

Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, August 3, 2022 6:00 PM



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CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order by Chair Joey Smith at 6:01pm

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Joey Smith, Allison Blakeley, Maryn Hurlbut, Catalin Kaser, Aaron Rowden and Eleanor Thompson

ABSENT: Soheila Bana (Excused)

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

AGENDA REVIEW

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

OPEN FORUM

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, stated he continues to encourage members of the youth council to apply for the vacancies on the Recreation and Park Commission. In addition, Mr. Hindler extended an invitation to the Richmond Rotary Club meeting at the Richmond Country Club on Friday, August 12th at 12:30pm, where the guest speaker will be LaShonda White, Interim Director of Library & Community Services.

Allen Schlossman, Richmond, asked a question as to who oversees the community services operations to ensure quality control of the offered programs. Specifically, if all involved truly understand the mission to provide valuable benefits to the participating families. Chair Smith expressed a need to get more information than is allotted during open forum and Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director of Community Services, stated she will arrange a meeting to discuss further with Mr. Schlossman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR

- a) Chair Smith advised the Next Commission meeting would be held on September 7, 2022, via Zoom.

- b) The balance of the Commission Trust account remains at \$413.08; Commissioner Hurlbut advised that the RTA Snow Ball account is \$0.00, as scholarships have all been awarded.
- c) There were no membership changes currently, but it is anticipated that there will be some additions soon.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Minutes of the July 13, 2022 Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Kaser to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2022 meeting as submitted, seconded by Treasurer Thompson, and carried by a voice vote with Commissioner Hurlbut abstaining.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Parks & Landscaping Divisions

Greg Hardesty, Superintendent of Parks & Landscaping, provided a verbal and visual report, and provided updates that portable bathroom facilities were delivered to Cheese Park. In addition, Mr. Hardesty stated he is having the city attorney's office review the RMC signage, specifically as to the multi-language verbiage, prior to posting. Commissioner Kaser shared her appreciation for the weed abatement on the Greenway but voiced disappointment in the barriers, as they pose a potential hazard to bicyclist. Mr. Hardesty stated there are plans to correct the issue with re-paving and painting.

Public Works: Facilities

Report from Jose Urquilla, Superintendent of Facilities, was provided verbally and visually, and he responded to questions, specifically as to the progress of the hydraulic lift repairs at the Auditorium.

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 questions from Commissioner Kaser, specifically as to how kids get to after school programs, in the hopes we are encouraging walking or biking.

Hope Lattell, Senior Accountant, presented a brief update detailing the 2022/23 fiscal year budget and answered a few inquiries.

PRESENTATIONS

Harbour 8 Park Update – Toody Maher, from Pogo Park, provided an extensive visual and verbal update on Harbour 8 Park progress, as they begin the construction phase on this thrilling project.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Plan – Rails-to-Trails Conservancy was represented by Ben Kaufman, Trail Development Manager for the Western Region, along with Laura Cohen, Director of the Western Region. Mr. Kaufman presented a visual and oral report on the Roadmap to a Better Greenway that provides analysis and recommendations to improve access via walking paths and bike trails throughout the Bay Area. Mr. Kaufman empathized how the Richmond Greenway is a small part of a larger Bay Area Trails Collaborative which offer many benefits to our community. Mr. Kaufman followed up by answering

questions from Commissioner Hurlbut, Commissioner Kaser and Chair Smith.

AD HOC COMMITTEE STATEMENTS

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

Commissioner Kaser advised that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee will have their annual clean up event on Monday, August 8th from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at the eastern entrance of the Greenway. In addition, she has been in contact with Amos White of *100k Trees for Humanity*, who would like to give a presentation in September.

DISCUSSIONS & ACTION ITEMS

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

Vice-Chair Rowden advised that he reached out to former Vice-Chair Havenar-Daughton who will be sending a summary as to his findings on the project and Mr. Rowden will review the discoveries to see if this is still something we can do to honor the indigenous stewards of our lands.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS / COMMENTS

Chair Smith advised she met with John Gioia, Supervisor of Contra Costa County, and Darlene Drapkin, to discuss the next steps for pickleball at the Booker T. Anderson courts and possible other locations.

Secretary Blakeley expressed excitement over the addition of portable facilities at Cheese Park. She discovered there is a conflict with the May Valley Neighborhood Council and the Park Plaza Neighborhood Council, as they both appear to meet on the same days and times. Commissioner Hurlbut stated she would reach out to the President of the coordinating council to suggest avoiding conflicts so all can attend.

Commissioner Kaser reported there is a documentary film about the Greenway and the link is:

<https://bikeeastbay.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=2055>

She also shared she recently visited Belding-Garcia Park and realized it's the only park in the Belding Woods neighborhood and is in need of attention and improvement.

Treasurer Thompson wanted to discuss how money can be raised so the trust account grows in the months ahead and Chair Smith advise this item will be placed on next month's agenda for further discussion.

Commissioner Hurlbut shared she had a brief discussion with the Snowball Committee and encouraged all to donate to provide scholarships for our deserving students.

AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS

Vice-Chair Rowden suggested a need to review the Recreation & Parks Commissions policies and procedures regarding multilingual signage to ensure there are no gaps or oversights so that future postings reach all members of the community.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine George
Executive Secretary