



**CITY OF RICHMOND**  
**Recreation & Parks Commission Meeting**  
**AGENDA**

**Wednesday, June 1, 2022 6:00 PM**

This meeting is held on Zoom that is accessible to people with disabilities.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/93771521625?pwd=ZEI1Q0ZiUHV4bU9RnZjeUYxak9RZz09>

**Webinar ID: 937 7152 1625**

**Passcode: 156963**

Or One tap mobile: +16699006833, or 93771521625# US (San Jose)

Or join by phone: US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 205 8782 or +1 301 415 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/ajvlsowluJ>

**Board Members:** Joey Smith, Chair, Brendan Havelar-Daughton, Vice Chair, Allison Blakeley, Secretary, Vacant, Treasurer  
**Commissioners:** Maryn Hurlbut, Scheila Bala, Eleanor Thompson, Cathlin Kaser, Aaron Rowden

**1. Call to Order (2 min)**

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Genuine acknowledgement of the value of a land acknowledgement
  - The opportunity and risks of this moment in our agenda, and how to embrace it wisely
  - The simple acknowledgement that we stand, sit, live and exist on land that was previously and currently occupied and cared for by First Peoples prior to the establishment of the United States, California statehood and the founding of the City of Richmond
  - Embracing the truth and leaning into our discomfort
  - Relentlessly identifying and pursuing 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

**2. Roll Call (1 min)**

**3. Welcome and Meeting Procedures (1 min)**

*Individuals who would like to address the Recreation and Parks Commission on relevant matters not listed on the agenda or on Department Reports for Information items not pulled for discussion, may do so under **Open Forum**.*

*Public comment may be made on agenda items when the item is discussed. The standard amount of time for each speaker, in either instance, will be two (2) minutes.*

4. **Agenda Review** (1 min)

*The order in which items will be heard may be adjusted by Commissioner vote at this time. In addition, items may be removed from or placed on the Consent Calendar at this time. Individual items may be removed from Department Reports for Information for discussion, explanation, or continuance to a future meeting. In addition, the order in which items will be heard may be adjusted at this time.*

5. **Open Forum** (10 min.; 2 min per speaker)

*Issues brought to the attention of the commission in **Open Forum** cannot result in discussion or action at this meeting. Individuals who would like to address the Recreation and Parks Commission on relevant matters **not** listed on the agenda or on Department Reports for Information items **not** pulled for*

*Public comment may be made on agenda items when the item is discussed.*

6. **Announcements through the Chair** (5 min.)

7. **Consent Calendar** (2 min)

*Items on the Consent Calendar are considered matters requiring little or no discussion and will be acted upon in one motion.*

- a. APPROVE minutes of the May 4, 2022 Special Meeting
- b. APPROVE minutes of the May 4, 2022 Meeting

8. **Department Reports For Information** (10 min)

*Unless items were pulled for discussion during Agenda Review, all reports are considered received and accepted by the commission requiring no further action.*

- a. Public Works: Facilities – Jose Urquilla
- b. Parks & Landscaping Divisions – Greg Hardesty
- c. Community Services Division: Recreation and Neighborhood Services – Ranjana Maharaj

9. **Presentations**

- 1. Renaming of Nicholl Park to Nicholl-Juneteenth Park (Mayor Tom Butt)

10. **Ad Hoc Committee Reports** (20 min)

- a. Sustainability and Climate Responsiveness Committee (Brendan/Catalin/Maryn)

11. **Discussions and Action Items**

*Following discussion of each item, the commission may vote to make recommendations to Commissioners, staff and/or to the City Council.*

- a. **COORDINATE** open conversation on how the city can support the native stewardship of Ookwe Park:
  - i. Recreation and Parks Commission

- ii. Sogorea Te' Land Trust
- iii. Arts and Culture Commission
- iv. Planning Commission

12. **Commissioner Liaison Reports** (18 minutes, 2 min. per member)

*At 8:00 PM, any items remaining on the agenda that require immediate attention may be moved to this time. All other items will be tabled to another meeting or the following commission meeting in order to make fair and attentive decisions. This meeting adjourns at 8:30 PM. The meeting may be extended by a majority vote of the commissioners.*

13. **Commissioner Comments** (9 min.;1 min. per person)

14. **Agenda Setting for Next Meeting and Future Topics** (3 min.)

