



CITY OF RICHMOND
Recreation & Parks Commission
MINUTES (Amended)

Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 6:00 PM

403 Civic Center Plaza (Farallon and Governor's Rooms)

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

Board Members: Joey Smith, Chair; Aaron Rowden, Vice Chair; Allison Blakeley, Secretary; Vacant, Treasurer
Commissioners: Maryn Hurlbut, Catalin Kaser, Dani Lanis, Samantha Torres

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order by Chair Joey Smith at 6:07 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

Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director for Community Services-Recreation, advised that Item #11a, to receive and approve an update on the Shields Reid Park schematic plans has been removed, as they will present in August. Motion by Commissioner Kaser to approve the agenda with the amendment, seconded by Secretary Blakeley, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

OPEN FORUM

Email from Cordell Hindler was introduced to invite the Commission to both the Contra Costa Mayors Conference on August 3rd at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building at 6:30 pm and to the Richmond Chamber of Commerce Salsa Mixer at the Allegro Ballroom on July 27th, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Garry Hurlbut, President of the Richmond Tennis Association (RTA), shared the recent successes of the Richmond Adult Tennis program and the partnership with Youth Tennis Advantage (YTA) at MLK to rejuvenate the youth tennis programs. In addition, Mr. Hurlbut voiced concerns over the BTA courts and the promise to retain one tennis court that is not being upheld.

JC Farr, President of the Eastshore Neighborhood Council, talked about the BTA courts stressed the importance to put the needs of the community first and asked the commission to review the proposed diagram and reconstruct it to make all happy.

Alejandra Perez Orozco from Richmond, spoke about the BTA courts and feels there was an agreement to make BTA accessible for tennis and pickleball, however the East Bay Pickleball Association intentionally

disregarded the process and agreement. Ms. Perez Orozco provided examples of locked gates denying access to the neighborhood for recreational opportunities.

Greg Morales from Richmond, shared concerns at the BTA courts to specifically bring to the attention the non-city sanctioned signage to promote pickleball that includes corporate sponsorship giving the appearance of a private club despite being city property.

Victor Harris from Richmond supported the previous speakers reiterating his concerns at BTA courts.

Chair Smith shared her concerns at BTA courts and advised all that actions are being taken to address the issues. Ms. Smith continued to thank the speakers for coming to address the commission and looks forward to updates in future meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR

- a.) Chair Smith advised the Next Commission meeting will be held August 2, 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 June 7, 2023, seconded by Secretary Blakeley and carried with an agreed voice vote.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

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 self-cleaning / locking bathrooms and advised that city council approved contracting with a private security company to open and close all park restroom facilities to ensure they are accessible throughout the day. (32:44)

Mr. Hardesty provided further information on the courts at BTA, stating there was a meeting held on July 11th with the East Bay Pickleball Association to discuss the areas of miscommunication between them and the City of Richmond on this project. As a result of this meeting, Deputy City Manager for Community Services, LaShonda White will be meeting with the City Attorney's office to get advice going forward. In the meantime, Mr. Hardesty has ordered "caps" for the courts which should be arriving and installed within the next 7-10 days.

Community Services Division – Recreation & Neighborhood Services

Ranjana Maharaj, introduced Tetteh Kisseh, Recreation Supervisor, who provided a detailed oral and visual report on upcoming and recent Recreation activities.

PRESENTATIONS

a) RECEIVE an Update on projects for Unity Park

Arleide Santos from Urban Tilth and Commissioner Dani Lanis of Rich City Rides together shared a comprehensive verbal and visual presentation on the plans for Unity Park focusing on creating an ADA and Senior Garden for the community and an e-bike lending library plan. On July 29th, the community is

invited to come out to Unity Park at 3:00 pm to provide feedback and learn more on the upcoming plans.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Commissioner Kaser shared there are discussions to divide this ad hoc group into different committees going forward.

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

There was no update as Vice Chair Rowden was absent.

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

Chair Smith advised she has spoken to Guadalupe Morales to meet as to the next steps, to encourage the youth of Richmond to contribute to their community.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM:

No Discussion or Action Items

COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS

Chair Smith visited Stuart Playground and Veterans Memorial Park sharing areas of concern and also attended the Reimagining Public Safety meeting.

Secretary Blakeley attended the May Valley Neighborhood Council meeting and attended a sub-committee tentatively called Firewise Richmond and El Sobrante Habitat Information and Resources (FRESHIR). Ms. Blakely confirmed the possibility to split up the Ad Hoc Committee for Sustainability and Climate Responsiveness due to the broad range of interests.

Commissioner Kaser visited Burg Park, Humphrey and Solano Playlots and shared her concerns with Greg Hardesty. Ms. Kaser attended the Juneteenth celebration and co-conducted with Commissioner Lanis a kid-centric bike-park crawl. She would like to see an announcement board to post events at all parks.

Commissioner Lanis shared he visited Dirt World and co-conducted with Commissioner Kaser the kid-centric bike-park crawl.

Commissioner Torres has attended the Thrive Thursday/Health 4 All event at MLK Park and supported a soccer rally at Civic Center Plaza before presenting to city council on soccer field access, especially as it pertains to school fields. Ms. Torres provided an update to the Joint Powers Agreement at Gilman Fields in Berkeley.

AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS

Chair Smith reminded of the action item for the Shields Reid Park schematic plans was moved to August and hopes to have an update on the BTA courts situation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine George
Executive Secretary