

Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 6:00 PM



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CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order by Chair Joey Smith at 6:00 P.M. who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Joey Smith, Sohelia Bana*, Allison Blakeley, Brendan Havenar-Daughton, Maryn Hurlbut, Catalin Kaser, Aaron Rowden, and Eleanor Thompson

*Arrived after Roll Call

ABSENT: None

Chair Smith requested that the Commission embrace a genuine acknowledgement that the City of Richmond was situated on land that was previously and currently occupied and cared for by First Peoples, the Huichin: Confederated Villages of Lisjan, Chochenyo Ohlone Territory, made up of the seven Tribes of Lisjan (Ohlone), Karkin (Ohlone), Bay Miwok, Plains Miwok, Wappo, Delta Yokut and Napian (Patwin) whose territory included Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Napa and San Joaquin counties. The intent is to relentlessly identify and pursue opportunities for genuine engagement with local indigenous communities to understand indigenous struggles, needs and goals, with a specific focus on exploring pathways to return indigenous lands to indigenous hands. Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton, added the importance of reflecting on our work to ensure we are contributing to and in alignment with the goals of our indigenous neighbors and Community members.

Chair Smith provided a brief overview of the meeting procedures and the Mission of the Recreation and Parks Commission.

AGENDA REVIEW

Motion by Commissioner Hurlbut to approve the agenda, seconded by Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

OPEN FORUM

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, noted his understanding that the Mayor would make an appointment to the

Commission in the near future. He invited Commissioners to a performance of *As You Like It* at the Masquer's Playhouse on Friday and Saturday at 8:00 P.M., \$30 per person, proof of vaccination required. Mr. Hindler also invited Commissioners to attend the Council of Industries general meeting on February 16 at 11:30 A.M. when Mayor Tom Butt will present an update of the City's 2021 activities as we move forward into 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR

1. Chair Smith advised that the Next Commission meeting would be held on March 2, 2022 via Zoom.
2. The balance in the Commission Trust account was reported to be \$413.08, with an additional \$1,000 in the Trust for the RTA Snow Ball account.
3. There were no membership changes.
4. Anyone wishing to speak during this meeting was encouraged to send an email to recreation@ci.richmond.ca.us by 1:00 P.M. the day of the meeting. Emails must contain in the subject line 1) Public Comments – Open Forum; or 2) Public Comments agenda item # [include the agenda item number].

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Minutes of the January 12, 2022 Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Hurlbut to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2022 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Rowden, and carried by a voice vote, with an abstention by Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton due to absence.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Ranjana Maharaj reported that she had been appointed as the Deputy Director of Recreation on December 1, 2021, and that all Deputy Directors for the Divisions in the Community Services Department (CSD) had also been appointed.

Public Works: Facilities

The report from Jose Urquilla, Superintendent of Facilities, was provided verbally and visually by Ms. Maharaj.

Parks & Landscaping Divisions:

The report from Greg Hardesty, Superintendent of Parks & Landscaping, was provided verbally and visually. Mr. Hardesty reported he was still working on the ordinance regarding dog leash and waste pickup by park users. He responded to questions from the Commission, some of which related to the not-currently-being-maintained putting green and the lack of resources to maintain it.

UPDATE on Park Signage to include the following information:

- i. Ordinance regarding dog leash and waste pickup by park users
- ii. Posting multilingual signage (English/Spanish)
- iii. Signage regarding illegal dumping
- iv. Signage with QR Codes

Community Services Division:

Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director, CSD, provided an extensive oral and visual report and responded to comments from the Commission.

Commissioner Hurlbut responded to a portion of Ms. Maharaj's report where staff and members had waited late into the night at the last City Council meeting to support the Juneteenth Freedom Mural Project that had been placed on that agenda but which had been continued to the next meeting due to the lateness of the hour. She stated in the past an item that had been approved by the Recreation & Park Commission would be presented on the City Council Consent Calendar. She recommended that the same process be pursued with the City Council in the future.

Ms. Maharaj advised that the Willie Mays' Day celebration would be considered by the City Council at its February 15, 2022 meeting.

Commissioner Kaser requested a simple flow chart to show how things moved between the Recreation & Parks Commission and the City Council.

PRESENTATIONS: None

AD HOC COMMITTEE STATEMENTS

Sustainability and Climate Responsiveness Committee (Brendan/Catalin/Maryn)

Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton reported he would be meeting with Mr. Hardesty with respect to the Richmond Greenway, and he and Commissioner Kaser had been continuing to populate a laundry list of the stakeholders engaged in the improvement of the Greenway, putting together some strategies of how to engage the public, highlight the work, and how they might update the master plan with a specific focus on the Greenway.

Commissioner Kaser referred to Safe Routes Partnership, a national non-profit that provided resources to help communities create safe routes for walking, biking and rolling, and now safe routes to parks. She also referred to asphalt art (murals on asphalt) about beautifying pavement and using it to reclaim space, redefine space, make statements and create a sense of place. She would pass the safe routes to parks information along to Ms. Maharaj.