15. **Adjournment** (1 min.)

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

*As presiding officer, the Recreation and Parks Commission chair has the authority to preserve order at all Recreation and Parks Commission meetings, to remove or cause the removal of any person from any such meeting for disorderly conduct, or for making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, using profanity, or becoming boisterous, unthreatening or personally abusive while addressing said Commission, and to enforce the rules of the Commission. Any documents produced by the City and distributed to the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available at the Community Services/Recreation Division located at 3230 Macdonald Avenue, Richmond, California during normal business hours.*

## CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY

PURSUANT to the Governor of the State of California's Assembly Bill 361 and in the interest of the public health and safety, attendance at the City of Richmond City Council meeting will be limited to Council members, essential City of Richmond staff, and members of the news media. Public comment will be confined to items appearing on the agenda and will be limited to the methods provided below.

Public comment may be submitted by email and/or Zoom video conference in the manner that follows; provided that no member of the public may submit more than one verbal comment per agenda item.

1. Via email to [recreation@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto: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].

All such email will be posted on-line and emailed to the Commission before the meeting is called to order. **No individual email will be read into the record. Due to the high volume of emails received, emails that do not contain the correct identifying information in the subject line may be overlooked and may not become part of the record. Email received after 1:00 p.m. will be posted on-line following the meeting as part of the supplemental materials attached to the meeting minutes.**

2. Via Zoom by video conference or by phone using the following link/call-in numbers – for Open Session:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

Zoom webinar link: <https://zoom.us/j/93771521625?pwd=ZEI1Q0ZiOHV4b0lRRnZjeUYxak9RZz09>

**Webinar ID: 937 7152 1625**

**Passcode: 156953**

Or One tap mobile: +16699006833, or 93771521625# US (San Jose)

Or join by phone: US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 937 7152 1625

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/abTvlsoMuJ>

- a. To comment by video conference, click on the Participants button at the bottom of your screen and select the “Raise Your Hand” button to request to speak when Public Comment is being asked for. Speakers will be called upon in the order they select the “Raise Your Hand” feature. When called upon, press the unmute button. After the allotted time, you will then be re-muted.  
\*\*
- b. To comment by phone, you will be prompted to “Raise Your Hand” by pressing “\*9” to request to speak when Public Comment is asked for. When called upon, you will be asked to unmuted by

pressing \*6. After the allotted time, you will then be re-muted. Instructions of how to raise your hand by phone are available at:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362663-Joining-a-meeting-by-phone>. \*\*

3. Use the below email address to correspond directly with the Chairperson for any other issues:  
[rec.parkscommission@gmail.com](mailto:rec.parkscommission@gmail.com)

\*\*The Chair will announce the agenda item number and open public comment when appropriate. Individuals who would like to address the Commission should raise their hand. The Chair will close public comment when public comment is concluded.

Open Forum for Public Comment: Individuals who would like to address the Commission on matters not listed on the agenda or on items remaining on the consent calendar may do so under Open Forum.

*The City cannot guarantee that its network and/or the site will be uninterrupted. To ensure that the Commission receives your comments, you are strongly encouraged to submit your comments in writing in advance of the meeting.*

AB 361 Procedures in the Event of Technical Difficulties: In the event the meeting broadcast is disrupted, or if a **technical issue on the agency's end** disrupts public participation, the legislative body board cannot take any further action on the agenda until the technical issue is resolved.

Record of all public comments: Properly labeled public comments will be considered a public record, put into the official meeting record, available after the meeting as supplemental materials, and will be posted as an attachment to the meeting minutes when the minutes are posted: [Archive Center](#) • [Richmond](#) • [CivicEngage](#)

Procedures for Removing Consent Calendar Items from the Consent Calendar: Members of the public who request to remove an item from the consent calendar must first discuss the item with a staff member by phone or a back-and-forth email discussion, and state the name of the staff member when requesting removal of the item from the consent calendar.

