



CITY OF RICHMOND
Recreation & Parks Commission Meeting
AGENDA

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 6:00 PM

This meeting is held on Zoom that is accessible to people with disabilities.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/93771521625?pwd=ZEI1Q0ZiOHV4b0lRRnZjeUYxak9RZz09>

Webinar ID: 937 7152 1625

Passcode: 156963

Or One tap mobile: +16699006833, or 93771521625# US (San Jose)

Or join by phone: US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/abTvlsoMuj>

Board Members: Joey Smith, Chair, Brendan Havenar-Daughton, Vice Chair, Allison Blakeley, Secretary, Vacant, Treasurer

Commissioners: Maryn Hurlbut, Soheila Bana, Eleanor Thompson, Catalin Kaser, Aaron Rowden

1. **Call to Order** (2 min)

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Genuine acknowledgement of the value of a land acknowledgement
 - The opportunity and risk of this moment in our agenda, and how to embrace it wisely
 - The simple acknowledgement that we stand, sit, live and exist on land that was previously and currently occupied and cared for by First Peoples prior to the establishment of the United States, California statehood and the founding of the City of Richmond
 - Embracing the truth and leaning into our discomfort
 - Relentlessly identifying and pursuing opportunities for genuine engagement with local indigenous communities to understand indigenous struggles, needs and goals with a specific focus on exploring pathways to return indigenous lands to indigenous hands

2. **Roll Call** (1 min)

3. **Welcome and Meeting Procedures** (1 min)

*Individuals who would like to address the Recreation and Parks Commission on relevant matters not listed on the agenda or on Department Reports for Information items not pulled for discussion, may do so under **Open Forum**.*

Public comment may be made on agenda items when the item is discussed. The standard amount of time for each speaker, in either instance, will be two (2) minutes.

4. **Agenda Review** (1 min)

The order in which items will be heard may be adjusted by Commissioner vote at this time. In addition, items may be removed from or placed on the Consent Calendar at this time. Individual items may be removed from Department Reports for Information for discussion, explanation, or continuance to a future meeting. In addition, the order in which items will be heard may be adjusted at this time.

5. **Open Forum** (10 min.; 2 min per speaker)

*Issues brought to the attention of the commission in **Open Forum** cannot result in discussion or action at this meeting. Individuals who would like to address the Recreation and Parks Commission on relevant matters **not** listed on the agenda or on Department Reports for Information items **not** pulled for*

Public comment may be made on agenda items when the item is discussed.

6. **Announcements through the Chair** (5 min.)

7. **Consent Calendar** (2 min)

Items on the Consent Calendar are considered matters requiring little or no discussion and will be acted upon in one motion.

APPROVE minutes of the March 2, 2022 meeting.

8. **Department Reports For Information** (10 min)

Unless items were pulled for discussion during Agenda Review, all reports are considered received and accepted by the commission requiring no further action.

- a. Public Works: Facilities – Jose Urquilla
- b. Parks & Landscaping Divisions – Greg Hardesty
- c. Community Services Division: Recreation and Neighborhood Services – Ranjana Maharaj

9. **Presentations**

- 1. LaShonda White, Interim Library & Community Services, Draft Fee Waiver Policy and Partnership Policy
- 2. Darlene Rios Drapkin, East Bay Pickleball Association

10. **Ad Hoc Committee Reports** (20 min)

- a. Sustainability and Climate Responsiveness Committee (Brendan/Catalin/Maryn)
- b. Willie Mays Day Project (Maryn/Eleanor/Joey)
- c. Associate Commissioner Committee (Maryn/Allison/Joey)
- d. Statement of Policy and Guidelines for Naming or Re-naming of Parks, Facilities and Streets

11. **Discussions and Action Items**

Following discussion of each item, the commission may vote to make recommendations to Commissioners, staff and/or to the City Council.

- a. **COORDINATE** open conversation on how the city can support the native stewardship of Ookwe Park:
 - i. Recreation and Parks Commission
 - ii. Sogorea Te' Land Trust
 - iii. Arts and Culture Commission
 - iv. Planning Commission
- b. **APPROVE** – a request to convert one tennis court to fixed pickleball courts at BTA

12. **Commissioner Liaison Reports** (18 minutes, 2 min. per member)

At 8:00 PM, any items remaining on the agenda that require immediate attention may be moved to this time. All other items will be tabled to another meeting or the following commission meeting in order to make fair and attentive decisions. This meeting adjourns at 8:30 PM. The meeting may be extended by a majority vote of the commissioners.

