



RICHMOND

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Where History Meets Opportunity

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Board for the City of Richmond, Texas met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 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 – Chair
Veronica Torres – Vice-Chair
Robert Hodge
Pat Pittman
Susan Farris
Ruben Cortinas
David Pella

Staff in attendance: Howard Christian, Assistant City Manager; Gary Smith, City Attorney; and Brittany Mullings, Executive Secretary.

Elected Officials in attendance: Mayor Rebecca K. Haas

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, January 10, 2024. Board Member Farris moved to approve the meeting minutes. Board Member Pittman seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Chairman Haas introduced consent agenda item B2., Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. All Board Members were in

favor of the date of the next meeting and there was no objection to the new proposed time.

Chairman Haas introduced agenda item C1., Elect Parks and Recreation Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Board Member Pella nominated Mr. Haas as Chair. Mr. Haas accepted. Board Member Hodge seconded the nomination. All Board Members were in favor. Board Member Pittman nominated Ms. Torres as Vice-Chair. Ms. Torres accepted. Board Member Farris seconded the nomination. All Board Members were in favor. Board Member Hodge nominated Ms. Pittman as Secretary. Ms. Pittman accepted. Board Member Farris seconded the nomination. All Board Members were in favor.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C2., Monthly Park Board Report to City Commission. None to discuss.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C3., Keep Richmond Beautiful (KRB) Committee.

- a) KRB Monthly Report. Ms. Pittman reported the 2023 annual report to Keep Texas Beautiful was submitted, and 2024 affiliate dues have been paid.
- b) KRB Notifications, Requests, Projects, Plans, and Others. Ms. Pittman reported the 2024 Shred & Electronic Event will be held on April 13, 2024; buck slips will be sent out with the March utility bill. The butterfly house installment at Wessendorff Park will be spruced up during the KRB Spring Clean.
- c) Membership for KRB. No discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C4., Executive Director, Madeleine Calcote-Garcia of the Fort Bend History Association will give an update regarding the future of Decker Park. Madeleine Calcote-Garcia, the Executive Director of the Fort Bend History Association (FBHA), asked a series of questions regarding why Decker Park was being included on the Parks and Recreation Board agenda without prior notice to their office, why the Board sent a letter to the City Commission, and general questions relating how and why this property was under the purview of the City or the Parks and Recreation Board. As Chairman Haas explained, the Parks and Recreation Board was notified by the Historical Commission that the Depot would be removed from the park and asked that the agenda item be added as a regular item for discussion in case there were any further developments. Chairman Haas explained that the Parks and Recreation Board does not have any authority over the Depot, but just wanted to be aware of future developments that may have an impact on the park. According to Mr. Christian, the agenda item was simply a matter for discussion, and the letter to the City Commission was intended to express the Parks and Recreation Board opinions regarding the park in the event the park was vacated or made available and not to circumvent the FBHA. In addition, Ms. Garcia expressed her displeasure at not having been informed that Decker Park was on the agenda, and provided a brief overview of Decker Park. A discussion ensued, during which the Board shared their views regarding FBHA reaching out to Rosenberg Museum Depot regarding the future of the Depot before reaching out to the City of Richmond. As Chairman Haas inquired about Rosenberg's involvement before the City of Richmond was contacted, Ms. Garcia responded that she brought the City of Richmond into the discussion only when she felt it was necessary and this was not relevant to the City or the Park Board. As far as the Depot is concerned, Ms. Garcia did

not feel comfortable answering any further questions. The agenda item was closed by Chairman Haas.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C5., Review and recommend artwork for renderings for the Traffic Signal Box Wraps to Catapult Art Studio. The Board agreed they wanted the artwork for the wraps to be true to color. Board Member Pittman would like to ensure that the artist's rendering of the Clay Park Mural is as close as possible to the original. It was asked by Board Member Farris if the foundations of some of the traffic signal boxes would be repaired before the wraps are applied, and if the foundations could be painted black before the wraps are applied. Mr. Christian stated a request for foundation repair and painting would be sent in conjunction with the artwork to TxDOT. Chairman Haas moved to approve sending all artwork to Carmen Flores, with Catapult Art Studio, with the comments made by the Board Members. Board Member Hodge seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C6., General discussion on the proposed neighborhood park near Juan Seguin Early Childhood Center. Mr. Christian did not have an update at this time.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C7., Staff Information Reports. Mr. Christian reported that due to all the rainfall we have experienced, the water fountain at Wessendorff Park is currently discolored. The Parks Department has been working diligently to ensure optimal water quality at the water fountain. Additionally, they will be working on landscaping for the Myrtle Street location as well as the Morton Street Parking project. Mr. Christian also mentioned the Ad Hoc Committee that is being formed. This will be composed of the Parks and Recreation Board Chairman, Commissioner Bement, Jim Whitehead, and two to seven residents to be named at a later date. A key objective of the Committee is to review the agreements between the City and the leagues and find a more effective means of providing public access to George Park for the general public.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C8., Park visits by Park Board Members. Board Member Farris visited all the parks. She stated they all looked nice and mentioned the sidewalk installation at Wessendorff Park to Fourth Street. Board Member Hodge also mentioned the new sidewalk installation. All the parks appeared to be in better condition, as noted by Board Member Cortinas. Chairman Haas mentioned the sidewalk connectivity in the downtown area and the new parking on the east end of Morton Street looked nice.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C9., Future agenda items. None to discuss.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C10., Excuse from attendance at regular Park and Recreation Board Meeting. None to approve.

There being no further business to be brought before the Parks and Recreation Board, Chairman Haas adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Approved



Robert Haas, Chairman
Parks and Recreation Board