Any member of the Commission who would like to remove an item from the consent calendar must notify the appropriate staff person prior to the meeting. Although members of the Commission are encouraged to ask questions and share concerns with staff ahead of the meeting, they are not required to do so.

The Recreation Division staff must be informed of any requests to remove items from the Consent Calendar.

Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities: Upon request, the City will provide for written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services and sign language interpreters, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in and provide comments at/related to public meetings. Please submit a request, including your name, phone number and/or email address, and a description of the modification, accommodation, auxiliary aid, service or alternative format requested at least two days before the meeting. Requests should be emailed to [recreation@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:recreation@ci.richmond.ca.us) or submitted by phone at 510-620-6950. Requests will be granted whenever possible and resolved in favor of accessibility.

Effect of Advisory on In-person participation: During the pendency of Assembly Bill 361, the language in this Advisory portion of the agenda supersedes any language contemplating in-person public comment.

# Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

## MINUTES

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 5:55 PM (SPECIAL MEETING)



To view a video of this meeting click on this link:

[https://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublished.php?view\\_id=37](https://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublished.php?view_id=37)

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

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

Chair Smith expressed a genuine acknowledgement of the land which was previously and currently occupied and cared for by First Peoples and wanted to affirm that the Commission earnestly and honestly embraces those who came before us and those who are working to ensure our legacies.

### **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Joey Smith, Soheila Bana, Maryn Hurlbut, Catalin Kaser, Aaron Rowden and Eleanor Thompson

ABSENT: Brendan Havenar-Darlington (Excused), Allison Blakeley (Excused)

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

### **AGENDA REVIEW**

Commissioner Hurlbut questioned if the approval of renaming needed to include Field #2, as the Agenda only mentions Field #1. Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director for Community Services - Recreation, advised that Field #1 was previously voted and approved by the Commission in October, 2021 and taken to City Council in February, 2022.

Accepting Ms. Maharaj's clarification on the item, Commissioner Hurlbut motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, and carried by a voice vote, the agenda was approved as submitted.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, stated that he attended the Youth Council Meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>, and he informed those in attendance of the vacancy on the Recreation and Parks Commission. In addition, Mr. Hindler invited the Commission to attend the Richmond Rotary Club's weekly meetings on Fridays at 12:30 P.M. at the Richmond Country Club for \$25 and cordially invited all to attend the performance of Crowns

the musical at 7:30 P.M. on Friday (5/6) and Saturday (5/7) at the Contra Costa Civic Theatre.

Commissioner Bana informed that she met with Darlene Drapkin of the East Bay Pickleball Association and expressed Ms. Drapkin's frustration on the bureaucracy and disappointment that the process to install Pickleball courts took so long. In addition, she felt that the Commission should be more encouraging and not discouraging of those providing good activities in the community.

### **DISCUSSIONS & ACTION ITEMS**

- a. **APPROVE** the renaming of Nicholl Field 1 and the installation of a commemorative kiosk in honor of Willie Mays

Commissioner Hurlbut made a motion to approve the renaming of Nicholl Park Diamond Field #1 and install the walk-of-honor kiosk for Willie Mays, seconded by Commissioner Thompson.

Cordell Hinder spoke of his excitement to honor a legend at Nicholl Park, however voiced his concern over the placement and maintenance of the kiosk. Chair Smith shared that the City Staff and Commission have been working diligently to ensure that the kiosk can be well maintained going forward.

Chair Smith called for a voice vote and the item was approved as submitted. Ms. Maharaj advised that the item would go to City Council on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted  
Christine George  
Executive Secretary

# Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

## MINUTES

Wednesday, May 4 2022 6:00 PM



To view a video of this meeting click on this link:

[https://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublished.php?view\\_id=32](https://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublished.php?view_id=32)

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Joey Smith at 6:29 P.M.

