

Where History Meets Opportunity

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

City Commission Room | 600 Morton Street, Richmond, Texas 77469

Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Board for the City of Richmond, Texas met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Board Member Haas, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

Robert Haas
Pat Pittman
Robert Hodge
Barbara Johnson
Susan Farris
Veronica Torres
Ruben Cortinas
David Pella

Staff in attendance: Terri Vela, City Manager; Howard Christian, Assistant City Manager / Public Works Director; Gary Smith, City Attorney; Laura Scarlato, City Secretary; and Brittany Mullings, Public Works Executive Secretary.

Elected Officials in attendance: Mayor Rebecca K. Haas.

Board Member Haas introduced agenda item A2., Recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag and Texas Flag. The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag and Texas Flag was recited by the Board.

Board Member Haas introduced agenda item A3., Public Comments. He asked if there were any public comments. Hearing no public comments, the agenda item was closed.

Board Member Haas introduced agenda item A4., Swearing in of appointed Parks and Recreation Board Members. All Board Members were sworn in by City Secretary.

Board Member Haas introduced agenda item A5., Review and consider acting on the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021. Ms. Pittman stated two corrections needed to be made. Mr. Hass moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Hodge seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Board Member Haas introduced agenda item A6., Date of next meeting: Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. There was no objection.

Board Member Haas introduced agenda item A7., Monthly Park Board to City Commission. There was no discussion on this item.

Board Member Haas introduced regular agenda item A8., Keep Richmond Beautiful (KRB) Committee.

- a) KRB Monthly Report. Ms. Pittman reported that the Keep Richmond Beautiful Committee has completed training for the 2021 year, they completed 243 volunteer service hours.
- b) KRB Notifications, Requests, Projects, Plans, and Others. Ms. Pittman stated the Spring Shred Event will be held on April 23, 2022, 9:00 a.m. noon at City Hall Park. She also mentioned that KRB is planning a Spring beautification project of the City Hall flower beds in mid-March.
- c) Membership for KRB. Ms. Pittman stated that Ms. Johnson has contacted all names that were given to her by the City Manager as possible members. They did express an interest and have added them to the KRB contact list. Ms. Pittman mentioned they will keep the possible members apprised of any events that come up this year.

Board Member Haas introduced regular agenda item A9., Access Health update. There was no update given on this item.

Board Member Haas introduced regular agenda item A10., Staff Information Reports. Mr. Christian shared that the Crawford Park irrigation system was repaired. Mr. Christian also mentioned that the City Manager, Ms. Vela, and himself met with LCISD about the possibility of a neighborhood park near Juan Seguin Early Childhood Center. LCISD was open to the idea, they are requesting that the City make a presentation to show to the Superintendent at LCISD. Mr. Christian mentioned the City may utilize some of the Access Health funding to provide a site layout. LCISD is adamant they want to keep their playground, restrooms, and walking path separate from public use. Mr. Christian would like the Boards input on the neighborhood park. After a general discussion was had, the Board will have input to be discussed at the next meeting. Ms. Farris requested a rendering of the layout of the park. Mr. Christian will bring the rendering to the next meeting. Mr. Christian also mentioned the Gazebo at Wessendorff Park was power washed and re-painted, the Park Departments is also updating the flower beds for spring. No further discussion.

Board Member Haas introduced regular agenda item A11., Park visits by park board members. Mr. Hodge mentioned he visited Freeman Town Park and was grateful the water fountain was fixed. Ms. Farris noticed the lights at George Park stayed on until 9:00 a.m., she did notify a City employee. Mr. Christian mentioned there may be an issue with the timer, he will investigate that. Mr. Cortinas asked if the City has ever considered solar power for the lights instead of timers. There was a brief discussion on solar power for the light poles. Ms. Pittman mentioned that Ms. Johnson and herself switched out the annual plants at City Hall Park. They also went to Crawford Park and cleaned out the planters. While they were at Crawford Park, she noticed an irrigation leak and immediately notified Jim Whitehead. Mr. Cortinas mentioned he noticed the grass around the trees is not getting trimmed at George Park. Mr. Christian mentioned he would investigate that issue. Ms. Farris also stated there was still evidence of firework debris at the back of George Park alongside the river. She suggested that George Park should close

early on holidays involving fireworks. Mr. Christian stated that information will be passed along to Richmond Police Department. Mr. Haas initiated a general discussion between the Board and City Staff, on the Monarch butterfly houses, he would like this to be added to the next meeting. No further discussion.

Board Member Haas introduced regular agenda item A12., Future Agenda Items. Mr. Haas would like to add a general discussion on George Park, the neighborhood park near Juan Seguin Early Childhood Center, and the Monarch butterfly houses. No further discussion.

Board Member Haas introduced regular agenda item A13., Excuse from attendance at regular Park and Recreation Board Meeting. There was no discussion on this item. Board Member Pella arrived at the meeting at 6:42 p.m. No further discussion.

There being no further business to be brought before the Parks and Recreation Board, Board Member Haas adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Approved:

Robert Haas, Parks and Recreation Board Member