

# Richmond Recreation & Parks Commission

## MINUTES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 6:00 PM



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

Meeting called to order by Chair Joey Smith at 6:01 pm

### **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Joey Smith, Allison Blakeley, Maryn Hurlbut, Catalin Kaser, and Eleanor Thompson

ABSENT: Aaron Rowden (Excused), Samantha Torres

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

### **AGENDA REVIEW**

Commissioner Hurlbut asked to have an Ad Hoc Item added to the Agenda regarding the Youth and Associate Commissioner, as discussed at the previous meeting. Chair Smith acknowledged that this item should have been included and will be added for discussion during the Ad Hoc Committee portion of the agenda.

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

### **OPEN FORUM**

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, expressed his excitement in the addition of Samantha Torres to the Recreation and Parks Commission and hopes the youth in our community will be encouraged to fill other vacancies on the commission.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR**

- a) Chair Smith advised the Next Commission meeting would be held on February 1, 2023, via Zoom.
- b) The balance of the Commission Trust account remains at \$413.08; the RTA Snow Ball account total is unconfirmed as donations continue to come in.

- c) Chair Smith welcomed Commissioner Samantha Torres, who was unable to attend, and looks forward to meeting her officially at the next meeting.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Commissioner Hurlbut to approve the minutes of December 7, 2022, as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Kaser, and carried with an unanimous voice vote.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

### **Public Works: Facilities**

Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director of Community Services-Recreation, shared a verbal and visual report on behalf of Public Works Superintendent of Facilities.

### **Parks & Landscaping Divisions**

Greg Hardesty, Superintendent of Parks & Landscaping, shared a verbal and visual report and answered questions from Secretary Blakeley, Chair Smith, and Commissioner Hurlbut.

Mr. Hardesty provided an update as to the signage for facilities/parks and indicated that he has been in contact with a sign shop to create stickers regarding picture graphics for city ordinances-starting with the “clean-up after your dog” concerns.

### **Community Services Division: Recreation and Neighborhood Services**

Ranjana Maharaj provided an update on the EOC, which was activated during the recent storms. In addition, Ms. Maharaj provided an extensive oral and visual report on recent and upcoming Recreation activities.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Child Friendly Cities**– Commissioner Kaser shared an oral and visual presentation on the many ways Richmond can establish a health city for all ages and abilities. Secretary Blakeley shared interest in creating “pop-up” parks and Commissioner Kaser shared how other cities have accomplished this successfully in their community. Commissioner Hurlbut expressed interest in helping to fund an event in 2023.

## **AD HOC COMMITTEE STATEMENTS**

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

Commissioner Kaser shared they have not been able to meet in the last month.

### **b.) COORDINATE Open Conversation on How the City can Support the Native Stewardship of Ookwe Park:**

As Vice-Chair Rowden was not in attendance, this item will be updated next month.

**c.) Youth & Associate Commissioner Initiatives (Maryn/Joey)**

Chair Smith addressed the need to continue the efforts of establishing a forum to encourage Richmond youth going forward. Commissioner Hurlbut expressed the need to provide a syllabus to initiate interest in high schools, junior colleges, etc. in an effort to generate applicants. Commissioner Kaser suggested reaching out through social media and Ms. Maharaj shared that staff could assist in the creation of flyers.

**DISCUSSIONS & ACTION ITEMS**

**a) NOMINATE Committee for Election of Officers**

Chair Smith asked for volunteers to join the Committee for the Election of Officers. Commissioner Hurlbut and Treasurer Thompson volunteered to join the committee. Chair Smith stated she would reach out to Vice-Chair Rowden to see if he would be interested. In the event Mr. Rowden is unable, Chair Smith advised she will volunteer for the committee.

**COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS / COMMENTS**

Chair Smith shared she attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> St Bridge mock up events, three different parks, and was a judge for Snow Ball. In addition, Ms. Smith attended the inauguration for the newest members of city council and was pleased to meet members of the community who worked on the Juneteenth mural.

Secretary Blakeley attended her first May Valley Neighborhood Council Meeting. Ms. Blakeley received messages from the community, as to Tiller Park and the need to have handrails and further signage to note smoking is prohibited in the park.

Treasurer Thompson attended an event in Nevin Park to distribute warm coats to the unhoused.

Commissioner Hurlbut visited the parks in her area and did a clean-up at Hurlbut Park after the first round of recent storms. She is continuing to work with staff on closing the books for Snow Ball and looks forward to ensuring there is scholarship funds for all participants. On February 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be a reception at Lara’s Fine Dining from 4:00pm – 6:00 pm where Snow Ball recipients will be recognized. Ms. Maharaj shared that Richmond PAL will be donating \$1,000 to the Snow Ball account.

Commissioner Kaser shared she coordinated a kiddie bike-ride to the four N&E parks. Ms. Kaser expressed concerns over the need for Wendell Park to have a second trash can; noticing dog owners have been using our fenced playgrounds as dog parks; and reported the lights in the tunnel under the freeway on the eastern span of the greenway (behind Target) need replacement.

**AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS**

There were no future topics for the next agenda at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine George  
Executive Secretary