### **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Joey Smith, Soheila Bana, Maryn Hurlbut, Cathrin Kaser, Aaron Rowden and Eleanor Thompson

ABSENT: Brenda Havena-Daughton (Excused), Allison Blakeley (Excused)

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

### **AGENDA REVIEW**

Motion by Commissioner Hurlbut to accept the agenda meeting as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Kaser, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

### **OPEN FORUM**

None

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR**

1. Chair Smith advised that the Next Commission meeting would be held on June 1, 2022 via Zoom.
2. The balance in the Commission Trust account was reported to be \$6,500 in the Trust for the RTA Snow Ball account.
3. There were no membership changes.

Commissioner Hurlbut advised that additional funds have been received making the total \$6,750 to the Snow Ball account.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Approve Minutes of the March 2, 2022 Meeting**  
**Approve Minutes of the April 6, 2022 Meeting**  
**Approve Minutes of the April 20, 2022 Special Meeting**

Commission Kaser asked for a correction to the March 2, 2022 Minutes on her report update and her participation on graffiti removal at the skate park and to correct the spelling of Commissioner Bana's name.

Commissioner Hurlbut motioned to approve All Minutes with the correction requested for 3/2/22, seconded by Commissioner Kaser, and carried with a voice vote to approve all three Minutes.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**Public Works: Facilities**

Report from Jose Urquilla, Superintendent of Facilities, was provided verbally and visually, and responded to questions.

**Parks & Landscaping Divisions**

Greg Hardesty, Superintendent of Parks & Landscaping, provided a verbal and visual report, and responded to questions from Chair Smith, on behalf of Secretary Blakeley, as to the need for restrooms at Cheese Park. Mr. Hardesty advised he will order a portable for the Spring and Summer months. Chair Smith asked if Cheese Park would qualify for permanent bathrooms and Mr. Hardesty advised that most parks with permanent restrooms have come from grant funding.

Commissioner Bana advised that portable restrooms are not a workable solution for children and hopes funding can become available in the future. Stephanie Ny, CSD Staff, advised she will look for opportunities going forward.

**Community Services Division: Recreation and Neighborhood Services**

Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director for Community Service-Recreation, provided an extensive oral and visual report and responded to comments from Chair Smith, specifically as to the qualifications to work at the Richmond Tool Library.

Stephanie Ny, CSD Staff, provided a presentation and update on the North Richmond Mobile Tool Library, Love Your Block Mini-Grants, and she advised that the Juneteenth Mural had a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**PRESENTATIONS**

None

**AD HOC COMMITTEE STATEMENTS**

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

Commissioner Kaser advised there was no specific details from the Committee at this time but wanted to share that May is Bike Month with May 20<sup>th</sup> as bike to work day. In addition, the Road to a Livable Climate, is a bike and walk event will be the first two weekends in June.

## Willie Mays' Day Project (Maryn/Eleanor/Joey)

Chair Smith provided an update to the Willie Mays Day celebration taking place on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. She stated there will be a parade, video presentations, and the reveal of the kiosk. In addition, there will be a clean up day on May 14<sup>th</sup> at Nicholl Park in preparation for the Willie Mays Event.

Commissioner Hurlbut added the two foundations that are supporting the restoration of the three baseball diamonds have agreed to provide food with details to follow. In addition, the San Francisco Giants organization will be providing some souvenir items for attendees, specifically focusing on the youth.

Commissioner Kaser asked for the Willie Mays Day flyer and Nicholl Park Clean Up Day flyer be sent as an attachment via email so she can easily share the event.

## DISCUSSIONS & ACTION ITEMS

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

As Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton was not in attendance, this item was continued until the next meeting.

- b. **APPROVE** Draft Fee Waiver Policy and Partnership Policy

LaShonda White, Interim Director of Library and Community Services Department, expressed her appreciation for the feedback she has already received from the Commission and community. Ms. White plans on taking this draft policy to City Council at the end of May or early June with the idea this will be in effect in the upcoming Fiscal Year. Ms. White and Ms. Maharaj then responded to follow up questions and suggestions.

Chair Smith expressed that the posting of the Fee Waiver Policy and Partnership Policy should be user friendly for the public providing a easy, clear way for the public to access and understand these policies..