13. **Commissioner Comments** (9 min.;1 min. per person)

14. **Agenda Setting for Next Meeting and Future Topics** (3 min.)

15. **Adjournment** (1 min.)

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

As presiding officer, the Recreation and Parks Commission Chair has the authority to preserve order at all Recreation and Parks Commission meetings, to remove or cause the removal of any person from any such meeting for disorderly conduct, or for making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, using profanity, or becoming boisterous, threatening or personally abusive while addressing said Commission, and to enforce the rules of the Commission. Any documents produced by the City and distributed to the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available at the Community Services/Recreation Division located at 3230 Macdonald Avenue, Richmond, California during normal business hours.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY

PURSUANT to the Governor of the State of California's Assembly Bill 361 and in the interest of the public health and safety, attendance at the City of Richmond City Council meeting will be limited to Council members, essential City of Richmond staff, and members of the news media. Public comment will be confined to items appearing on the agenda and will be limited to the methods provided below.

Public comment may be submitted by email and/or Zoom video conference in the manner that follows; provided that no member of the public may submit more than one verbal comment per agenda item.

1. Via email to recreation@ci.richmond.ca.us by 1:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Emails MUST contain in the subject line 1) Public Comments – Open Forum; **OR** 2) Public Comments agenda item # - [include the agenda item number].

All such email will be posted on-line and emailed to the Commission before the meeting is called to order. **No individual email will be read into the record. Due to the high volume of emails received, emails that do not contain the correct identifying information in the subject line may be overlooked and may not become part of the record. Email received after 1:00 p.m. will be posted on-line following the meeting as part of the supplemental materials attached to the meeting minutes.**

2. Via Zoom by video conference or by phone using the following link/call-in numbers – for Open Session:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

Zoom webinar link: <https://zoom.us/j/93771521625?pwd=ZEI1Q0ZiOHV4b0lRRnZjeUYxak9RZz09>

Webinar ID: 937 7152 1625

Passcode: 156963

Or One tap mobile: +16699006833, or 93771521625# US (San Jose)

Or join by phone: US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592
or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 937 7152 1625

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/abTvlsoMuJ>

- a. To comment by video conference, click on the Participants button at the bottom of your screen and select the “Raise Your Hand” button to request to speak when Public Comment is being asked for. Speakers will be called upon in the order they select the “Raise Your Hand” feature. When called upon, press the unmute button. After the allotted time, you will then be re-muted.
**
- b. To comment by phone, you will be prompted to “Raise Your Hand” by pressing “*9” to request to speak when Public Comment is asked for. When called upon, you will be asked to unmuted by

pressing *6. After the allotted time, you will then be re-muted. Instructions of how to raise your hand by phone are available at:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362663-Joining-a-meeting-by-phone>. **

3. Use the below email address to correspond directly with the Chairperson for any other issues:
rec.parkscommission@gmail.com

**The Chair will announce the agenda item number and open public comment when appropriate. Individuals who would like to address the Commission should raise their hand. The Chair will close public comment when public comment is concluded.

Open Forum for Public Comment: Individuals who would like to address the Commission on matters not listed on the agenda or on items remaining on the consent calendar may do so under Open Forum.

The City cannot guarantee that its network and/or the site will be uninterrupted. To ensure that the Commission receives your comments, you are strongly encouraged to submit your comments in writing in advance of the meeting.

AB 361 Procedures in the Event of Technical Difficulties: In the event the meeting broadcast is disrupted, or if a **technical issue on the agency's end** disrupts public participation, the legislative body board cannot take any further action on the agenda until the technical issue is resolved.

Record of all public comments: Properly labeled public comments will be considered a public record, put into the official meeting record, available after the meeting as supplemental materials, and will be posted as an attachment to the meeting minutes when the minutes are posted: [Archive Center](#) • [Richmond](#) • [CivicEngage](#)

Procedures for Removing Consent Calendar Items from the Consent Calendar: Members of the public who request to remove an item from the consent calendar must first discuss the item with a staff member by phone or a back-and-forth email discussion, and state the name of the staff member when requesting removal of the item from the consent calendar.

