



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

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 6:00 PM**  
**440 Civic Center Plaza**

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

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

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Joey Smith, Allison Blakeley, Maryn Hurlbut, Catalin Kaser, and Aaron Rowden

ABSENT: Dani Lanis (Excused), Samantha Torres, (Excused)

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

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Motion by Treasurer Hurlbut to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Kaser, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

**OPEN FORUM**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR**

- a.) Chair Smith advised the next Commission meeting will be held May 1, 2024
- b.) The balance of the Commission Trust Account is \$413.08
- c.) No membership changes

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Vice Chair Blakeley motioned to approve the minutes correcting the typing error for the March 6, 2024, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Kaser, carried with an agreed voice vote with Treasurer Hurlbut and Commissioner Rowden abstaining.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**Parks & Landscaping Division**

Greg Hardesty, Superintendent of Parks and Landscaping, shared a verbal and visual report of the Parks and Landscaping updates and responded to the commission's questions and concerns.

Tawfic Halaby, Deputy Director of Public Works, shared a sample photo showing the edits made to the current supply of park signage to include a QR code, with both English and Spanish translations of the Richmond Municipal Codes, along with sticker icons being placed at all park entrances.

Mr. Hardesty will continue to update the Master Parks Plan to include completion dates and will share at the next meeting.

**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 Field Assessment for Soccer and Courts**

Marcia Vallier from CSW ST2, presented an update on the Richmond Field Assessment that was previously offered to City Council and she answered several questions from the panel.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Vice Chair Blakeley stated she did attend the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee meeting and shared their desire to be informed on tree maintenance within the city, specifically as to tree removal data, in which she provided them Mr. Hardesty’s contact information.

**b.) Youth & Associate Commissioners Initiative (Joey / Maryn)**

No updates provided; Ms. Maharaj will reach out to Guadalupe Morales to move this item forward.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

**a.) Richmond Parks Master Plan Checklist Update**

Mr. Hardesty, as previously discussed, will continue to work on the *Existing Parks Needs Summary Table* by providing completion dates.

**COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS**

Vice Chair Blakeley reiterated that she attended the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee and has been working with some of their members on fire safety issues.

Commissioner Kaser shared that this will be her last meeting as her term is expiring, as well as she has taken employment with the City of Richmond which does not allow her to extend her term.

Commissioner Rowden took part in the Victory 5k in Richmond and enjoyed his run through the city’s many neighborhood parks.

Chair Smith visited with the Sisters in Solidarity to provide information on the recreation and park areas and attended the closing of the African Diaspora exhibits at the Richmond Art Center.

Ms. Maharaj shared the Marina Bay Farmers Market will take place this Sunday (4/7/2024). In addition, she shared the Community Budget Meetings are coming soon and she encouraged the commissioners to attend. (Flyers will be shared to provide all the details and information.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine George  
Executive Assistant