Commissioner Bana inquired about the amount of advanced notice needed prior to the event, as it seems excessive. Ms. White and Ms. Maharaj both explained in detail the process involved when applications are received, including reaching out to other departments.

Commissioner Hurlbut motioned to approve the Draft Fee Waiver Policy and Partnership Policy as presented with the changes as identified, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, and carried with a voice vote.

- c. **NOMINATE** Committee for the election of Officers to the R&P Commissioner

Commissioner Hurlbut and Commission Thompson volunteered to be a part of the committee and as one of the members must be a current officer, Chair Smith appointed Secretary Blakeley (who was not in attendance).

## COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS / COMMENTS

Chair Smith advised her reports were previously stated throughout the meeting, specifically as it pertains to the Willie Mays Day Events.

Commissioner Blakeley provided written comments as to her updates and Chair Smith highlighted her need to address the Cheese Park restroom situation as discussed during the staff reports.

Commissioner Hurlbut shared she participated in a Spring Fling Event at Hurlbut Park and provided gardening updates, including weeding, pruning and adding new mulch.

Commissioner Kaser reported on the activities at JFK Park with the help of the Love Your Block grant that has helped to make improvements. She wanted to see if the Commission can come up with ways to better promote our parks in the future as there are many parks not being used. Sadly, she reported that many parks were “tagged” during the spring break week which further encourages the need to make the parks a bigger part of the community.

Commissioner Rowden shared while riding his bike on the Richmond Greenway approaching San Pablo Ave. on the border of El Cerrito and Richmond, it is apparent that the Richmond side is in need of a clean up to be friendly to bicyclists and overall is not a good introduction to the City of Richmond.

Commissioner Thompson invited all to the return of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Fourth of July parade and festival in North Richmond.

#### **AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS**

Commissioner Kaser referred to the March Minutes in which the Commission was to invite Mr Kenoli Oleari back to discuss the fee structure and reservation policy. Commissioner Bana advised she has spoken with Mr. Oleari and believes his opinions and teaching could help in our processes going forward.

Chair Smith advised she would like to reach out to him personally going forward to ensure his tutorials would meet with the City of Richmond guidelines.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted  
Christine George  
Executive Secretary

**Recreation and Parks Commission  
2022 Meeting Attendance**

Commissioner	Term Ending	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Total Absences
Joey Smith	Appt. 5/2/17-10/26/19 Re-appt. 12/3/19-10/26/22	P	P	P	P	P								0
Brendan Havenar-Daughton	Appt. 11/5/19-10/26/22	E	P	P	E									0
Soheila Bana	Appt. 10/17/17-10/26/19 Re-appt. 3/17/20-10/26/23	P	P	P	E	P								0
Allison Blakeley	Appt. 12/3/19-10/26/22	P	P	P	P	E								0
Maryn Hurlbut	Appt. 3/15/16-10/26/19 Re-appt. 12/3/19-10/26/22	P	P	E	P	P								0
Catalin Kaser	Appt. 6/15/21-4/28/24 Serving unexpired term	P	P	P	P	P								0
Aaron Rowden	Appt. 10/26/21 – 10/26/24	P	P	P	E	P								0
Eleanor Thompson	Appt. 7/10/18-10/26/18 Re-appt. 12/4/18-10/26/21	P	P	P	P	P								0

**Legend**

**P** = Present  
**A** = Absent  
**E** = Excused  
**Absence**

**Excused absences are:**

1. Military and related military service leave
2. Bereavement
3. Attendance of Commission related conferences and meetings.