Any member of the Commission who would like to remove an item from the consent calendar must notify the appropriate staff person prior to the meeting. Although members of the Commission are encouraged to ask questions and share concerns with staff ahead of the meeting, they are not required to do so.

The Recreation Division staff must be informed of any requests to remove items from the Consent Calendar.

Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities: Upon request, the City will provide for written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services and sign language interpreters, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in and provide comments at/related to public meetings. Please submit a request, including your name, phone number and/or email address, and a description of the modification, accommodation, auxiliary aid, service or alternative format requested at least two days before the meeting. Requests should be emailed to recreation@ci.richmond.ca.us or submitted by phone at 510-620-6950. Requests will be granted whenever possible and resolved in favor of accessibility.

Effect of Advisory on In-person participation: During the pendency of Assembly Bill 361, the language in this Advisory portion of the agenda supersedes any language contemplating in-person public comment.

Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 6:00 PM



To view a video of this meeting click on this link:

https://richmond.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=37

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order by Chair Joey Smith at 6:03 P.M. who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Joey Smith, Sohelia Bana, Allison Blakeley, Brendan Havenar-Daughton, Catalin Kaser, Aaron Rowden, and Eleanor Thompson

ABSENT: Maryn Hurlbut (Excused)

Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton requested that the Commission embrace a genuine acknowledgement that the City of Richmond was situated on land that was previously and currently occupied and cared for by First Peoples, the Huichin: Confederated Villages of Lisjan, Chochenyo Ohlone Territory, made up of the seven Tribes of Lisjan (Ohlone), Karkin (Ohlone), Bay Miwok, Plains Miwok, Wappo, Delta Yokut and Napian (Patwin) whose territory included Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Napa and San Joaquin counties. The intent was to relentlessly identify and pursue opportunities for genuine engagement with local indigenous communities to understand indigenous struggles, needs and goals, with a specific focus on exploring pathways to return indigenous lands to indigenous hands.

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

AGENDA REVIEW

By consent, the agenda was approved as submitted.

OPEN FORUM

Kenoli Oleari, representing Arts of Point Richmond, an association of local artists providing artists and art activities in the local schools, believed that community centers in Richmond should be subsidized to make them affordable to the community. He stated that Arts of Point Richmond had used the Rec Center for the last ten years but the fees now being charged were prohibitive, and the rental process now through the City Manager's Office was difficult.

Mr. Oleari stated that Arts of Point Richmond had recently been approached by the Community Center to provide art for the library at the center, which had been done for other venues in Point Richmond. He asked to meet with the Recreation & Parks Commission or with staff to address the concerns.

Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director, Community Services Division, advised that she would provide Mr. Oleari's full email to the Commission.

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, invited Commissioners to attend a performance of *Anton in Show Business* at the Contra Costa Civic Theater on Friday, March 4 at 7:30 P.M., proof of vaccination required; and invited Commissioners to the Richmond Rotary Club weekly meeting in person on March 11 at 12:30 P.M. at the Richmond Country Club.

Linda Whitmore, a member of the Santa Fe Neighborhood Council commented that there were two parks in the neighborhood. Speaking to Southside Park, she expressed concern that it would be lost because of the current homeless encampment. She had submitted photos of what was happening in the park with the homeless encampment and stated it had started to attract dumping and the drainage area was becoming a storage area for trash and debris. She asked for help to address those issues given that the homeless were taking over and the neighborhood family park could no longer be used as intended.

Chair Smith noted that Ms. Whitmore had previously sought help and had received some help, although the dumping problems had continued. She would share with the Commission the email from Ms. Whitmore received this date.

Darlene Rios Drapkin, USA Pickleball Association Ambassador, East Bay Pickleball Association, spoke to the item on the agenda to convert one tennis court to fixed pickleball courts at Booker T. Anderson, Jr. (BTA) Park and expressed a preference to install the two courts closer to the main gate and not closer to the play structure as recommended by staff. Not being able to remain on Zoom until the item was to be considered, she asked the Commission to take that into account when making its decision.

Vice Mayor Eduardo Martinez spoke to the issue of equity in terms of city fees and stated that the organizations that promoted Richmond and brought the Richmond community together and organizations that had done a lot to improve Richmond by bringing grants to the city, should be able to work in partnership with the city to make it easier for them to do the work they do. He wanted all organizations to have the same consideration where fees were concerned.

