



**CITY OF RICHMOND**  
**Recreation & Parks Commission**  
**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 6:00 PM**

**Community Services Building, Council Chambers, 440 Civic Center Plaza**

This meeting is held in a building that is accessible to people with disabilities.

<p><u>Board Members:</u> Joey Smith, Chair; Aaron Rowden, Vice Chair; Allison Blakeley, Secretary; Vacant, Treasurer <u>Commissioners:</u> Maryn Hurlbut, Catalin Kaser, Dani Lanis, Samantha Torres</p>
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**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Meeting called to order by Chair Joey Smith at 6:03 pm

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Joey Smith, Allison Blakeley, Catalin Kaser, Dani Lanis, and Samantha Torres

**ABSENT:** Aaron Rowden, 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 Commissioner Lanis, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

**OPEN FORUM**

Email from Cordell Hindler was introduced to invite the Commission to the Richmond Rotary Club on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30pm, with Mayor Eduardo Martinez speaking on his priorities for the coming fiscal year.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR**

- a.) Chair Smith advised the Next Commission meeting will be held July 12, 2023.
- b.) The balance of the Commission Trust Account is \$413.08
- c.) No membership changes

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Commissioner Torres motioned to approve the minutes of April 5, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Kaser and carried with an agreed voice vote.

Secretary Blakeley motioned to approve the minutes for the special meeting of May 11, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Lanis and carried with voice vote with Commissioner Kaser abstaining.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

### Public Works: Facilities

Will Santana, Stationary Engineer Acting Supervisor, shared a brief visual and verbal report.

### Parks & Landscaping Division

Greg Hardesty, Superintendent of Parks and Landscaping, shared a verbal and visual report. Mr. Hardesty answered questions and provided an update on sports field maintenance, weed abatement, and replacing tables at Wendell Park.

Chair Smith inquired about the courts at Booker T. Anderson Park and LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager for Community Services, shared the latest scheduling for line painting and the planned ribbon cutting pickleball event taking place on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Community Services Division – Recreation & Neighborhood Services

Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director for Community Services-Recreation, provided a detailed oral and visual report on upcoming and recent Recreation activities.

## PRESENTATIONS

### a) RECEIVE an Update on the Resilience Hubs for Nevin and Nicholl Parks

J.W. Frye, Executive Director of Rebuilding Together East Bay North, shared a comprehensive verbal and visual presentation of the Resilience Hubs for both Nevin and Nicholl Parks that are funded by the PG&E Resilience Hubs Grant and the PG&E Better Together Grant.

Mr. Frye answered questions from members of the Commission and advised he will reach out when an official grand opening date has been properly confirmed.

### b) Memorial Bench Application for Carol Teltschick at Pt. Molate Park (FYI)

Vice Mayor McLaughlin shared her support for a Memorial Bench at Pt Molate Beach Park for Carol Teltschick that was unanimously passed by city council on 6/06/23. Ms. McLaughlin provided a brief history of Ms. Teltschick's contributions to the City of Richmond and answered questions from the Commission. *(Note: because item went to City Council prior to the Recreation & Parks Commission, no vote was taken.)*

## AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

### b.) Coordination to support the native stewardship of Ookwe Park (Aaron)

### c.) Youth & Associate Commissioners Initiative (Joey / Maryn)

No Reports were given on the Ad Hoc Committees.

## DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM:

No Discussion or Action Items

## **COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS**

Chair Smith attended the City of Richmond's first Community Summit event held on 6/3/23 at MLK Park, and shared the importance of keeping bike pathways and sidewalks clear to ensure we are in compliance with ADA requirements.

Secretary Blakeley attended the May Valley Neighborhood Council meeting and also attended the Community Summit at MLK Park.

Commissioner Kaser attended the youth track & field meet at MLK Park and shared with Greg Hardesty some issues on the Greenway and Burg Park.

Commissioner Lanis enjoyed visiting Kennedy Park and hopes this park continues to be utilized by the public.

Commissioner Torres updated on the Spring soccer club accomplishments, and she attended a follow-up meeting on soccer fields development and advised that Richmond soccer clubs plans to hold a rally on June 20 at Civic Center Plaza. In addition, she updated on the Joint Powers Agreement at the Gilman Fields in Berkeley.

## **AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS**

Secretary Blakeley asked for an update on the self-cleaning and self-locking restrooms and Mr. Hardesty advised he could provide an update. Ms. Maharaj also indicated that there is a city council agenda item on parks restrooms in the near future.

Commissioner Kaser asked to assign the parks list for commissioner allocation to be reviewed jointly and Chair Smith stated the list has been completed but was awaiting the arrival of a new commissioner. Nevertheless, Chair Smith assured the list will be distributed soon.

In addition, Commissioner Kaser, suggested that sections/chapters of the 2010 Parks Master Plan could be reviewed and updated. Mr. Hardesty informed that there is currently a park needs assessment underway, with an anticipated presentation in August. Ms. Kaser suggested the commission would be more informed if the review was underway prior to the anticipated presentation.

Commissioner Lanis stated he would like to look at the ADA accessibility for all parks, not just within the park but in the surrounding areas to ensure convenience to all and asked if there is an assessment of each park that can be provided. Mr. Hardesty stated that he will reach out to engineering staff to see if any documents exist.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine George  
Executive Secretary