LACK OF QUORUM  
CANCELED

# NOMINATION FORM FOR NAMING OR RE-NAMING PARKS, FACILITIES OR STREETS



1. Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Individual    Group    Organization

2. Nominated By: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Proposed  Facility    Park    Street    Other  
Current Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INDICATE THE CATEGORY THAT APPLIES TO THE NOMINATION:**

Service Recognition                       Monetary, Capital or Material  
 Recognition of Heroes                       Special Feature, Area, Locale

**PLEASE FILL IN ONLY THE SECTION THAT APPLIES TO THE PROPOSED NOMINATION. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS CAN BE INCLUDED ON THE SECOND (2) PAGE AND/OR OTHER RELATED MATERIALS OR COMMENTS MAY BE ATTACHED TO THIS APPLICATION.**

**SERVICE RECOGNITION: (Individual, Group, or Organization)**

1. Was service provided in a voluntary non-paid status or if a group or organization, was contribution provided outside the normal function of a profit making organization?  
 YES             NO
2. Did the contribution exceed five (5) years in duration?  
 YES             NO
3. Is the nominee an elected or appointed official?  
 YES             NO
4. Did the contribution have a direct positive effect on the delivery of public services?  
 YES             NO
5. If the nominee is DECEASED and provided service while they were in a pay status or they were an elected or appointed official, please indicate year of death.

Year of Death \_\_\_\_\_

A. Did the service exceed ten (10) years in duration?

YES             NO

**MONETARY, CAPITAL OR MATERIAL CONTRIBUTION:**

1. What is the amount or value of the contribution?  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Date of contribution: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Does nominee have a good record of citizenship?  
 YES       NO

**RECOGNITION OF HEROES:**

1. Did the deed for which the nominee is being honored occur within (2) years prior to the date of consideration?  
 YES       NO
2. Is the deed for which the nominee is being honored common knowledge to the citizens of Richmond?  
 YES       NO
3. Does nominee have a good record of citizenship?  
 YES       NO
4. Is the nominee recognized as a national hero by an agency of the United States Government?  
 YES       NO  
Name of agency: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL FEATURE, AREA OR LOCUS:**

1. Is this name appropriate to the facility?  
 YES       NO  
Please explain in comments section.

**COMMENTS:**

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Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received in Recreation Division By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

- Prepare for Commissioner recommendation
- Deny (Explanation)



*Bay Front. Home Front. Out Front.*

May 19, 2022

Joey Smith, Chair  
Recreation and Parks Commission  
City of Richmond  
450 Civic Center Plaza  
Richmond CA 94804

**Subject: Revision of Name of Nicholl Park**

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Recreation and Parks Commission:

Pursuant to the "City of Richmond, Community Services Department – Recreation Division, Recreation and Parks Commission, Statement of Policy and Guidelines for Naming of Parks, Facilities and Re-Naming Streets," the Mayor's Office is requesting that the Recreation and Parks Commission endorse a proposal to rename Nicholl Park as "Nicholl – Juneenth Park."

**Description of the naming opportunity**

Rename Nicholl Park as "Nicholl – Juneenth Park."