Ms. Maharaj stated that the Community Services Division was working with the Interim Director to develop policies and processes to address some of the issues with respect to fee waiver and the partnership and sponsorship process and policies, to be taken to the City Council in the near future. The fees as part of the Master Fee Schedule were to be developed, refined, and made available to organizations and partners that had raised concerns about the fees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR

1. Chair Smith advised that the Next Commission meeting would be held on April 6, 2022 via Zoom.
2. The balance in the Commission Trust account was reported to be \$413.08, with an additional \$1,000 in the Trust for the RTA Snow Ball account.
3. There were no membership changes.

Chair Smith clarified that the RTA Snow Ball event was not just a party but a way to honor outstanding

high school students through a scholarship program. She urged people to donate what they could, which could be done online through the RTA site.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Minutes of the February 2, 2022 Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Kaser to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2022 meeting as submitted, seconded by Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Public Works: Facilities

Ranjana Maharaj presented the report from Jose Urquilla, Superintendent of Facilities.

Parks & Landscaping Divisions

Greg Hardesty, Superintendent of Parks & Landscaping, provided a verbal and visual report, and responded to questions including an identification of the materials used for irrigation. He described the materials and explained that 99 percent of the City's systems ran off irrigation clocks with watering during the middle of the night.

Commissioner Blakeley asked about the dogs on leash multilingual signs, particularly at Mira Flores Park since someone had been bitten by a dog and there had been no consequences since no signs had been posted. Mr. Hardesty stated that some signs had been installed at Judge Carroll Park and he was working to get at least temporary signs out as soon as possible pending the ability to install permanent signs.

Community Services Division: Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director, CSD, provided an extensive oral and visual report and responded to comments from the Commission.

Stephanie Ny, CSD staff, provided the Love Your Block update and stated a clean-up focus had been held at Nevin Park in collaboration with Developing Personal Resources Center (DPRC) staff, an event attended by 21 volunteers who had picked up 15 bags of trash, where Urban Tilth had helped with bio swale clean up and planting, and where donations had been received from the Watershed Nursery.

Ms. Ny thanked the Commission for attending the event and also for supporting the Juneteenth Mural and Underpass Renaming Project, which the City Council had approved. She also reported that YES Nature to Neighborhoods had received a Love Your Block mini grant last year and had just finished the mural on the Nicholl Park restrooms, which had been painted by local artists. She reported there was a current grant application for upgrades to Richard J. Boyd Park and meetings with the community had been held. Staff was currently working to draft a diagram for the upgrades to that park.

Ms. Maharaj reminded Commissioners to sign up for the e-newsletter to be apprised of what was happening in the CSD.

PRESENTATIONS: None

AD HOC COMMITTEE STATEMENTS

Sustainability and Climate Responsiveness Committee (Brendan/Catalin/Maryn)

Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton reported that neither he nor Commissioner Kaser had any updates at this time.

Willie Mays' Day Project (Maryn/Eleanor/Joey)

Chair Smith reported that the committee had been meeting weekly and had been making progress on the Willie Mays' Day Project, especially now that the go-ahead had been given by the City Council for both Willie Mays' Day and for renaming the existing diamonds at Nicholl Park. Another meeting on March 4 had been scheduled.

Commissioner Thompson advised that while not yet confirmed the Giants and Mr. Mays had tentatively set the date of May 14, 2022 for the event.

Commissioner Kaser recommended that bike racks be installed at Nicholl Park prior to the event and that any sponsorship be tied into the event.

Associate Commissioner Committee (Maryn/Allison/Joey)

Chair Smith stated that the Associate Commissioner Committee had not met given the time devoted to the Willie Mays' Day Project.

Statement of Policy and Guidelines for Naming or Re-naming of Parks, Facilities and Streets

Ms. Maharaj advised that a meeting would be scheduled to discuss the two versions of the document that had been submitted to the Committee for discussion.

DISCUSSIONS & ACTION ITEMS

a. COORDINATE Open Conversation on How the City can Support the Native Stewardship of Ookwe Park:

Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton thanked Mr. Hardesty for connecting him with the stakeholders listed and reported he was in the process of getting some availability from those listed and with the friends and the community members of the Sogorea Te' Land Trust to schedule a meeting.

Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton would share the agenda for that meeting when finalized.

- i. Recreation and Parks Commission
- ii. Sogorea Te' Land Trust
- iii. Arts and Culture Commission
- iv. Planning Commission

b. APPROVE a Nomination Request for Memorial Signage to Honor James "Jim" Matzorkis, Former Port Director

Trini Jackson-Lincoln, staff for the Zhoushan Friendship Commission, reported that the Friendship Commission, Councilmember Bates, and business people at the port were very serious about honoring

Jim Matzorkis and had been working hard to come up with ideas. She presented three options for consideration: Option 1, having a sign hang from the Point Potrero entry sign; Option 2, affixing a memorial plaque to the port administration office or nearby on a freestanding podium; and Option 3, a bench. She reported that Option 1 or 2 was preferred. The Friendship Commission would fundraise for funding but wanted to start the application process with the Recreation & Park Commission.

In response to the Chair's concern for the height of the entry gate, Ms. Jackson-Lincoln explained that she had spoken with the Public Works Department and had been given the height and design requirements to avoid creating any safety issues.

The following public comments were offered:

Stanley Li, Chair of the Richmond Zhoushan Sister City Committee, sought the Commission's approval prior to proceeding with size, fixture and other details for the memorial signage.

Chair Smith verified that once the final information was available the Commission would be able to consider the proposal.

Ed Medina, retired Deputy Chief of Police, also a member of the Zhoushan Sister City Committee, appreciated the Commission's review and eventual approval of the signage in memory of Jim Matzorkis.

Vice Mayor Martinez commented that he had traveled to China with Mr. Matzorkis many times and had seen what he had done for the City of Richmond and the port. He noted that Richmond was the only City in the U.S. that was part of the World Tourist Conference, which had put Richmond on the international map. He suggested one option was not enough and recommended two of them, with one sign to replace Point Potrero with *In remembrance of James "Big Jim" Matzorkis, Port Director from 2001 – 2020*, and with a smaller photo relief plaque to inform why Mr. Matzorkis was being honored. He sought the blessing of the Recreation & Park Commission to move ahead and flesh out ideas to present to the Commission.

Commissioner Kaser suggested that naming things about people could potentially be controversial in the future. She asked how the Commission would know whether there were some people who did not support the renaming that had been requested.

On the discussion, it was noted that letters of support or a petition in support of the renaming was usually offered and that type of document support was important, Ms. Jackson-Lincoln explained through "chat" that the process called for notification to the public with a public hearing to be posted and conducted at the City Council approval level subject to the usual noticing requirements.

The Commission recommended the use of available social media outlets, searches, or other means to verify Mr. Matzorkis' history.

Mr. Li expressed his hope to get the process done within the next 60 to 90 days and assured the Commission that the Friendship Commission was obligated to make sure that everyone was satisfied with the recommendation.

Motion by Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton, seconded by Commissioner Kaser to move forward to the next stage with respect to the request for memorial signage to honor James "Jim" Matzorkis, former Port Director, carried unanimously by a voice vote.

c. APPROVE a Request to Convert One Tennis Court to Fixed Pickleball Courts at BTA

Tetteh Kisseh, Recreation Program Coordinator, presented the staff report on the request to convert one tennis court to fixed pickleball courts at Booker T. Anderson, Jr. (BTA) Park tennis courts. He noted that the popularity of pickleball was growing and currently there were two permanent tennis courts at BTA and six pickleball lines embedded into the tennis courts. When pickleball participants were ready to play they had to carry their nets to the courts and back, an inconvenience since the nets were 14 to 50 pounds. He presented a diagram to show where the two permanent pickleball courts had been proposed along with four other courts that could be used as temporary pickleball courts.

Having met with the Southside Plus One Neighborhood Council on February 23, Mr. Kisseh stated the Council had approved the presentation on the condition that the permanent pickleball courts be located closer to the play structure at the park. He noted that Mr. Hardesty had attended a subsequent meeting on February 28 when the Council had restated its request for the placement of the permanent courts on the west side of the tennis courts along with a gate on that side to allow participants to enter the courts. He had reached out to Ms. Drapkin to identify the proposal who had mentioned that the pickleball courts had been preferred at the east end of the tennis courts. Prior to the meeting, he had received an email from Ms. Drapkin to request a reconsideration of the pickleball courts on the east side of the tennis courts. Given that situation, he wanted to return to the Southside Neighborhood Council to verify the location of the permanent pickleball courts, after which he would return the proposal to the Commission for consideration at its April 6, 2022 meeting.

