

City of Richmond - RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

Community Services Building, Council Chambers
440 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011, 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Portero called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

2. WELCOME AND MEETING PROCEDURES

Chair Portero read the meeting procedures

3. AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION

Comm. Torres motioned to accept the Agenda with items 8c and 8d removed. Comm. Saucer-Bilbo seconded. Passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR

- Black and Brown Women's Conference was held.
- Reported on the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at the Nevin Center held Oct. 22nd, 2011 and thanked all the hosts.
- Thanked the community for all the various events happening.

5. OPEN FORUM

- Garry Hurlbut, Richmond resident – made proposals for the tennis programs in the Recreation Department and the renovations of the tennis courts.
 1. Chair Portero advised the Recreation Department, the Parks Division and herself are in the process of setting up a meeting with him.
- Paul Rodgers, Richmond resident – asked if the parks could have break from soccer a few Saturdays a month. Thanked staff for alleviating soccer from the BTA Park on Sundays.
 1. Chair Portero suggested speaking with staff. Also asked to get his contact information as she wanted to speak with him personally.
- Johnny White, Richmond resident – spoke in support of Center for Human Development (CHD) located at Shields-Reid Community Center.
- Otheree Chrisitan, Richmond Resident, and President of the Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council – spoke in support of Opportunity West, located at Nevin Community Center.
- Annie King-Meredith, Richmond Resident, previous Recreation Department employee– spoke in support of Opportunity West, located at Nevin Community Center as they have supported her art class and programs.
- Shirley Boddie, Richmond Resident – spoke in support of CHD and Opportunity West.
- Marena Brown, Richmond Resident, and President of North Richmond Neighborhood Council – spoke in support of Opportunity West and more specifically CHD.
- Garland Harper, Richmond Resident – spoke in support of CHD.
- Carla Orozco, Richmond Resident, Community Services Coordinator, Neighborhood House of North Richmond – spoke about the conditions of the 3rd St. and Shields-Reid baseball fields and asked that they are maintained on a consistent basis
 1. Councilman Boozé asked about mitigation funds and advised she should speak with staff specifically.
- Jackie Thompson, Richmond Resident – advised the Commission she spoke with a Senior who felt that the Richmond Swim Center is not ADA compliant. She also spoke about vendors selling things in the parks. She announced a minority scholarship opportunity and gave her phone number for reference.
 1. Chair Porter asked Councilman Boozé if he could take the issue of the vendors selling in the parks to Council. He advised it should be brought to the attention of the Parks Division and Recreation Department first.

- Leonard Webster, Richmond Resident – spoke to the community about getting along, stopping the racism and coming together to interact in a more positive manner and suggested building a gym at Shields-Reid and 3rd St. Parks.
- 1. Councilman Boozé asked speaker to please come to Council and make the same statements during Open Forum.
- Councilman Boozé noted that now that the bulkhead has been installed, the ADA accessibility at the Plunge has been reduced.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

7. PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS

- Review of Current Programs – Opportunity West, Cheryl Maier, discussed the history of Opportunity West and noted current services offered. Reference was made to the documents distributed to the Commission.
- 1. Johnny White, Richmond Resident, and member of the Mitigation Committee – spoke in support of, and reported on the programs offered by CHD.
- 2. Doris Mason, Richmond Resident, and President of Barrett Plaza Terrace Neighborhood Resident Council – spoke in support of Opportunity West.
- 3. Angela Moore, Director, Center for Human Development – spoke in support of Opportunity West.
- 4. Joe Wallace, Richmond Resident – spoke in support of Opportunity West.
- 5. Fred Franklin, Richmond Resident – spoke in support of Opportunity West.
- 6. Albert Lee, Richmond Resident – spoke in support of Opportunity West.
- 7. Martin McNair, Richmond Resident and Treasurer of Opportunity West – spoke in support of Opportunity West and noted he was impressed by the community support and thanked all the other speakers.
- 8. Cindy Howell, Vallejo Resident – spoke in support of Opportunity West.
- 9. Nzinga Kilimonjaro, Richmond Resident – spoke in support of Opportunity West.
- 10. Omowale Serengeti, Richmond Resident – spoke in support of Opportunity West.
- 11. Shyaam Shabaka, founder of and Director of Eco-Village Farm Learning Center in Richmond – spoke in support of Opportunity West.
- 12. Lillie Mae Jones, Richmond Resident – spoke in support of Opportunity West.
- 13. Councilman Boozé advised that Lillie Mae Jones has been his inspiration and he will do what he can to support her views and he has met with the City Manager and will continue to work with him in regards to Opportunity West.
- 14. Delphine Smith, Richmond Resident, and member of the Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council – spoke in support of Opportunity West.

Chair Portero recommended hearing items 8.b, 8.e, 9.e, 11 and 12 for the remainder of the meeting.

Vice-Chair Garcia motioned to extend the meeting to 8:45. Comm. Torres seconded. Passed unanimously.