**Location Map**

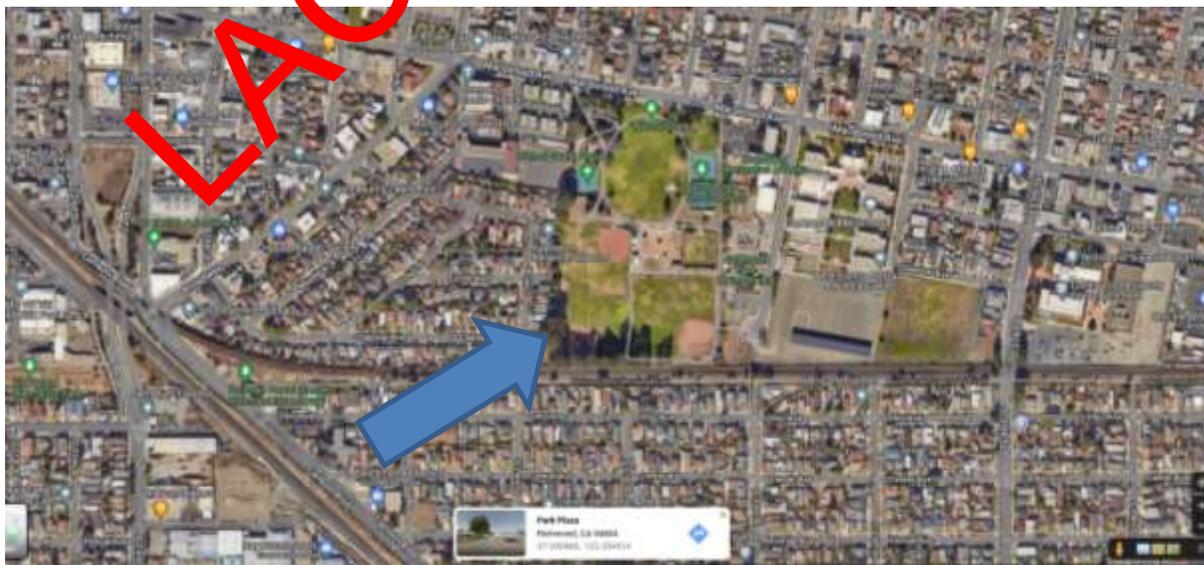


Figure 1 - Location

**A reason why this particular structure, space, or street was deemed to be appropriate place for this recognition**

Richmond hosted civic-sponsored Juneteenth festivals as far back as the 1970s, but tough budget times put the founding on hold in the 1990s. Two decades ago “The National Brotherhood Alliance,” a group of residents founded and chaired by Jerrold Hatchett, succeeded in getting city funding and an assortment of private sponsors to restart the festival, which has grown to become one of the largest in the state. (Source: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2012/06/16/richmond-juneteenth-parade-draws-thousands/>)

The venue for Richmond’s Juneteenth observance in the last two decades has been Nicholl Park, and Juneteenth has become the largest and best known annual event to take place at Nicholl Park, with tens of thousands of people typically attending.

**The Classification being used to support the application, per Section II**

The classification includes both categories A and C. Although Juneteenth is not in the strictest sense an “individual, groups or organization” or a “local or national hero.” Juneteenth is a federal holiday and is closely identified with groups and organizations both nationwide and in Richmond, including the National Brotherhood Alliance.

**The sponsor’s justification for this recognition , providing detailed information about the proposed name, including how the candidate name meets the criteria established in Section D1.**

It is important to note that we are not requesting the removal of the existing name, that of the land’s original donor, but the addition of a reference to a federal holiday strongly associated with the park. The original donor deserves to continue to be recognized, and the Nicholl family are true Richmond pioneers, although most Richmond residents today have no idea who they are or why their name is associated with a street, a park, and a hilltop (Nicholl Knob) in Richmond.

The Nicholl family was fundamental in shaping Richmond’s structure in the early days. John Nicholl, Senior, came to Richmond from Scotland in the 1850’s. A stone mason and contractor, Nicholl established a large farming property in the city. Upon his death in the early 1900’s, Nicholl, Senior, passed on his property to John Nicholl, Junior, who in turn gave vast swaths of land to the City. The area that now houses Richmond’s Civic Center was once part of the Nicholl property. (<https://www.radiofreerichmond.com/richmond-history-what-s-in-a-name>)

A short history of Nicholl Park follows:

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) carried out extensive improvements on Nicholl Park from 1935 to 1938. These included constructing ballfields and tennis courts, adding lighting, landscaping, and drainage and, most unusually, creating a lawn bowling green and a game bird aviary. The aviary and bowling green are now gone, but the tennis courts and fields remain, along with elements of lighting and other work.

Nicholl park was given to the City of Richmond in 1926 by Mrs. Mary Nicholl, widow of one of the founders of the city. The original pillars and dedication plaque marking the entrance to the park on the north side of the park on McDonald Avenue (the city’s main street) are still standing. Some of the old trees may have been planted at that time, but the park had not been developed very far by the time the New Deal arrived.

In 1935, the WPA was called upon to add a bowling green and song bird aviary to the park. The aviary is long gone, but the bowling green has only recently disappeared. A utility building next to the green, likely built by the WPA, is still there but closed up.

In late 1936 (and probably into 1937), the WPA added athletic fields, including two baseball fields, tennis courts and a children's playground. Both ballfields are still in place, as are two sets of tennis courts. The children's play area has been completely overhauled, leaving no trace of WPA work.