Chair Smith verified that the primary concern was the condition of the court on the side nearest the play structures and concern for people being injured. Also, that an additional gate would be needed if it were to be on the other side, and Mr. Kisseh verified that either way a gate had to be installed.

As to the schedule for resurfacing the court, Mr. Kisseh stated the pickleball association had applied for a grant to do that project and Mr. Hardesty was looking into that. With respect to the cracks on the tennis courts, he noted widespread cracks throughout but would revisit to see if that damage was evenly distributed throughout the tennis courts.

Vice Mayor Martinez acknowledged that both tennis courts at BTA needed resurfacing and the pickleball association had requested that the permanent courts be closer to the main gate, not to the play structure. He asked why two gates were needed now when two gates had not been needed when just dedicated to tennis. He added that pickleball was a sport gaining momentum and the pickleball association was bringing not only enthusiasm but financing to improve the City's parks. He emphasized the need to ensure that all organizations were able to have equal access. He understood that the Richmond Tennis Association paid no fees for the use of city courts while the East Bay Pickleball Association had paid court fees in the amount of \$1,561, which was scheduled to double in cost.

Vice Mayor Martinez also understood that to reserve a city tennis court reservations had to be made with the RTA.

Mr. Kisseh clarified that to reserve a tennis court one would go to or call the CSD reservation office to reserve a tennis court to use. Apart from the tennis courts at Nicholl Park, most courts were open for play to community members. He referred to Lucas and Tiller Parks that were open and where there was no need to reserve the courts for use. Courts had only to be reserved for programs where fees were charged. With respect to fees, he explained that when RTA started a few years back the City had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with them and RTA had not been paying fees because they were resurfacing tennis courts and supporting youth programs, although there were currently considerations of revising the ordinance to make it equitable for every organization and non-profit so that the same services would be provided equitably.

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, urged the Commission to approve the concept for the pickleball courts.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS

There were no reports.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Smith stated she had been posting and facilitating the meetings for the Willie Mays' Day Project, had participated and been joined by Commissioners Kaser and Rowden at the Nevin Park clean-up, and had dealt with many emails.

Vice Chair Havenar-Daughton had met with Mr. Hardesty to talk about the various organizations he was working with regarding improvement projects in the Richmond Greenway; had been organizing and coordinating the open conversation with the Sogorea Te' Land Trust; and had been starting the review process with the Love Your Block mini grants and would share the types of projects and programs proposed through that program.

Commissioner Blakeley asked if she should continue to send out the link to Google docs that the Vice Chair had started, and Chair Smith characterized it as a wonderful option that helped to document what was going on. As a result the link would continue to be sent out.

Commissioner Kaser had spent some time helping to paint the mural on the side of the bathrooms at Nicholl Park and had also helped to paint over the graffiti at the skate park; participated in the trash pickup at Nevin Park; reported the Richmond Grows Seed Library had adopted the Rose Garden at John F. Kennedy Park and she had helped work on weeding at the Rose Garden; and hoped to be up to Lucas Park soon since she rode by it on her way to work every day.

Commissioner Thompson continued to work along with staff in the booth at Willie Mays Ball Field and hoped to continue on the planning for Willie Mays' Day; she noted the grass at Shields-Reid Park had not been well maintained; confirmed that the homeless had been moving back into Nevin Park; and urged that the grass be cut and that all the parks be better maintained.

AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS

The pickleball request would return on the agenda for the April 6, 2022 meeting.

Commissioner Bana noted that Mr. Oleari, who had earlier expressed concern for the fees being charged at the community centers had expressed a desire to be involved in the process of setting the fees.

Ms. Maharaj explained that few changes could be made to the Master Fee Schedule from the Finance Department because there was little time to do so given the process, which was why the CSD was working on documents to help organizations get a break in fees such as the fee waiver process, and partnership and sponsorship documents, which could help all the organizations that had issues with the fees.

Commissioner Thompson asked that the Vice Mayor check to see if the North Richmond Ball Field and Nevin Park could be better maintained.

