar gave comments in opposition of the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Janet Vanwork gave comments in opposition of the construction of the Disc Golf Course.

The following speaker gave a general comment on the item:

- Leisa Johnson gave comments that the documents prepared by the Committee to preserve the Hilltop Lake Park and presentations should be uploaded on the city's website for access by the public.

After Commissioner comments on this matter, the Chair called for a motion. Commissioner Bana made a motion to recommend to City Council to deny this item if it is presented to them for their review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion carried with all Commissioners voting yes on this item.

Work on and set priorities for meeting on May 11

Commissioner Smith motioned to table this item to the June meeting. Commissioner Havenar-Daughton seconded the item. The motion passed.

- **APPROVE – April 7, 2021 minutes**

Chair Hurlbut called for a motion to accept the minutes. Moved by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Payne, the motion passed with Commissioner Havenar-Daughton abstaining.

- **AD HOC REPORTS**

- Associate Commissioner Program – With CSD & Legal since resolution to council 2019
- Walk of Honor – Awaiting draft of kiosk concept to Pogo Park et al – Maryn Hurlbut
- UFAC/Commission - new tree planting 7 event share – Brendan Havenar-Daughton
- Disc Golf Data Collection Committee – Brendan Havenar-Daughton

- **STAFF REPORTS**

- The Commission welcomed Joe Leach, the new Public Works Director. Mr. Leach introduced himself and provided some background information about him.
- Public Works Department – oral & visual report provided by Jose Urquilla, Superintendent of Facilities and Visual Report provided by Greg Hardesty, Superintendent, Parks and Landscaping
- Library & Community Services Department – oral & visual report provided by Ranjana Maharaj, Community Services Administrative Manager and Stephanie Ny, Associate Administrative Analyst.

- **PRESENTATIONS**

Procedure for Nominating Officers to the Recreation & Parks Commission During the month of May, 2021 (Officer Posts are Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) – Joey Smith, Vice Chair

Vice Chair Smith provided an overview of the procedure for the nomination of officers. She said the nominations are open to be received until 5:00pm on Thursday, May 13th. The elections will be held at the June 2, 2021 Commission meeting and the new officers will be in office starting on the July 14th meeting.

▪ **COMMISSIONER LIASON REPORTS**

▪ **Comm. Hurlbut**

- Spent a lot of time responding to emails regarding disc golf.
- Said the Plunge garden looks gorgeous and invited the commissioners to check it out.

▪ **Comm. Smith**

- Spent a lot of time reading the materials on disc golf.
- Participated on the Hilltop Lake Park tour to check out the concerns on the construction of the disc golf course.
- Bike lanes could benefit with street sweeping because rocks from the asphalt are coming onto the bike lanes.
- Visited Nevin Park which seemed to be used peacefully by park users with minimal trash issue.
- Visited Veterans Memorial Park where she noticed some large palm fronds on the ground. She noticed the water fountain was working really well. She noticed the lids to the ground boxes needing replacement.
- Visited Boyd Park and witnessed a family practicing batting. She noticed the grass area is not wet anymore.
- Visited Civic Center Park which is looking good.
- The big belly in front of the post office was vandalized.

▪ **Comm. Havenar-Daughton**

- Would like to thank Stephanie Ny and team for the LYB grants. He served on the panel to review grant proposals.
- Thanked Greg Hardesty for sharing information regarding FAC and the ad hoc committee to coordinate Arbor Day.
- Created a tree planting form using Google Forms. This seems to be a better version of the tool. Looking forward to receiving feedback to see how it works out.
- Requested the business card template from Ranjana Maharaj.

▪ **Comm. Blakeley**

- Researched disc golf. Spoke to her brother who is a professional golfer regarding disc golf and whether it would be appropriate to offer disc golf at venues such as the Richmond County Club.
- Need signage regarding dogs on leashes at parks. It might be helpful to have the Animal Control number on the signs.

▪ **Comm. Saini**

- Visited BTA Park and noticed people enjoying basketball and other activities at the park.
- Spoke to Scott Riley regarding disc golf.

▪ **Comm. Thompson**

- Spent some time reading and responding to emails regarding disc golf.
- She thanked the Commission for voting on a decision regarding disc golf.

▪ **ACTION ITEMS RECAP**

- Letter from Community Services to City Council regarding the decision and recommendation from the Commission.

▪ **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Management of the Roundtable meeting-Jim Nantell and City Attorney's Office

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Ranjana Maharaj,
Community Services Administrative Manager