- 15. Chair Garcia advised he was disturbed to hear about the pending relocations of Opportunity West through the Community and not from staff.
- 16. Chair Garcia motioned to forward a request to the Council Liaison, Councilman Boozé, to agendize a vote in support of Opportunity West to stay inside the Nevin Center. Comm. Saucer-Bilbo seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Community partnerships within City of Richmond, Recreation Department facilities – Human Rights & Relations Commission Chair, Kathleen Sullivan advised there have been meetings within the Recreation Department and Legal staff to develop a new policy for the use of facilities by outside community agencies. She stated however, in her and others opinions, there should be a moratorium for Opportunity West and CHD and they should not be subject to any new guidelines, transitions or movement, regardless if only for the removal of the administrative offices.
- 1. Councilman Boozé inquired how much office space is being used at the Nevin or Shields-Reid Center and asked what justification there is for the organizations to be moved.
- 2. Chair Portero advised she was under the impression the other organizations that were interested in applying for the space were CCISCO and the Center for the Performing Arts.
- 3. Shirley Boddie, Richmond Resident – spoke in support of CHD.

4. Darvone Crenshaw, Richmond Resident, and employee of CHD – spoke in support of CHD.
5. Pearly Thornton, Rodeo Resident, and volunteer at CHD – spoke in support of CHD.
6. Yvonne Dwyer, San Pablo Resident, and volunteer at CHD – spoke in support of CHD.
7. Joe Wallace, Richmond Resident – spoke in support of CHD.
8. Angela Moore, Director, CHD – spoke about current programming offered by CHD.
9. Nelshon Hamilton, Richmond Resident – spoke in support of CHD.

Comm. Saucer-Bilbo motioned to extend the meeting to 9 p.m. Comm. Leedie seconded. Passed unanimously.

10. Earl Hamilton, Richmond Resident – spoke in support of CHD.
11. Councilman Boozé inquired about previous lease negotiations. He noted he would work with Chair Portero and staff later in regards to this.
12. Chair Garcia motioned to forward a request to the Council Liaison, Councilman Boozé, to agendize a vote in support of CHD to stay inside the Shields-Reid Community Center. Comm. Saucer-Bilbo seconded. Passed unanimously.
13. Chair Portero asked the community speakers to come back and express their views when the Commission re-votes on the gate closure at Nevin Community Center.
 - Special Events, Community Calendar – Recreation Department Staff advised the department will be working on developing a community calendar and that currently Special Events are posted on the Recreation Department and City of Richmond website.
 1. Chair Portero asked about the information of rentals.
 2. Staff advised permission rights may be an issue.
 3. Commission and staff discussed various mediums for the calendar.

Comm. Torres motioned to extend the meeting to 9:15 p.m. Chair Portero seconded. Passed unanimously.

8. STAFF REPORTS

- Recreation Department –
 - a) Reminded everyone about the retreat for Saturday, November 5th.
- Parks Division –
- City Attorney's Office –
- City Council Liaison –
 - a) Asked commission to speak during the retreat in regards to getting better responses from City Council to help alleviate double work
 - b) Thanked Chris Chamberlain for all his work he does in the City.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Commission Requests for Future Agenda Items
 - a) Gate closure at Nevin Center
 - b) Follow-up to the items presented by LaShonda Wilson during this meeting.
2. Current Future Agenda Items

10. COMMISSION & LIAISON REPORTS

11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice-Chair Garcia – asked that important decisions the Recreation Department makes be brought before the attention of the commission first, such as field closures.

Chair Portero – said she felt the Commission, in general, was lacking information from the Recreation Department.

Councilmember Boozé – asked Chair Portero to put on the next Recreation and Commission Agenda an item to hear the issues brought up regarding the field usage and closures. Chair Portero advised that would be fine in order to share information regarding any issues between users and the Recreation Department.

Comm. Saucer-Bilbo – asked to put on the next Agenda an item to have the Men & Women of Valor placed in the Shields-Reid Community Center. Chair Portero asked if this will be a presentation to contact staff for language on the Agenda.

Comm. Leedie motioned to extend the meeting an additional 5 minutes. Comm. Torres seconded. Passed unanimously.

Staff announced the Roller Derby event and also on Nov. 7th, 2011 the Recreation Department Tennis Program will be receiving a \$9,000 donation from the Blackhawk Tennis Club.

Staff announced they will begin forwarding the weekly City Manager report to each Commissioner via email.

Comm. Leedie – spoke about the tour on the Greenway with the state.

Comm. Garcia – thanked staff for helping put together a fundraiser for Children’s Hospital with the Richmond Sol program, where they raised close to \$4,000.

Chair Portero – thanked Chris Chamberlain and his staff.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Portero adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

13. SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Commission Meeting –

Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 6:00 p.m., Community Services Building, Council Chambers, 440 Civic Center Plaza.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Johann Frazier, Executive Secretary