Commissioner Kaser referred to the comments from Mr. Oleari who had asked to meet with the Commission and suggested that he be invited to a meeting to help address the concerns he had expressed.

Chair Smith agreed that Mr. Oleari should be invited to the next Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anita L. Tucci-Smith
Minutes Clerk

Recreation and Parks Commission 2022 Meeting Attendance

| Commissioner | Term Ending | Jan 2022 | Feb 2022 | Mar 2022 | April 2022 | May 2022 | June 2022 | July 2022 | Aug 2022 | Sept 2022 | Oct 2022 | Nov 2022 | Dec 2022 | Total Absences |
|--------------------------|--|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|
| Joey Smith | Appt. 5/2/17-10/26/19 Re-appt. 12/3/19-10/26/22 | P | P | P | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Brendan Havenar-Daughton | Appt. 11/5/19-10/26/22 | E | P | P | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Soheila Bana | Appt. 10/17/17-10/26/19 Re-appt. 3/17/20-10/26/23 | P | P | P | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Allison Blakeley | Appt. 12/3/19-10/26/22 | P | P | P | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Maryn Hurlbut | Appt. 3/15/16-10/26/19 Re-appt. 12/3/19-10/26/22 | P | P | E | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Catalin Kaser | Appt. 6/15/21-4/28/24 Serving unexpired term | P | P | P | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Aaron Rowden | Appt. 10/26/21 – 10/26/24 | P | P | P | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Eleanor Thompson | Appt. 7/10/18-10/26/18 Re-appt. 12/4/18-10/26/21 | P | P | P | | | | | | | | | | 0 |

Legend

P = Present
A = Absent
E = Excused
Absence

Excused absences are:

1. Military and related military service leave
2. Bereavement
3. Attendance of Commission related conferences and meetings.



RECREATION AND PARKS
COMMISSION
REPORT FROM STAFF

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RECREATION DIVISION**

DATE: April 6, 2022

TO: Recreation and Parks Commission

FROM: Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director for Community Services – Recreation
Tetteh Kisseh, Recreation Supervisor- CSD- Recreation
Greg Hardesty, Parks & Landscaping Superintendent-
Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Two Permanent Pickleball Courts at BTA Tennis Courts

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

Install two permanent pickleball courts at BTA Tennis Courts.

DISCUSSION:

Based upon the growing interests of the pickleball program the Community Services Department-Recreation and Parks Division is requesting to create two permanent pickleball courts at Booker T. Anderson Tennis (BTA) Courts. Currently, the courts at BTA have two permanent tennis courts (with nets) and six temporary pickleball lines imbedded onto the courts. Pickleball players currently bring their own portable nets (about 14 pounds to 50 pounds in weight) each day they use the courts. They have to carry the nets back and forth into their vehicles after play. This creates an inconvenience to the players. Having two permanent pickleball courts will ease some of the inconveniences and make for easy play.

This item was presented to the Southside Plus One Neighborhood Council on February 23rd. They conditionally approved this request provided that the permanent Pickleball Courts were located closer to the play structure (west side) of the BTA Tennis Courts. Parks staff were not present at this meeting. A second meeting was held with the Southside Plus One Neighborhood Council on February 28 where Parks staff attended. At this meeting it was established that they could install the permanent pickleball courts closer to the west side of the courts.

Staff submitted a report to the Recreation and Park Commission on March 2, 2022, to request the installation of a fixed pickleball court on the west side of the BTA Tennis Court. This item was withdrawn from the Commission agenda because a community member and Vice Mayor Martinez had concerns and questions on the location of the proposed permanent courts.

Staff scheduled two zoom meetings on March 16 and 21, 2022 with Southside Plus One Neighborhood Council to discuss the concerns of the location of the pickleball court. Due to a

lack of quorum at both these meetings, staff decided to move forward with submitting a request to the Recreation and Parks Commission for their consideration to approve the installation of two pickleball courts on the east end of the tennis courts.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the Recreation and Parks Commission approve the request to install two permanent Pickleball Courts on the east end of the BTA Tennis Courts.

Attachment - Court diagram



LAYOUT WITH 2 PERMANENT PICKLEBALL COURTS
REUSING EXISTING LINES
4 TEMPORARY PICKLEBALL COURTS REUSING
EXISTING LINES