

We intend to come to the meeting tonight and make a public statement. Here is our written statement, both in the email and as an attachment.

Kenoli Oleari  
Arts of Point Richmond  
510-717-1706  
[kenoli@igc.org](mailto:kenoli@igc.org)

Thanks

—Kenoli

ATTN: Recreation Commission, City of Richmond

We believe that community centers should be affordable to the communities in which they are located and that the city should subsidize community centers in Richmond to the extent necessary to make them affordable to community groups. With the new fee schedules this is no longer the case.

We request that you meet with us and a group of members of other communities to discuss what is reasonable and affordable for communities to be able to afford to use rec centers in Richmond.

For 10 years, Arts of Point richmond has used the local rec center in Point Richmond for meetings, workshops for the public and an annual art faire with artwork and crafts for Xmas presents.

We have provided benefits to the center in return, including a large video monitor we purchased with a grant and gave the center. We have been charged and happily paid a reasonable fee when we used the center. Now the fees make it too expensive to use. We have had to find other places to have our events. Other groups in the community are now in the same quandary.

Only the “official” Point Richmond Neighborhood council is given access one time per month for meetings at no cost. They offered us their slot for a xmas faire this last year and with the help of the mayor, whose family is quite active in Point Richmond, we were able to get this approved.

The City offers few, if any, programs in the center. The rec center largely sits empty. This is even more true with the new fees making it prohibitive to local groups. In addition, if use fees are preclusive for local groups, they bring in no income to the City.

In addition, the ordinance forbids rec center staff from making arrangements with local groups and requires that any arrangements need to go through the city managers office, which, of course, makes it quite difficult to negotiate special arrangements.

Fees are reduced or exempted for City agencies. The new setup seems to assume that people will come to the center only for City sponsored events. In addition, the ordinance says that any City event can bump a community group’s reservation at any time.

Recently we have been approached by the community center to provide art for the library at the center, which is something that we do for other venues in Point Richmond. We would love to be able to do this. However, mounting a show like this is a significant effort for us and will include a significant expense to install a hanging system. It would sting to offer this service to the center knowing that we can't even afford to use the center ourselves.

While our comments here have been directed at the situation in Point Richmond we know that other communities have also been priced out of using the rec centers in their neighborhoods.

We believe that community centers should be affordable to the communities in which they are located and that the city should subsidize community centers in Richmond to the extent necessary to make them affordable to community groups.

We request that you meet with us and a group of members of other communities to discuss what is reasonable and affordable for communities to be able to afford to use rec centers in Richmond.

**EMAILED ATTACHMENT:**

ATTN: Recreation Commission, City of Richmond

We believe that community centers should be affordable to the communities in which they are located and that the city should subsidize community centers in Richmond to the extent necessary to make them affordable to community groups. With the new fee schedules this is no longer the case.

We request that you meet with us and a group of members of other communities to discuss what is reasonable and affordable for communities to be able to afford to use rec centers in Richmond.

For 10 years, Arts of Point richmond has used the local rec center in Point Richmond for meetings, workshops for the public and an annual art faire with artwork and crafts for Xmas presents.

We have provided benefits to the center in return, including a large video monitor we purchased with a grant and gave the center. We have been charged and happily paid a reasonable fee when we used the center. Now the fees make it too expensive to use. We

have had to find other places to have our events. Other groups in the community are now in the same quandary.

Only the “official” Point Richmond Neighborhood council is given access one time per month for meetings at no cost. They offered us their slot for a xmas faire this last year and with the help of the mayor, whose family is quite active in Point Richmond, we were able to get this approved.

The City offers few, if any, programs in the center. The rec center largely sits empty. This is even more true with the new fees making it prohibitive to local groups. In addition, if use fees are preclusive for local groups, they bring in no income to the City.

In addition, the ordinance forbids rec center staff from making arrangements with local groups and requires that any arrangements need to go through the city managers office, which, of course, makes it quite difficult to negotiate special arrangements.

Fees are reduced or exempted for City agencies. The new setup seems to assume that people will come to the center only for City sponsored events. In addition, the ordinance says that any City event can bump a community group’s reservation at any time.

Recently we have been approached by the community center to provide art for the library at the center, which is something that we do for other venues in Point Richmond. We would love to be able to do this. However, mounting a show like this is a significant effort for us and will include a significant expense to install a hanging system. It would sting to offer this service to the center knowing that we can’t even afford to use the center ourselves.

While our comments here have been directed at the situation in Point Richmond we know that other communities have also been priced out of using the rec centers in their neighborhoods.

