

**From:** Janis Hashe <[openlinescom@gmail.com](mailto:openlinescom@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:03 PM

**To:** Joey Smith <[ms.ids4rec.parkscommission@gmail.com](mailto:ms.ids4rec.parkscommission@gmail.com)>; Catalin Kaser <[ckaser.recparks@gmail.com](mailto:ckaser.recparks@gmail.com)>; Ranjana Maharaj <[Ranjana\\_Maharaj@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:Ranjana_Maharaj@ci.richmond.ca.us)>

Good afternoon,

I wanted to share this support letter we received from Bram Begonia, CEO/President of the Bay Area Rescue Mission. Since we will not have time to present the entire message at tonight's meeting, I hope that this can be entered into the meeting notes. Although Mr. Begonia refers to the park under its former name, I know from speaking with him that he is aware of the park's name change.

best wishes,

Janis Hashe

for Friends of Richard J. Boyd Park



**Bram Begonia**

Hi Janis,

We fully support any improvements to Atchison Village Park and those seeking to improve the amenities at this property.

The Bay Area Rescue Mission is the largest provider of homeless services in Contra Costa County. Our twofold purpose is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and empower the homeless to change their world. On top of the many guests we serve in our emergency shelter, we have a year-long life transformation program. This program truly transforms the lives of the least and the lost. We have so many amazing and miraculous success stories of men, women, children, and families whose lives have been transformed for generations to come! The students in this program learn many skills in our holistic program, where we focus on improving the mind, body, and spirit of each student.

We are opening the Bridge of Hope, a center for women and children in the next few months, which will serve an additional 114 women and children and will be a safe haven and place of hope for these families. We are happy to serve and house as many of our unhoused neighbors as we can.

Unfortunately, we don't have the space or facilities for physical fitness, group, and team building activities, which is why our students utilize the great facilities at PAL, which is 20 city blocks away from the dorm and Atchison Park. The students exercise, walk, and do team sports at the park

whenever they can. Any upgrades to this wonderful public space would be a benefit to the community and to our program, particularly to the students trying to become self-sufficient again.

We join you in supporting any improvements that will help us better serve our community and bring quality amenities to our neighborhood.

Thank you for your work on this most important project.

My Best,

**Bram Begonia** | CEO / President  
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