



**Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**  
City Commission Room | 600 Morton Street, Richmond, Texas 77469  
Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

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The Parks and Recreation Board for the City of Richmond, Texas met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Chairman Haas, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

Robert Haas – Chairman  
Veronica Torres – Vice-Chair  
Pat Pittman  
Susan Farris  
Ruben Cortinas  
Robert Hodge  
David Pella

Staff in attendance: Howard Christian, Assistant City Manager; Jim Whitehead, Assistant Public Works Director; Gary Smith, City Attorney; and Brittany Mullings, Public Works 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 agenda item A4., Elect Parks and Recreation Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Board Member Pittman nominated Mr. Haas as Chair. Mr. Haas accepted. The nomination was seconded by Board Member Hodge. All Board Members were in favor. Board Member Hodge nominated Ms. Torres as Vice-Chair. Ms. Torres accepted. The nomination was seconded by Board Member Farris. All Board Members were in favor. Board Member Farris nominated Ms. Pittman as Secretary. Ms. Pittman accepted. The nomination was seconded by Board Member Hodge. All Board Members were in favor.

Chairman Haas introduced consent agenda item B1., Review and approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. 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: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. All Board Members were in favor.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C1., Monthly Park Board Report to City Commission. Chairman Haas explained he does not have a report for this month but will have one for the following month.

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

- a) KRB Monthly Report. Ms. Pittman stated the KRB Committee held a meeting on February 1, 2023, where they discussed future projects and elected a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary were elected. Pat Pittman was elected Chair, Vickie Seely was elected Vice-Chair, and Vernonia Torres was elected Secretary. On March 6, 2023, Ms. Pittman presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Reaching Richmond Community Collaborative, showcasing what the KRB Committee has accomplished in our community.
- b) KRB Notifications, Requests, Projects, Plans, and Others. Ms. Pittman stated the Spring Shred Event will be on April 15, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at City Hall. There will also be an Electronic Recycling Event on the same day.
- c) Membership for KRB. The 2023 Members of the KRB Committee are, Pat Pittman, Peggy d'Hemecourt, Larry Pittman, Vickie Seely, and Veronica Torres.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C3., General discussion on the proposed neighborhood park near Juan Seguin Early Childhood Center. Mr. Christian stated the City has provided the School District with preliminary information, including the conceptual plan. He also mentioned that Terri Vela, City Manager, will be meeting the Fort Bend County regarding a parks bond. Chairman Haas mentioned the County has 4.3 million dollars to spend on parks.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C4., Staff Information Reports. Mr. Whitehead stated that the sports fields are being maintained. He mentioned he met with Mr. Pittman with the Rotary Club; they are interested in helping refresh the pavilion at George Park. Some of the topics discussed were installing an information board so residents would know if the pavilion was rented, power washing, painting the columns, general cleaning, and the possibility of removing the horseshoe pit. Furthermore, the Rotary Club wishes to update its logo and add a new one. Mr. Whitehead also mentioned they added sand to the volleyball courts.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C5., Park visits by Park Board Members. Board Member Farris asked if the benches at Clay Park were on the list to be powder coated. Mr. Whitehead stated the benches need to be replaced. Board Member Farris mentioned there was a lot of trash and broken toys at Freeman Town Park. She also mentioned she met Eric and Donny Brown at Wessendorff Park. There was a dead tree in the fountain that they were going to look at. The roof of the restrooms at Wessendorff Park look moldy. Lastly, she thanked the City for removing the dilapidated sign at the entrance of George Park. Board Member Hodge mentioned

he received a call regarding gang activity at Freeman Town Park. Board Member Cortinas stated he visited Clay Park; he also noticed the benches were in need of attention and the water fountain spout was loose. He also mentioned at Freeman Town Park there were ant mounds at the playground.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C6., General discussion on the possibility of establishing a skatepark within Richmond, presented by Brandt Kail. Mr. Kail distributed packets to the Board and City employees. In a lengthy discussion, he discussed the reasons why Richmond should build a skatepark, the best areas to build a skatepark, the contractors who could assist in the construction of the skatepark, liability, maintenance, and possible funding. The packet is attached to the minutes. Board members expressed concerns regarding finding a suitable location, but were very impressed with Mr. Kail's presentation. In order to investigate potential areas, Mr. Kail asked the Board for suggestions. Chairman Haas suggested a county park off Harlem Road that has open space, and River Park West has a detention area. Mr. Christian pointed out that we are due to update our Park Master Plan. One of the processes is to gain community involvement by asking what amenities are wanted by the community and perhaps including a skatepark in the survey to see if the community is interested. Gary Smith, City Attorney, mentioned the City has a recreational use statute that states, if you are in a park or recreation area, engaged in recreation, you have no recovery. However, if the area is not maintained, then it could be a basis for liability.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C7., Future agenda items. The Board would like to discuss the proposed trail connection from Golfview Drive to Wildwood Park Road and review Board Members suggestions for the Parks Mater Plan.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C8., 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 6:05 p.m.

