



CITY OF RICHMOND
Recreation & Parks Commission
MINUTES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 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; Allison Blakeley, Vice Chair; Samantha Torres,, Secretary; Maryn Hurlbut, Treasurer
Commissioners: Catalin Kaser, Dani Lanis, Aaron Rowden

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order by Chair Joey Smith at 6:03 pm

ROLL CALL

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

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 Torres, and carried unanimously by a voice vote.

OPEN FORUM

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE CHAIR

- a.) Chair Smith advised the Next Commission meeting will be held April 3, 2024
- b.) Brown Act Training will be held on March 28, 2024, via Zoom
- c.) The balance of the Commission Trust Account is \$413.08
- d.) No membership changes

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Kaser motioned to approve the minutes correcting the typing error for the February 7, 2024, meeting, seconded by Vice Chair Blakeley, carried with an agreed voice vote.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Parks & Landscaping Division

Tawfic Halaby, Deputy Director of Public Works, introduced Tyrone Nesbit, Supervisor in the Parks & Maintenance Division, who shared a verbal and visual report on updates throughout the city, including the concerns expressed at the February meeting as to the automatic sprinklers and the standards for

repaving of city courts.

Vice Chair Blakeley asked for an update on signage that has been requested, specifically for signs to address the dogs must be on a leash at Mira Flores Park. Mr. Nesbit stated he was unaware but would reach out to the sign vendor. Chair Smith clarified that the need is to have signs written in both English and Spanish for clarity. Vice Chair Blakeley also mentioned the idea of a QR Code provided to assist in reporting and understanding.

Community Services Division – Recreation & Neighborhood Services

Ranjana Maharaj, Deputy Director for Community Services-Recreation, provided a detailed oral and visual report on upcoming and recent Recreation activities.

In addition, there was a video shared on the Richmond Youth Outdoors activities from 2023, that was grant funded as part of the California Outdoor Equity program. Ms. Maharaj shared staff is currently planning for the 2024 activities.

PRESENTATIONS

a) RECEIVE an Update on the Marina Bay Farmers Market

Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin presented an update on the plans for the current Farmers Market on Barrett Ave and the exciting new location in the Marina Bay area on Sundays. Ms. McLaughlin, along with Councilmember Robinson and LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager for Community Services answered questions and received future suggestions from the Commission.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Vice Chair Blakeley stated she has taken pictures for the tree list and is currently looking for someone with knowledge on setting up a web-site.

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

No updates provided

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

a.) Richmond Parks Master Plan Checklist Update

Chair Smith shared with Mr. Nesbit the previous request to have dates recorded on the Parks Master Plan to provide clarity going forward and Mr. Nesbit agreed.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS

Councilmember Robinson provided an update from the Urban Forest Advisory Committee as they have updated the tree listing including native plants and native trees. She extended an invitation to Vice Chair Blakeley to attend their meetings held every 3rd Monday in the Richmond Room at 6:00 pm. In addition, Ms. Robinson shared that there have been many new lifeguards hired with the hopes to expand the Aquatic programs. Lastly, she shared there will be an opportunity to discuss at the next City Council meeting on March 12, 2023, as to the recommendations of the Parks and Field Assessments.

Chair Smith participated in the Lunar New Year Celebration as well as former Mayor Irma Anderson's memorials. Ms. Smith also attended the Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council meetings and the Black History Month Celebration and she continues to check her parks.

Vice Chair Blakeley attended the Envision Contra Costa 2040 meeting and spoke with those involved in their sustainability and climate situation and hopes to attend more of their meetings.

Secretary Torres provided an update on the Joint Use Agreement (JPA) at Tom Bates Sports Complex with Richmond getting more access to field time and the club soccer updates with the need to invest in youth soccer as Copa America and the World Cup are coming soon which will increase participation by our youth.

Commissioner Kaser had a question on the Park RX Day and Ms. Maharaj advised it will take place April 27th. Ms. Kaser asked the Commission to discuss ways in which they can recruit in each Richmond neighborhood so all are presented on the panel of the Recreation & Parks Commission.

Commissioner Lanis attended the MLK Day of service on the Greenway with his family and updated that Dirt World has made much progress despite some delays last year. Mr. Lanis shared what he recently learned from a quarterly report from Contra Costa Transportation Authority of many new connective projects that will be linking parks for those on bikes and beyond.

Chair Smith reminded everyone to attend the Brown Act Training on March 28th via zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine George
Executive Assistant