



**CITY OF RICHMOND**  
**Recreation & Parks Commission**  
**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 6:00 PM**  
**440 Civic Center Plaza**

This meeting is held in a building that is accessible to people with disabilities.

**Board Members:** Joey Smith, Chair; Aaron Rowden, Vice Chair; Allison Blakeley, Secretary; Vacant, Treasurer  
**Commissioners:** Maryn Hurlbut, Catalin Kaser, Dani Lanis, Samantha Torres

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Meeting called to order by Chair Joey Smith at 6:05 pm

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Joey Smith, Allison Blakeley, Catalin Kaser, Aaron Rowden, and Samantha Torres

**ABSENT:** Maryn Hurlbut (Excused), Dani Lanis (Excused)

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

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Motion by Commissioner Kaser to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Vice Chair Rowden, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

**OPEN FORUM**

Email from Cordell Hindler was introduced inviting everyone to the Jenny K. Chamber Mixer on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am; in addition, he noticed there has been graffiti on signs at city parks and hopes staff can get rid of the art.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR**

- a.) Chair Smith advised the Next Commission meeting will be held November 1, 2023
- b.) The balance of the Commission Trust Account is \$413.08
- c.) No membership changes

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Vice Chair Rowden motioned to approve the minutes as written for September 6, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Torres, carried with an agreed voice vote with Commissioner Kaser abstaining, as she was not present for this meeting.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

### **Parks & Landscaping Division**

Greg Hardesty, Superintendent of Parks and Landscaping, shared a verbal and visual report of the Parks and Landscaping updates, specifically pointing out the continuation of thievery of copper piping at several park restrooms. Commissioner Torres inquired about the status of the security contract approved by council for park restrooms and Mr. Hardesty advised they are waiting for direction.

Ms. Torres further asked about no lights at Shields Reid Park and Mr. Hardesty stated he would investigate. Secretary Blakeley asked for an update on the automatic locking devices for restrooms and Mr. Hardesty stated that the hiring of a security team would eliminate this need and be the best option.

### **Community Services Division – Recreation & Neighborhood Services**

Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director of Community Service-Recreation provided a detailed oral and visual report on upcoming and recent Recreation activities. Commissioner Kaser made suggestions on promoting the Snow Ball Scholarship event and Ms. Maharaj shared the schools involvement in nominating participants.

Ms. Maharaj lastly provided an update on the status of Booker T. Anderson Community Center and hopes to have more in the near future on a grand opening date.

## **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

No updates provided

### **b.) Youth & Associate Commissioners Initiative (Joey / Maryn)**

No updates provided

## **COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS**

Secretary Blakeley attended a workshop for Green Schoolyards Grants; she reached out to Urban Tilth to ask for volunteers to join FRESHIR subcommittee; and participated in Coastal Clean-Up.

Commissioner Kaser shared the success of the North and East Neighborhood Picnic event that took place at Burg Park.

Commissioner Torres meet with Marcia Vallier on soccer field usage; she provided an update on Shields Reid Park soccer access; and she will be attending the Joint Powers Agreement stakeholder meeting for Gilman Fields on October 25 at 5:00 pm via zoom.

Chair Smith has visited Boorman Park and Stewart Park; she has noticed at Civic Center Plaza an increase of unhoused individuals laying throughout the area.

Councilmember Robinson provided an update on the MLK scoreboard repair with the anticipation of having it fully operational by the end of October.

LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager for Community Services shared an update on the Joint Use Agreement with the WCCUSD for field usage as it remains in process. In addition, Ms. White confirmed

that City Council voted to approve a contract to pay for security at park public restrooms and is currently with the Public Works Department for processing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine George  
Executive Secretary