Flood lighting was provided for the ball fields, though the present tall light poles look to be more recent. Lighting was also installed for the tennis courts on the east side of the park and both the light standards and the fencing around those courts appear to be original. Two old light poles can also still be seen by the former bowling green.

In 1938, the WPA was back again to make further improvements, such as bleachers and a locker building for the ballfields, adding flowers and shrubs, and putting in drainage.

<https://livingnewdeal.org/projects/nicholl-park-recreation-facilities-richmond-ca/>

The original dedication plaque is shown below:



Figure 2 - [https://livingnewdeal.org/projects/nicholl-park-recreation-facilities-richmond-ca/dsc\\_0782-2/](https://livingnewdeal.org/projects/nicholl-park-recreation-facilities-richmond-ca/dsc_0782-2/)

The history of Juneteenth is well known in Richmond. On June 19, 1865, about two months after the Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Va., Gordon Granger, a Union general, arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform enslaved African-Americans of their freedom and that the Civil War had ended. General Granger's announcement put into effect the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued more than two and a half years earlier on Jan. 1, 1863, by President Abraham Lincoln.

The holiday received its name by combining June and 19. The day is also sometimes called "Juneteenth Independence Day," "Freedom Day" or "Emancipation Day."

The original celebration became an annual one, and it grew in popularity over the years with the addition of descendants, [according to Juneteenth.com](http://www.juneteenth.com), which tracks celebrations. The day was celebrated by praying and bringing families together. In some celebrations on this day, men and women who had been enslaved, and their descendants, made an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston.

Celebrations reached new heights in 1872 when a group of African-American ministers and businessmen in Houston purchased 10 acres of land and created [Emancipation Park](http://www.juneteenth.com). The space was intended to hold the city's annual Juneteenth celebration. (<https://www.nytimes.com/article/juneteenth-day-celebration.html>)

From a 2011 article about Richmond's 2011 celebration:

Juneteenth celebrations started in Texas and spread throughout the country as African-Americans migrated out of the state, said Loretta Alford, a volunteer with the National Brotherhood Association, the Richmond group that organizes the city's festival. "Particularly in California, because there's a lot of people here with roots in Texas," she said. "It's like a second Fourth of July for us."

In Richmond, the holiday has grown to massive proportions. Alford said that Richmond's festival has become the largest Juneteenth celebration in the Bay Area. "The largest at one time was San Jose and then San Francisco, but Richmond has basically surpassed everyone now," she said. Alford said she expects between 20,000 to 30,000 people to come to the festivities on Saturday.

The day starts at 11:00 with a parade which leaves from the intersection of Cutting Boulevard and Marina Way, and ends at Nichol Park. Fred Davis Jackson, a long-time community activist, will be the grand marshal of the parade.

At the park, two stages will host gospel, hip-hop, R&B and soul music from a variety of local and national artists. Lenny Williams, who was the lead singer of Tower of Power, will return to the festival. Miki Howard, who had a string of Top 10 hit singles in the '80s and '90s, will perform, and so will local gospel group Consonance. On the youth stage, younger performers like Sammie and Young Bari will perform along with a host of other entertainers from around the bay. There will also be a variety of games and activities for kids, Alford said.

The day's events will include a commemoration of Richmond's African-American history. "Because it's a celebration of African-American history, we usually have our 'Richmond's firsts'—the first African-Americans in their particular fields," she said. This year, Sylvester Greenwood, the first black superintendent of the former Richmond school district, who died recently, will be honored.

From a 2016 article:

Richmond hosted civic-sponsored Juneteenth festivals as far back as the 1970s, but tough budget times put the funding on hold in the 1990s, said Jerrold Hatchett, one of the festival's chief organizers.

About 10 years ago, "The National Brotherhood Alliance," a group of residents that Hatchett chairs, succeeded in getting city funding and an assortment of private sponsors to restart the festival, which has grown to become one of the largest in the state.

(<https://www.mercurynews.com/2012/06/16/richmond-juneteenth-parade-draws-thousands/>)

Sincerely,



Mayor Tom Butt  
City of Richmond

**CANCELED  
LACK OF QUORUM**