

Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 6:00 PM



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https://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=37

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order by Chair Joey Smith at 6:00 pm

ROLL CALL

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

*Arrived After Roll Call and Left Before Adjournment

ABSENT: None

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Commissioner Bana asked to have the presentations moved up in the agenda, as she will be unable to attend the full meeting. Chair Smith asked commissioners to provide notice in advance when they are unable to attend a full meeting so the agenda can be properly prepared. Nevertheless, Chair Smith reiterated that this is the proper place in the agenda to make the request, so if the presenters are available, the demand can be heard.

Motion by Commissioner Bana to move Item 9 (Presentations) to follow Item 7 (Consent Calendar), seconded by Treasurer Thompson, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

OPEN FORUM

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, stated he will attend the youth council meeting later this month and will encourage them to apply for the vacancies on the Recreation and Park Commission. Mr. Hindler reminded Chair Smith, Secretary Blakeley and Commissioner Hurlbut that their commission terms will be expiring this month. In addition, Mr. Hindler extended an invitation to the Richmond Rotary Club meeting at the Richmond Country Club on Friday, October 7th at 12:30pm, where the guest speaker will be Sherwin Harris who will be discussing the Bay Area Rescue Mission.

Chair Smith advised that the City Clerk has accepted the three renewal applications; however, Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director of Community Services will follow-up with the City Clerk's office to confirm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR

- a) Chair Smith advised the Next Commission meeting would be held on November 2, 2022, via Zoom.
- b) The balance of the Commission Trust account remains at \$413.08; the RTA Snow Ball account is \$0.00, as scholarships have all been awarded, and she encouraged all to make donations.
- c) There were no membership changes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Minutes of the August 3, 2022 Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Hurlbut to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2022, meeting as submitted, seconded by Secretary Blakeley, and carried by a voice vote with Commissioner Kaser abstaining.

PRESENTATIONS

100K Trees for Humanity – Amos White, Chief Planting Officer for 100K Trees for Humanity, provided an extensive visual and verbal update on this urban reforestation non-profit in the East Bay, which is a community-driven workforce development that focuses on the initiative of planting trees. Their goal is to plant 100K trees on average in every urban community.

Mr. White answered extensive questions from Chair Smith, Secretary Blakeley, and Commissioner Hurlbut and shared the following links and contact information.

<http://www.100ktrees4humanity.com>

<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>

<https://www.treeequityscore.org/>

Amos White: Amos@100ktrees4humanity.com

WCCUSD Joint Use Agreement – Tetteh Kisseh, Community Services-Recreation Supervisor, presented a visual and oral report on a five-year Joint Use Agreement between the West Contra Costa Unified School District and CSD-Recreation through 2027. Currently, the Joint Use Agreement has been placed on the City Council Agenda for 10/18/22 and if passed, will be sent to the school district for their signatures.

Mr. Kisseh answered questions from Commissioner Hurlbut as to Washington School and the use of their adjacent park. In addition, Commissioner Kaser expressed appreciation for these agreements with public entities, as they are important to encourage community engagement and care for our parks.

Eli Moore, Richmond parent, voiced concerns over the lack of green areas on school campuses and the unavailability of adjacent parks. He has meet with school officials who expressed the complexity of the issue due to insurance restrictions and permission usage. Mr. Moore wishes there can be a future agreement with the city and schools to make it easier for students to enjoy outdoor time in their neighboring parks.

LaShonda White, Interim Director of Library and Community Services, shared that the goal of the city is

to work with the schools, principals and/or district to provide access to our parks; however, we must keep in mind, the city must protect those accessing park space in terms of insurance and liability issues. Nevertheless, she reassured that the city is committed to providing children access to green space and will do all that is necessary to make this a reality going forward.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Public Works: Facilities

Ranjana Maharaj presented for Jose Urquilla, Superintendent of Facilities who was not in attendance.

Parks & Landscaping Divisions

Greg Hardesty, Superintendent of Parks & Landscaping, provided a verbal and visual report, and responded to questions from Secretary Blakeley as to the Greenway camp clean-up. In addition, Commissioner Hurlbut asked if there are any future tree planting plans, referencing tonight's presentation from 100K Trees for Humanity. Mr. Hardesty suggested inviting Becky Orme, Chairperson of the UFAC (Urban Forestry Advisory Committee) to address any questions or concerns as to planting trees going forward.

Community Services Division: Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director for Community Service-Recreation, along with Recreation Supervisors Troy Porter and Tetteh Kisseh, provided an extensive oral and visual report.

LaShonda White provided a Booker T Anderson (BTA) Pickleball/Tennis Court Update and the plans to resurface the courts. Currently, there are plans to meet with the Southside Neighborhood Council to discuss the addition of four (4) permanent pickleball (instead of two) and maintain the one (1) tennis court (with the pickleball overlay) on the site. Results of the discussion will be provided at the November Commission meeting for approval by the Commission of the other two courts.

At this time (9:00 pm), Chair Smith called for a motion to extend the meeting beyond the scheduled time which was motioned by Vice-Chair Rowden and seconded by Commissioner Kaser and carried with an unanimous voice vote.

Travis Gok, Acting Program Coordinator, provided an update on the pickleball programs offered during the Summer and After School Program, which has generated excitement by our youthful attendees.

AD HOC COMMITTEE STATEMENTS

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

There were no reports at this time.

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

Vice-Chair Rowden advised that he continues to gather information from former Vice-Chair Havenar-Daughton and hopes to have a more extensive report at the next meeting when all the material has been received and reviewed.

DISCUSSIONS & ACTION ITEMS

1. DISCUSS ways to raise funds for the Commissioner Trust Accounts

Commissioner Blakeley questioned the need to raise funds for the Commission Trust Accounts and Chair Smith suggested using funds for business cards, t-shirts, etc.in the future. Commissioner Kaser expressed concern over a commission raising funds for themselves and suggested discussing at a future meeting. Treasurer Thompson clarified her request to discuss the topic, as she wasn't sure what the funds currently in the account are truly for. Commissioner Hurlbut stated that in the past, the funds were to assist the Commission for an event which is no longer feasible.

2. DISCUSS suggestions for signage for facilities that are inclusive of our diverse users

3. DISCUSS field leveling for Fairmead Park

Above discussion items (#2 and #3) will be postponed to the November meeting with no objections.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS / COMMENTS

Secretary Blakeley participated in the Coastal Clean Up at Shimada Friendship Park and expressed concern over a serious goose problem creating an unhealthy environment.

Commissioner Kaser shared she also participated in the Coastal Clean Up at the eastern entrance to the Greenway and creek area.

Chair Smith observed activities at Nevin, South and City Hall Parks and was encouraged that maintenance items have been addressed.

AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS

Commissioner Hurlbut discussed the need to review our business plan for the next 12 months and see what important items we want to accomplish in the upcoming year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine George
Executive Secretary