We believe that community centers should be affordable to the communities in which they are located and that the city should subsidize community centers in Richmond to the extent necessary to make them affordable to community groups.

We request that you meet with us and a group of members of other communities to discuss what is reasonable and affordable for communities to be able to afford to use rec centers in Richmond.

---

Dear Commission (Manjana Haharaj) — I obtained some additional information since I sent the email on this subject to the commission today. This document now includes that new information.

We would like to have our voice included in the changes this commission is preparing as recommendations to the city council for change in the fee ordinance. One key item we would like to see is to give rec center staff authority to negotiated special arrangements with community groups rather than have this authority held by the city manager.

We also think the fees are way to high. We are a pretty wealthy community. We can't imagine how low income communities can afford them.

We'd like to be able to offer in kind contributions in lieu of fees.

Is there a chance of meeting with you to discuss this?

Thank you,

Kenoli Oleari  
510-717-1706  
[kenoli@igc.org](mailto:kenoli@igc.org)  
Arts of Point Richmond

**EMAILED ATTACHMENT:**

ATTN: Recreation Commission, City of Richmond

We believe that community centers should be affordable to the communities in which they are located and that the city should subsidize community centers in Richmond to the extent necessary to make them affordable to community groups. With the new fee schedules this is no longer the case.

We request that you meet with us and a group of members of other communities to discuss what is reasonable and affordable for communities to be able to afford to use rec centers in Richmond.

For 10 years, Arts of Point Richmond has used the local rec center in Point Richmond for meetings, workshops for the public and an annual art faire with artwork and crafts for Xmas presents.

We have provided benefits to the center in return, including a large video monitor we purchased with a grant and gave the center. We have been charged and happily paid a reasonable fee when we used the center. Now the fees make it too expensive to use. We have had to find other places to have our events. Other groups in the community are now in the same quandary.

Only the “official” Point Richmond Neighborhood council is given access one time per month for meetings at no cost. They offered us their slot for a xmas faire this last year and with the help of the mayor, whose family is quite active in Point Richmond, we were able to get this approved.

The City offers few, if any, programs in the center. The rec center largely sits empty. This is even more true with the new fees making it prohibitive to local groups. In addition, if use fees are preclusive for local groups, they bring in no income to the City.

In addition, the ordinance forbids rec center staff from making arrangements with local groups and requires that any arrangements need to go through the city managers office, which, of course, makes it quite difficult to negotiate special arrangements.

Fees are reduced or exempted for City agencies. The new setup seems to assume that people will come to the center only for City sponsored events. In addition, the ordinance says that any City event can bump a community group’s reservation at any time.

Recently we have been approached by the community center to provide art for the library at the center, which is something that we do for other venues in Point Richmond. We would love to be able to do this. However, mounting a show like this is a significant effort for us and will include a significant expense to install a hanging system. It would sting to offer this service to the center knowing that we can't even afford to use the center ourselves.

While our comments here have been directed at the situation in Point Richmond we know that other communities have also been priced out of using the rec centers in their neighborhoods.

We believe that community centers should be affordable to the communities in which they are located and that the city should subsidize community centers in Richmond to the extent necessary to make them affordable to community groups.

We request that you meet with us and a group of members of other communities to discuss what is reasonable and affordable for communities to be able to afford to use rec centers in Richmond.

---

**From:** [darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com) <[darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 5:41 PM  
**To:** LaShonda White <[LaShonda\\_Wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:LaShonda_Wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us)>  
**Cc:** Tetteh Kisseh <[Tetteh\\_Kisseh@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:Tetteh_Kisseh@ci.richmond.ca.us)>; Ranjana Maharaj <[Ranjana\\_Maharaj@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:Ranjana_Maharaj@ci.richmond.ca.us)>; 'Rosario Ysip' <[2016charo0801@gmail.com](mailto:2016charo0801@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting tonight 3/2/22 (Item 11C)

This email originated from outside of the City's email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I can make it to Open Forum but cannot stay on later. Rosario Ysip would also like to speak on this item. She will call in: her # is 510-589-2404 so she is allowed in.

Thank you,  
Darlene  
510-459-7780

**From:** LaShonda White <[LaShonda\\_Wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:LaShonda_Wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 5:27 PM

**To:** [darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** Tetteh Kisseh <[Tetteh\\_Kisseh@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:Tetteh_Kisseh@ci.richmond.ca.us)>; Ranjana Maharaj <[Ranjana\\_Maharaj@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:Ranjana_Maharaj@ci.richmond.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting tonight 3/2/22 (Item 11C)

I know understand. Are you attending tonight's meeting to share your concerns? I am including Tetteh and Ranjana on this email to provide me with information.