Approved



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Robert Haas, Chairman  
Parks and Recreation Board

**Mission:**

To build an Outdoor, Concrete,  
Unsupervised Skatepark in  
Richmond Texas in the next 4 years

## Why build a public skatepark in Richmond:

- Skateparks reduce illicit behavior
  - CPTED-Crime prevention through environmental design
- SkateParks provide a safe environment for Skateboarding
  - Injury Rate is about 4% annually (significantly lower than basketball, football, or soccer)
  - 2 most common reasons for injury: irregular surfaces & vehicular traffic ( neither occur at a skatepark)
- Skateparks reduce damage to private property
  - Stairs, Banks, Ledges, Handrails, Gaps
  - Schools, Churches, Parking Lots
- Skateboarding has significant physical health benefits
  - Average Skate session: 57 min @ 147 BPM heart rate
  - Meets CDC guidelines for Daily Exercise
  - Significantly lowers risk for diabetes
- Skateboarding has significant mental health benefits
  - USC Study says "Skateboarding improves mental health"
  - Beyond the Board Study: Improves Metal Health, Teaches Resilience, builds community
  - Inclusive of LGBTQ community, All Genders, All ethnicities
- Skateparks have a positive economic impact
  - Surrounding stores see increase in sales
  - Competitions & Classes
  - Draws new people into town

## Where to build a skatepark:

- In a park
  - Mirabeau B Lamar Homestead Park: 22,000 sq. ft. inside of walking trail
  - Has Parking, Drainage, easy access from Hwy 90 and U.S. 59
  - Justice Center will deter potential criminal activity



- In a drainage area
  - Any City owned Drainage area will do...
  - New technology actually IMPROVES drainage capabilities
- Under an overpass
  - U.S. 59 & FM 762 Overpass
  - On the edge of town, has parking, Drainage not an issue... (More suited for a DIY park)

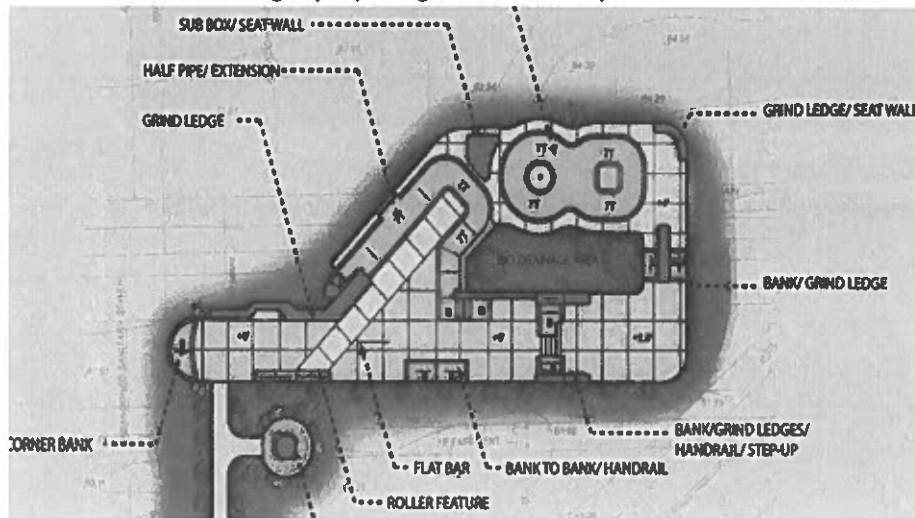


**Who can build the skatepark:**

- **Spohn Ranch Skateparks**
- **California Skateparks**
- **Gridline Skateparks**
- **Dreamland Skateparks**
- **Evergreen Skateparks**
- **Team Pain Skateparks**
- **New Line Skateparks**

## What makes a good skatepark:

- Easy Access
  - Near major highways
  - Accessable to community and visitors
- Parking
  - Parking lots nearby so that the street is not blocked
  - Minimal "hiking" to get to the park
- Drainage
  - Houston Skateparks Improve drainage and prevent flooding in areas from
  - Professional design can use canals and rocks to filter out debris
  - Bowls can redirect water to resivouirs and basins
- Average size 8,000-10,000 sq. ft.
  - 5 Downtown Houston SkatePark range: 17,500 sq. ft - 4,928 sq. ft.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest skatepark in the country (biggest in Texas) in North Houston is 78,000 sq. ft.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest skatepark in Texas (Frisco) is 47,000 sq feet
  - Here is what Rosenberg is proposing for their skatepark





## Liability:

- No need to hire staff to supervise
  - Only 2 skateparks in houston are supervised
- A sign that says “Skate at your own risk” and “Helmets required” are generally all that is required to release the city from any liability associated to injuries incurred at the skate park



- The city is not liable for injuries as long as the park is not in disrepair
  - Cement Skateparks will last 20+ years without the need for any major repairs

**Maintenance:**

- **Cement Parks do not require repairs as often as wood/metal parks**
  - **Trash and debris removal**
    - **Falls on the skate community and park maintenance staff**
  - **Graffiti removal**
    - **Pressure Washing (for concrete)**
    - **Semi-annual repainting (wood/metal)**
  - **Landscaping (plant care)**
    - **Minimal landscaping required**
  - **Terrain inspections and repair**
    - **Concrete parks are virtually indestructable**
    - **Volunteer Stewardship for light maintenance**
    - **Estimated annual cost to be less than \$1,000**

## Funding:

- Over \$60,000 in federal grants available for mental/physical health
- Tourism Grants
- Park Foundation Grants
- Tony Hawk Foundation or Coca-Cola Grants
- Local businesses and organizations
- City Bond Propositions

## Map of Local Skate Parks:

