

Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 6:00 PM



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CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order by Chair Joey Smith at 6:04 pm

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Joey Smith, Allison Blakeley, Catalin Kaser, Dani Lanis, Aaron Rowden and Samantha Torres* (*Arrived after Roll Call)

ABSENT: Maryn Hurlbut (Excused)

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

AGENDA REVIEW

Motion by Commissioner Kaser to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Vice Chair Rowden, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

OPEN FORUM

Tony Tamayo from the Mayor's Office, spoke to advise of an upcoming budget meeting and provided flyers for the event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR

- a) Chair Smith advised the Next Commission meeting will be held May 3, 2023.
- b) The balance of the Commission Trust account remains at \$413.08.
- c) Commissioner Thompson submitted her resignation effective February 2023.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Secretary Blakeley advised of a spelling correction; followed by a motion from Vice Chair Rowden to approve the minutes of March 1, 2023, as amended, seconded by Commissioner Kaser, and carried with an agreed voice vote.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Public Works: Facilities

Carl Capistrano, Interim Superintendent of Facilities, provided a brief visual and verbal report.

Parks & Landscaping Divisions

Greg Hardesty, Superintendent of Parks & Landscaping, shared a verbal and visual report to update this very busy time after all the winter storms. Mr. Hardesty responded to questions and concerns.

Community Services Division: Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Ranjana Maharaj provided an extensive oral and visual report on recent and upcoming Recreation activities. In addition, Guadalupe Morales and Stephanie Ny from CSD-Recreation updated information on the Lending Tool Library and Mobile Tool Lending Library.

PRESENTATIONS:

- a.) **Update on the Shields-Reid Park Public Art** – Winifred Day, Arts and Culture Manager, presented an update to see the progress over the past year.
- b.) **Sports Fields Update** – Commissioner Torres shared an update on the need for more soccer fields, the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) at Gilman Fields in Berkeley, and the prospect of creating partnerships for long term sports field use.

AD HOC COMMITTEE STATEMENTS

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

Secretary Blakeley shared that a committee has been formed to make a fire safe tree listing and cautioned on the term “fire safe,” as all trees can be flammable. In addition, she has reached out to committee members to hold a zoom meeting soon.

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

Vice Chair Rowden had no report at this time.

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

Chair Smith advised that Commissioner Hurlbut attended a meeting on 4/04/23. In addition, Chair Smith expressed she would like to see the Recreation & Parks Commission involved in the efforts of this initiative going forward.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS / COMMENTS

Chair Smith shared she has updated the park assignments for the Commissioners. She also shared the importance of taking CPR training, as she recently attended an event where a person was in need of medical assistance.

Vice Chair Rowden advised he attended the International Women’s Day celebration sponsored by the City and is amazed to see the high quality of women leadership in the City of Richmond.

Secretary Blakeley participated in the Love Your Block assessment and attended a fire safe resilience and retardance class that has furthered her skills on fire safety.

Commissioner Kaser attended the Spring Fling in Mira Flores Park and would have liked to have seen Recreation & Parks at the event. In addition, she is working toward linking the Parks RX Day at Nicholl Park and the Literacy Festival at Civic Center Plaza on April 29th with Rich City Rides to get a group together to enjoy the two experiences.

Commissioner Torres shared concerns with Humphrey Playlot, as it continues to be flooded from the storms and is unusable. She also inquired if there will be a presence of Recreation and Parks at the Cinco de Mayo Unity Parade and Ms. Maharaj is scheduling a meeting with the Recreation Supervisors to discuss.

Commissioner Lanis shared Dirt World remains open and is excited for the upgraded changes to take place later in the year. He also attended the event at Mira Flores Park and he would like to have the Recreation Department at the event to interact with the community. In addition, Mr. Lanis voiced concern on the Greenway, as there is trash and graffiti throughout.

AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS

Chari Smith advised she will continue to be in contact with the Mayor's Office on the vacancies on the Recreation & Parks Commission and to confirm the upcoming JPA scheduled meetings. Commissioner Kaser repeated her request to have the Parks Master Plan updated to understand what has been completed and what still needs attention from the original report in 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine George
Executive Secretary