

Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 4 2022 6:00 PM



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CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Brendan Havenar-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 20th.

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 20th 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 21st. 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 14th 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 an 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 Commission

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 10th 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 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine George
Executive Secretary