

Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 07, 2021 6:00 PM



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- **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Meeting called to order by Chair Hurlbut at 6:02 p.m.

- **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Maryn Hurlbut, Joey Smith, Brendan Havenar-Daughton, Remi Payne, Soheila Bana, Allison Blakeley, Pardip Saini, Eleanor Thompson

Chair Hurlbut provided a brief overview of the meeting procedures and informed the attendees that due to the large number of speakers, they would be allowed one minute to speak on an item.

- **AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION**

- There were no changes to the published agenda.
- Commissioner Havenar-Daughton made a motion to prioritize the most pressing item on the agenda, the Hilltop Lake Park Proposal to construct disc golf course, to allow for the community to provide input and to table the rest of the items to the next meeting. This item was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS & REPORTS THROUGH THE CHAIR**

No report, item tabled to the May meeting.

- **OPEN FORUM**

- Gary Hurlbut from the Richmond Tennis Association gave comments on how youth and adults are starting to participate in outdoor programs again. He thanked the Recreation Division and Parks and Landscaping Division for collaborating with the Richmond Tennis Association on programs and facility upgrades.
- Philip Rosenthal gave comments regarding general maintenance with park. He said that given the city's maintenance budget, he prefers to see city resources used to maintain the playgrounds that we currently have.

- **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- APPROVE – March, 2021 minutes
Chair Hurlbut called for a motion to accept the minutes. Moved by Commissioner Havenar-Daughton and seconded by Commissioner Saini, the motion passed unanimously.

- **AD HOC REPORTS**

No report, item tabled to the May meeting.

- **STAFF REPORTS**

No report, item tabled to the May meeting.

- **PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, & ACTION ITEMS**

Hilltop Lake Park Proposal to construct disc golf course with vote – East Bay Golf Club

Stephanie Ny, Associate Administrative Analyst for the Recreation Division, provided an outline of the meeting order and how this meeting item will be handled. She said that since there are so many public speakers, a strict timeline will be followed.

This item was opened by comments from Tawfic Halaby, the Interim Public Works Director. He said city staff were under the impression that the disc golf course would be installed at the Hilltop Lake Park and began work in the hilltop lake Park Area. However, in March, due to concerns that were raised by members of the community, all efforts were stopped. He said that at the March 16th City Council meeting, the City Council requested that this item come back to the Recreation and Parks Commission for their recommendation and; therefore, he was looking to the Commissioners to assess and review the information for the disc golf course.

Interim Community Services Director, Jim Nantell, announced that Chair Hurlbut had already agendaized this item for discussion at the April 7th Recreation and Parks Commission since Lindsay Jensen had attended the March 9th Commission Roundtable meeting and had voiced concerns regarding this project.

Jonathan Braidman, President of the East Bay Disc Golf Club provided a brief presentation on the proposed disc golf course and to address some concerns about misinformation on safety. He said disc golf is growing in popularity. He said one of the economic benefits of putting in a course falls in alignment with the city's master plan. He said disc golf is played in multiuse parks in the Bay area; however, there are very few courses for the number of people who play in California. This is a safe sport, it creates a sense of community and people have made lifelong friends through the sport.

He said Richmond has many neighborhoods serving facilities, but deferred maintenance and concern for safety and lack of adequate programming have discouraged active use in this park. East Bay Disc Golf Club has will pay for the entire course through donations from the folks who are part of our Community. The Club has already raised about half of this money which is mostly through small contributions.

Rosie Sorenson and Lindsay Jensen, residents from the Hilltop Lake Park area provided a presentation on opposing the construction of the disc golf course. Ms. Sorenson claimed the East Bay Disc Golf did not practice transparency with their plans to construct a disc golf course. The residents near the Hilltop Lake Park and the City Council were unaware of this plan. They said the disc golf course is a danger to the wildlife, no one wants this course, they all love their park and don't want it destroyed.

▪ **Public Comment:**

The following speakers spoke in favor of the Disc Golf Course:

- Bryan Schmitz gave comments in favor of building a Disc Golf Course at Hilltop Lake Park.
- Ernesto Rodriguez gave comments in favor of building Disc Golf Course at Hilltop Lake Park.
- Zachary Moore gave comments in favor building Disc Golf Course at Hilltop Lake Park.
- Matt Hansen gave comments in support of the Disc Golf Course at Hilltop Lake Park.
- Sonia MacNelly is a Richmond Resident and gave comments in favor of the Disc Golf Course.
- Matt Rowe gave comments in favor of the Disc Golf Course.
- Zachary Paschall is not a Richmond resident but gave comments in favor of the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Nick Norena gave comments in support of building a Disc Golf Course at Hilltop Lake.
- Steve Keller gave comments in support of the Disc Golf Course.
- Helen Kostoff gave comments in support of the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Leonard Muise is an Eastbay Resident and gave comments in support of the Disc Golf Course.

- Geoffrey Goss gave comments in support of the Disc Golf Course.
- David Falzone is a Richmond resident and gave in comments in support of the Disc Golf Course.
- Shawn Mercy is a Richmond Resident and gave comments in favor of the Disc Golf Course.
- Farrah Wayne gave comments in favor of the construction of the Disc Golf Course.

The following speakers spoke in opposition of the Disc Golf Course:

- Lingsie Jensen gave comments in opposition of the proposed area of Hilltop Lake Park.
- Lindsey Caller **5174 gave comments against the building of a Disc Gold Course at Hilltop Lake Park.
- Rosie Sorenson gave comments against the construction of Disc Golf Course.
- Janet Caller 3084 is a Richmond resident and gave comments in opposition of the construction of Disc Golf Course.
- Kurt Jensen is a resident of Richmond resident and gave comments against the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Will Roller gave comments 7:38pm
- Anita Carswell is a Richmond resident and gave comments in opposition of the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Brendan Montgomery is a Richmond resident and gave comments in opposition of the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Elsa Stevens is a Richmond resident and gave comments in opposition of the Disc Golf Course construction.
- Dave Ericson Caller **4240 is a Martinez resident and gave comments in opposition to the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Pastor Nicolas Alexander gave comments in opposition of the construction of the Disc golf Course.
- Leisa Johnson is a Richmond resident and gave comments in opposition to the construction of the Disc golf Course.
- Caller **2352 James Daniels is a Richmond resident and gave comments in opposition to the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Lauren Lober is a Richmond resident and gave comments in opposition to the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Elaine Dockens is a Richmond resident and gave comments in opposition to the construction of the Disc Golf Course.
- Phillip gave comments in opposition to construction of the Disc golf Course.

The following speakers gave general comments on the item:

- Garry Hurlbut is a Richmond resident and gave comments in how to engage the community.
- Nathaniel Bates gave comments to remind commissioners of their advisory role to City Council.

Following Public Comment, the Commission members were given a chance to present their questions to the presenters and staff.

At 8:01 pm, the Commission proceeded to take a vote to extend the meeting. Commissioner Blakely moved, with an amendment by Commissioner Smith to extend the meeting to complete hearing all remaining callers wishing to speak on the proposed disc golf construction item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saini, the motion passed unanimously

The Commission voted on another motion to carry over items for discussion at the roundtable meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Commissioner Blakely moved; Commissioner Saini seconded; the motion passed with Commissioner Bana abstaining.

- **COMMISSIONER LIASON REPORTS**
No report, item tabled to the May meeting

- **ACTION ITEMS RECAP**
Continue discussion of East Bay Disc Golf Course proposal at Hilltop Lake Park
- **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM RECOMMENDATIONS**
None
- **ADJOURNMENT**
 - Meeting adjourned at 8:23 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Angelica Howay, Administrative Aide