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Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Board for the City of Richmond, Texas met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Chairman Haas, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

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

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

Chairman 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.

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

Chairman Haas introduced consent agenda item B1., Review and approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. Board Member Pittman moved to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Board Member Farris. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Chairman Haas introduced consent agenda item B2., Date of next meeting: To be announced. The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, May 11, 2022. All Board Members were in favor.

Chairman Haas introduced agenda item C1., Monthly Park Board Report to City Commission. Chairman Haas stated he has sent out the Park Board Report, which will be presented at the

City Commission meeting held on Monday, April 18, 2022. The Board Members reviewed the report. There was a brief discussion on the connectivity of the Golfview/Richmond Parkway-Rabbs Bayou Trail. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C2., Keep Richmond Beautiful (KRB) Committee.

- a) KRB Monthly Report. Ms. Pittman passed around pictures of the butterfly house installation at Wessendorff Park. She thanked the Parks Department for all their help getting the houses installed. She asked Ms. Vela if she knew how to get in touch with the Parkers, they donated the butterfly houses to KRB. KRB would like to thank the Parkers for their donation and invite them to see the installation. Ms. Vela stated she would look into getting that information to KRB.
- b) KRB Notifications, Requests, Projects, Plans, and Others. – Ms. Pittman stated the Spring Shred Event that will be held on April 23, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – noon at City Hall Park. She also mentioned that KRB will be planning to plant some summer annuals at City Hall and Crawford Park.
- c) Membership for KRB. No discussion on this item.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C3., Access Health update. Mr. Christian stated the City has reached out to a landscape architect to get a proposal for a conceptual layout. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C4., Discuss budget allocations of the Parks and Recreation Board for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Chairman Haas started the discussion by asking each Board Member for input. Board Member Johnson mentioned a playground for the school. Board Member Farris stated a sidewalk from Morton Street to 4th Street to Preston Street that would connect to Wessendorff Park. She also suggested if a sidewalk is installed it would be ideal to install more park benches and trash cans along the trail, closer to Preston Street by the water feature. Board Member Pittman suggested an additional trash can closer to the restroom at Wessendorff Park. Board Member Torres suggested more benches at George Park along the walking trail. Board Member Pittman stated at Clay Park, there are wooden benches with planters, she would like to see those replaced. Mr. Whitehead stated for this year's budget, he is putting money aside for all new tables and benches for Clay Park. Board Member Cortinas agrees with Board Member Farris on the sidewalk installation. There was a brief discussion on what a spray ground is. Board Member Cortinas also recommended more pavilions at George Park. Chairman Haas stated he would like to put whatever is needed to bring Seguin Park into fruition, into the budget. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C5., Review and discuss Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan. Mr. Christian stated the master plan is created by citizen input. These plans get updated every few years. The Board briefly went over the Parks Master plan list. Board Member Cortinas suggested that the City should create some kind of walkway or observation deck around the Brazos River. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C6., Review and discuss the request for a new Richmond Oilers Football Scoreboard. The Board briefly discussed the request for funding for a new scoreboard. Chairman Haas called for a motion. There was no action taken. With there being no further discussion, the agenda item was closed.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C7., Review and discuss the Code Ninja Program. Mr. Whitehead explained this is a program Code Ninja puts on with different cities' parks and recreation departments. It is an after-school and summer program. They are looking for a building to hold these programs. Chairman Haas asked if the City has any space for that kind of program. Mr. Whitehead stated we only have a covered pavilion that Code Ninja can reserve. Mr. Whitehead suggested they reach out to the Boys & Girls Club or Friends of North Richmond; he has not heard back from the Code Ninja representative. Chairman Haas called for a motion. There was no action taken. With there being no further discussion, the agenda item was closed.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C8., Staff Information Reports. Mr. Christian stated there has been a lot of planting within the City. Mr. Whitehead stated the rule board at Clay Park has been removed. He stated Ms. Farris reach out to him regarding a few issues, all have been addressed at this time. Mr. Whitehead asked if they would be willing to change the irrigation type from drip irrigation to a spray at City Hall Park. He requested input from the Master Gardeners for an alternative. Board Member Pittman will contact Master Gardeners. He also mentioned he is requesting more trash cans for George Park. Chairman Haas asked if there was an update on the Clay Street Project. Mr. Christian stated we are still waiting on the interlocal agreement with the County. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C9., Park visits by Park Board Members. Board Member Pittman mentioned she has spent a lot of time at City Hall Park watering the new plants, unfortunately, many of them have died. She will replant more in the future. Board Member Cortinas asked if the City puts more sand in the volleyball fields because there is a lot of grass growing in them. Mr. Christian stated he would look into adding more sand. Board Member Cortinas also mentioned the drinking fountain by the restroom is not working properly. Mr. Whitehead stated he would look into correcting that. Board Member Cortinas also stated that the steel beams on the pavilion are rusted. Mr. Christian stated he would look at that issue. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C10., Future agenda items. No requests were presented.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C11., Excuse from attendance at regular Park and Recreation Board Meeting. Board Member Hodge explained he missed the last meeting due to wedding preparation obligations. Board Member Farris moved to approve the absence of Board Member Hodge. The motion was seconded by Board Member Pittman. The vote for approval was unanimous.

There being no further business to be brought before the Parks and Recreation Board, Chairman Haas adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Approved



Robert Haas, Chairman
Parks and Recreation Board