

Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 6:00 PM



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CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order by Chair Joey Smith at 6:06 pm

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Joey Smith, Allison Blakeley, Maryn Hurlbut, Catalin Kaser, Eleanor Thompson and Samantha Torres

ABSENT: Aaron Rowden

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 approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Secretary Blakeley, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

OPEN FORUM

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, welcomed Commissioner Torres to the Recreation and Parks Commission and invited everyone to the Richmond Rotary Club meeting on March 3rd at 12:30 pm at the Richmond Country Club, where the speaker will be Ralph Payton, Executive Director of GRIP.

ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR

- a) Chair Smith advised the Next Commission meeting would be held on March 1, 2023, in-person.
- b) The balance of the Commission Trust account remains at \$413.08; the RTA Snow Ball account total remains unconfirmed, as donations continue to be received for the 2022 participants.
- c) Chair Smith welcomed Commissioner Samantha Torres, who provided a brief introduction and shared her excitement of being a part of the Recreation and Park Commission.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Kaser requested that her comments under the *Youth & Associate Commissioner Initiative* be changes from the suggestion to create flyers and replaced with reaching out through social media.

Motion by Commissioner Hurlbut to approve the minutes of January 11th, 2023, as amended, seconded by Treasurer Thompson, and carried with an unanimous voice vote.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Parks & Landscaping Divisions

Greg Hardesty, Superintendent of Parks & Landscaping, shared a verbal and visual report and answered questions from Chair Smith, Commissioner Torres, Commissioner Kaser, and Secretary Blakeley.

Secretary Blakeley advised she took pictures of park signage in Marin County and would like to share via email. She will forward to Christine George to share with Mr. Hardesty and the Commission.

Community Services Division: Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Ranjana Maharaj provided an extensive oral and visual report on recent and upcoming Recreation activities.

Stephanie Ny, from Community Services, shared information on the Mobile Tool Lending Library's recent grand opening and updates on grant programs. LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager for Community Services, suggested creating a grant website that could update the community on the funding and status of the many grant projects.

PRESENTATIONS: None

AD HOC COMMITTEE STATEMENTS

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

Commissioner Kaser shared they have not been able to meet in the last month but did share the plan to create an open street pop-up event and would like to present at a future meeting to provide more details. Commissioner Torres expressed support and interest in joining the committee.

Secretary Blakeley inquired if the City of Richmond has a stewardship or adopt-a-park program. Ms. White referenced the city council approved partnership agreement, as well as the parks program of adopt-a-spot. Ms. Ny shared that the adopt-a-spot program is open to all, by completing a contract.

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

As Vice-Chair Rowden was not in attendance, this item will be updated at the next meeting.

c.) Youth & Associate Commissioner Initiatives (Maryn/Joey)

LaShonda White shared a social media outreach plan, using flyers, ads, etc., to get young people

interested and excited about volunteering on our boards and commissions. She looks forward to providing an update and sharing some of the materials created at a future meeting.

DISCUSSIONS & ACTION ITEMS

a) APPROVE a request to Install a Memorial Bench to Honor Tom Horton at Barbara & Jay Vincent Park

Stephanie Ny presented on behalf of Bob Stevens, who would like to donate a memorial bench at Barbara & Jay Vincent Park for Tom Horton, who passed away while kite surfing at the park in 2022. Ms. Ny shared that the Marina Bay Landscaping and Lighting District approved the bench in January, and if approved by the Recreation and Parks Commission, will be sent to City Council for further approval.

Motion by Commissioner Hurlbut to approve the donation of the memorial bench as requested and approved by Parks and Landscaping, seconded by Treasurer Thompson, and carried with an unanimous voice vote.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS / COMMENTS

Chair Smith shared she attended the Grand Opening of the Mobile Lending Tool Library which included many fun activities and energetic music. Ms. Smith advised she encountered Assembly Member Buffy Wicks and provided her with contact information of city personnel, as it pertaining to funding on the latest storms. In addition, she has visited many parks and viewed a few creeks and cleaned up the leaves and debris caused by the recent storms.

Secretary Blakeley responded to a report from a citizen of a coyote eating a deer at Cheese Park but was unable to locate the incident. She went for a hike in Marin County and took photos of their signage that she will share with Mr. Hardesty and the Commission.

Treasurer Thompson did not have anything to report this month.

Commissioner Hurlbut had a meeting with new Councilman Cesar Zepeda and fellow evacuees from the January storms. Ms. Hurlbut volunteered to assist in updating the park allocation listing for our current commissioners.

Commissioner Kaser reiterated the need to update the park allocation listing as well as the City of Richmond website. She continues to bike ride through the many parks in her neighborhood. Also, Ms. Kaser met with Council member Jimenez and residents in the North and East neighborhood, to possibly work with the Arts Commission to discuss how to combine art and the streets for a safer community.

Commissioner Torres shared that MLK park has become a high use facility causing much overcrowding and she hopes we can create additional sports spaces that are well-lit and safe for outdoor activities. She shared her positive experience with the Futsal program but hopes programs at BTA will be offered in the near future. In addition, she would like to see if there are ways the commission can increase female participation in organized sports.

Commissioner Torres expressed concerns for organized sports clubs from Richmond having access to local fields, specifically as it relates to the school district grounds.

Ms. White advised there is a previously scheduled meeting with the school district on February 8th, 2023, to further discuss the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) that is scheduled to be taken to City Council on February 21st, 2023. Ms. White asked Commissioner Torres to please provide notes via email with Ms. Maharaj that can be shared with school officials at this meeting.

AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS

Commissioner Torres proposed further discussions as to the availability of sports fields in Richmond.

In addition, Ms. Torres suggested having a representative from Richmond for the Gilman Sports Fields in Berkeley, at the Joint Use Agreement meetings to ensure Richmond is included for field usage. Chair Smith asked if Commissioner Torres could attend the Gilman Sports Fields next JUA meeting and Ms. Torres stated she would be excited to be involved.

Commissioner Hurlbut reminded there will be elections at the March 1st meeting and nominations were sent via email.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine George
Executive Secretary