LaShonda White  
Interim Library and Community Services Director  
City of Richmond  
450 Civic Center Plaza  
510.620.6828

**From:** [darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com) <[darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 5:25 PM  
**To:** LaShonda White <[LaShonda\\_Wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:LaShonda_Wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting tonight 3/2/22 (Item 11C)

This email originated from outside of the City's email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Thank you, however, this item is tonight on the agenda.

Parks & Rec went ahead without consulting me formally. Tetteh mentioned this change briefly on the phone and I disagreed. He did not follow up and went ahead and submitted this action item, as he deems.

Sincerely,  
Darlene

**From:** LaShonda White <[LaShonda\\_Wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:LaShonda_Wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 5:22 PM  
**To:** [darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** RE: Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting tonight 3/2/22 (Item 11C)

Thank you, Darlene and I will discuss this with Recreation staff after tonight's meeting.

LaShonda White  
Interim Library and Community Services Director  
City of Richmond  
450 Civic Center Plaza  
510.620.6828

**From:** [darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com) <[darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 5:15 PM  
**To:** LaShonda White <[LaShonda\\_Wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:LaShonda_Wilson@ci.richmond.ca.us)>

**Subject:** FW: Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting tonight 3/2/22 (Item 11C)  
**Importance:** High

This email originated from outside of the City's email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I forgot to include you, LaShonda, in this important email I sent earlier.

I very much would like for East Bay Pickleball Association to receive better support than it does now from Parks & Rec: so disappointing!

Sincerely,

Darlene Rios Drapkin



**From:** [darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com) <[darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 1:03 PM  
**To:** 'Tetteh Kisseh' <[Tetteh\\_Kisseh@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:Tetteh_Kisseh@ci.richmond.ca.us)>; 'Ranjana Maharaj' <[Ranjana\\_Maharaj@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:Ranjana_Maharaj@ci.richmond.ca.us)>; [ms.jds4rec.parkscommission@gmail.com](mailto:ms.jds4rec.parkscommission@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** 'Eduardo Martinez' <[richcityservant@gmail.com](mailto:richcityservant@gmail.com)>; 'Greg Hardesty' <[ghardesty@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:ghardesty@ci.richmond.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting tonight 3/2/22 (Item 11C)

Hi Tetteh, Ranjana and Honorable Commissioner Smith:

Item 11C tonight on the agenda tonight:

East Bay Pickleball Association respectfully indicates we prefer to install the two permanent dedicated pickleball courts closer to the main gate, not closer to the play structure. We made this preference clear in the 12/1/21 meeting and the diagrams we sent Mr. Kisseh prior, for the approval meetings, per his request.

1. In a quick conversation, after the Southside Neighborhood Improvement meeting, (which I did not attend because I did not receive the link), Mr. Kisseh mentioned this change in order to not inconvenience tennis players. I explained the numerous times picklers have played at BTA courts, since the inauguration of pickleball lines last August 2021, there have been tennis players 2% of the time.
2. Both tennis courts need resurfacing. The tennis court closer to the playground is more hazardous. Therefore, since this sport attracts players of varying abilities and ages and there are greater playernumbers, it is best to play on a court with less safety concerns. That is the court closer to the main gate.

Thanks, Parks & Rec Dept and Commission, for your support of Pickleball.

Looking forward to forging a strong collaboration in 2022 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Darlene Rios Drapkin  
Richmond USAPA Pickleball Ambassador



President

**From:** Tetteh Kisseh <[Tetteh\\_Kisseh@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:Tetteh_Kisseh@ci.richmond.ca.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 9:18 AM  
**To:** [darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** RE: Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting

Hello Darlene,  
It will be addressed with confidence. I will keep you posted.

Thank you

Tetteh Kisseh

**From:** [darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com) <[darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 5:31 PM  
**To:** Tetteh Kisseh <[Tetteh\\_Kisseh@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:Tetteh_Kisseh@ci.richmond.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting

This email originated from outside of the City's email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Many, many items being discussed before pickleball item is addressed. I wonder why it is always towards the end, LOL. I estimate 7:30 pm  
If you are confident you have it addressed, I will not participate. If you'd like me to be available, you may text me.

Let me know what you think, so I know, and I'll oblige.

Sincerely,  
Darlene

**From:** Tetteh Kisseh <[Tetteh\\_Kisseh@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:Tetteh_Kisseh@ci.richmond.ca.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 4:56 PM  
**To:** [darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting

Hello Darlene,  
Attached is the agenda for tomorrow's meeting.

Thank you

Tetteh Kisseh