



CITY OF RICHMOND
Recreation & Parks Commission
MINUTES

Wednesday, November 1, 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 6:06 pm

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Joey Smith, Allison Blakeley, Catalin Kaser, Dani Lanis, and Samantha Torres

ABSENT: Maryn Hurlbut (Excused), Aaron Rowden (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 Secretary Blakeley, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

OPEN FORUM

Email from Cordell Hindler was introduced to advise there is going to be a new Administrative Services Coordinator to represent the Director at Community Meetings; in addition, Mr. Hindler would like the Commission to revisit the idea of youth to fill the remaining vacancies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR

- a.) Chair Smith advised the Next Commission meeting will be held December 6, 2023
- b.) The balance of the Commission Trust Account is \$413.08
- c.) No membership changes

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Torres motioned to approve the minutes as written for the October 4, 2023 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Kaser, carried with an agreed voice vote

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 throughout the city.

Commissioner Kaser asked if Humphrey Playlot can be inspected to ensure flooding does not occur as it did with last year's storms. Mr. Hardesty shared he will contact the supervisor. In addition, Ms. Kaser raised concerns over the faded crosswalk at Nicholl Park on Macdonald Ave; as well as Wendell Park which currently has no crosswalks or ways to slow traffic on Esmond Ave. Mr. Hardesty will contact Tawfic Halaby and Rob Chelemedos to provide insight and direction.

Commissioner Torres asked for an update on Shields Reid lighting currently not working at the courts and fields and Mr. Hardesty will contact Mr. Halaby and the city electrician on the issue.

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.

Ms. Maharaj shared an update on the status of Booker T. Anderson Community Center as the opening has been delayed for a couple of month.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

No updates provided, however, Commissioner Kaser requesting to resign from this Ad Hoc at this time; Secretary Blakeley accepted and will continue leading this committee.

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

No updates provided

COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS

Secretary Blakeley attended the Nevin Park opening ceremony of the Resilience Hub and will share pictures of the event. In addition, Ms. Blakeley has been picking up litter at many parks and she hopes to schedule a touch up painting to the cheese at LaMoine Park.

Commissioner Lanis shared Dirt World will be completed by the end of the month.

Commissioner Torres has been working with Tetteh Kisseh in Recreation on the Winter Futsal League. In addition, she asked if signage can be posted at parks on the rules of field/park usage, similar to those posted for tennis. Ms. Torres attended the stake holders and field user meeting for Tom Bates Complex meeting in October. Lastly, there is a field user meeting on December 6th at the Richmond Recreation Complex to understand field policies and expectations.

Commissioner Torres asked for an update on the Joint Use Agreement with the school district, LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager for Community Services, advised she hopes to meet with the school board in the first quarter of 2024.

Chair Smith asked for a presentation of the Brown Act and Ethics review and asked if there can be a presentation versus training links, in which Ms. Maharaj advised she will contact legal for direction. In addition, Chair Smith would like to coordinate a parks tour later this month.

Commissioner Lanis asked if a checklist of the Master Parks Plan can be provided each month during staff reports and as part of the agenda packet. Mr. Hardesty will revisit the checklist and provide updates.

Councilmember Robinson was in attendance and encouraged members of the Commission to attend the next council meeting on November 7th to advocate ideas, as they will be discussing and allocating the surplus funds. Chair Smith suggested commissioners submit ideas to Ms. Maharaj and herself to provide a cohesive presentation on behalf of the commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine George
Executive Secretary