Willie Mays' Day (Maryn/Eleanor/Joey)

Willie Mays Field Committee (Maryn/Eleanor/Joey)

Kiosk Concept Paper for a "Walk of Honor" Committee (Maryn/Eleanor/Joey)

Commissioner Hurlbut asked for a future meeting item to combine Willie Mays' Day, Willie Mays Field Committee and the Kiosk Concept Paper for a "Walk of Honor" Committee into one Ad Hoc Committee entitled *Willie Mays Day Project* given that they were all being considered as one set of dependent items. She reported the summary of all three was that the set up was ongoing and on time, everyone involved had been identified, there had been initial conversations, everyone seemed excited about what was going on, and the Deputy Director was supportive of the project plan. She listed a number of the stakeholders involved in the City and the Giants organization, among others, emphasized the need to keep all involved, and advised of a task list to keep the process moving given the limited time before Willie Mays' Day.

Associate Commissioner Committee (Maryn/Allison/Joey)

Commissioner Hurlbut noted that the follow-up meeting had not yet been scheduled and she would schedule a catch up meeting with Dominique Roache-Green to get direction on how to proceed.

Ms. Maharaj recommended focusing on the Willie Mays project for now and deferring the Associate Commissioner Committee pending the completion of the Willie Mays event.

Statement of Policy and Guidelines for Naming or Re-naming of Parks, Facilities and Streets

Commissioner Hurlbut noted that over the last few years some communications had gotten lost in the shuffle between the City Council policies and procedures and the Commission's policies and procedures. As a result, she had asked to have a meeting set up with the key players and the committee to clarify the procedures.

DISCUSSIONS & ACTION ITEMS

- a. **APPROVE** Installation of a Sculpture in the Grassy Area Near the Entrance to the Richmond Art Center – Winifred Day, Arts and Culture Commission

Chair Smith noted that the item was not being discussed at this time pending communication from Winifred Day.

- b. **COORDINATE** Open Conversation on How the City can Support the Native Stewardship of Ookwe Park:

Commissioner Havenar-Daughton reported that they were working to get contact information for the Chairs of the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission and the Planning Commission along with their respective staff members. He reported that the Sogorea Te' Land Trust had been responsive and interested in a conversation and there could potentially be 8-10 people involved with all four groups. Once everyone's contact information was available a draft agenda would be circulated. He would report out to the Commission any outcomes from the meeting along with any potential action items and next steps.

- v. Recreation and Parks Commission
- vi. Sogorea Te' Land Trust
- vii. Arts and Culture Commission
- viii. Planning Commission

Commissioner Hurlbut requested a chart of the City's new staff reorganization along with the Deputy Directors for the Community Services Department.

Ms. Maharaj reported that was being prepared for the budget presentation and the changes would be approved at the next budget hearing prior to June 2022. She was unsure when a finalized organization chart would be available but was aware that it would have to be approved prior to June 30, 2022.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS

There were no reports.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton advised that he was involved with an organization that was supporting park and recreation commissions across the state and there were a lot of resources they shared which he would pass along to staff.

Commissioner Blakeley explained that she had discovered that the El Sobrante Rotary had adopted La Moine Park, and she verified with Ms. Maharaj that the Rotary could apply for a Love Your Block grant with respect to that park.

Commissioner Kaser noted that she had participated in the celebrations for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Unity Park, and had also participated in the Self Care Sunday Bicycle Ride sponsored by Rich City Rides, starting from Unity Park. She commented that some community members had asked her how to get improvements for their parks and she asked where to get that information.

Chair Smith and Ms. Maharaj explained that members of the community could speak during public forum at Commission meetings, could write directly to the Commission, or could contact Greg Hardesty directly. If there was a major project involved the City could also seek grants for park improvements.

Commissioner Bana asked for a budget allocation for each district at the beginning of each year with the amount budgeted for each district to be reported to the Recreation & Parks Commission, and she urged that the Commission have a say in the allocation of funds.

Ms. Maharaj explained that the Public Works Department was charged with the maintenance of parks and Greg Hardesty or Joe Leach, Public Works Director, should be approached to provide a response to what could be done for any specific maintenance request or need. She suggested that the Public Works Department could make a presentation to the Commission to describe its process, the availability of funds, and how the Department handled requests.

Commissioner Bana asked that the Public Works Department be advised of her request for information and urged that the Commission be allowed some input into the need for funds.

Commissioner Hurlbut offered a brief description of how funds were budgeted to Richmond by the State of California and Contra Costa County based on prescribed formulae.

Commissioner Blakeley explained that the Public Works Department had promptly responded to any problems in the parks in her district.

Commissioner Thompson thanked Commissioner Hurlbut for her work and report on the Willie Mays project. She also commended Ms. Maharaj for the \$8 million grant for the Shields-Reid Park and Shields-Reid Community Center in North Richmond.

AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS

There were no additional comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anita L. Tucci-Smith
Minutes Clerk