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## **Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**

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

Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 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, September 14, 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 – Chairman  
Pat Pittman  
Robert Hodge  
Susan Farris  
Ruben Cortinas  
Barbara Johnson

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 consent agenda item B1., Review and approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 17, 2022. Board Member Pittman requested that agenda item C6 from the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes state the trees were planted by the Richmond Rotary Club. Board Member Pittman moved to approve the corrected 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, October 12, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. All Board Members were in favor.

Chairman Haas introduced agenda item C1., Monthly Park Board Report to City Commission. Chairman Haas stated he would prepare an informal report for the City Commission that will be presented at the September 19, 2022, Commission meeting.

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

- a) KRB Monthly Report. Ms. Pittman reported that three of the four hours required by Keep Texas Beautiful have been completed since the last meeting. Their training for the year will be completed tomorrow.
- b) KRB Notifications, Requests, Projects, Plans, and Others. Planters at City Hall Park have been refreshed and flags for Labor Day were displayed. KRB will again display flags in honor of Veterans Day. On September 20th, the Master Gardeners will assist with a cleanup of City Hall Park. Ms. Pittman mentioned the fall shred event is coming up soon, October 15<sup>th</sup> at City Hall Park from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The utility bill for September included a buck slip.
- c) Membership for KRB. Ms. Pittman announced that Ms. Johnson will resign from KRB following the October Shred Event. Access Health asked if Keep Richmond Beautiful was something that the community had voted for. Ms. Pittman provided a brief overview of the history and objectives of the committee. A representative from Access Health stated that she would be submitting an application to join KRB.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C3., Access Health update. Four representatives from Access Health were present. Ms. Palak expressed her excitement regarding the proposed neighborhood park. Susan Jackson stated that she has been a Richmond resident for 30 years and is a Street Captain. Her responsibilities as a Street Captain for the Community Collaborative were briefly discussed. It was stated that Ms. Palak would bring the Junior Street Captain council to the next meeting to share their ideas. In order to allow them to present a presentation, Chairman Haas has requested that this agenda item be expanded next month. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C4., General discussion on the proposed neighborhood park near Juan Seguin Early Childhood Center. The conceptual plan was presented to the Board by Mr. Christian. The park plan emphasizes exercise as the main focus. Following receipt of final comments from the Board, the conceptual plan will be finalized and shared with the School District to begin discussions toward an agreement. A brief discussion was held between the Board and Mr. Christian regarding playground equipment, fencing, parking, and funding. Access Health representatives and Mr. Christian discussed ideas they would like to see at the proposed park. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C5., Staff Information Reports. Mr. Whitehead mentioned the City received a grant from the State of Texas through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) for twenty-five trash cans and ten recycling cans for George Park. He also stated they have an appointment set up with Allied Powered Coating to address the issues with the benches at Wessendorff and Clay Park. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C6., Park visits by Park Board Members. Board Member Farris commented that Clay Park looked good, while the flowers at Freeman Town

Park were excellent. She asked why there were no flowers in Clay Park. In response to that question, Mr. Whitehead stated that he would look into it in the fall. In addition, she mentioned Crawford Park looked good to her. Board Member Hodge mentioned that he visited Freeman Town Park over the weekend, and it appeared to be in good condition. When Board Member Cortinas visited George Park, he observed that the water pressure in the urinal in the men's restroom was excessive, causing water to splash everywhere. In response to that issue, Mr. Christian stated that the City will take appropriate action. In addition, Board Member Cortinas mentioned that the water fountain was not functioning. He asked if it would be possible to re-paint the steel railings at the crossover bridge at Wessendorff Park. Mr. Christian stated that the rails have a patina finish. Board Member Cortinas also visited Freeman Town Park, where he observed that the water fountain was inoperative. During a visit to George Park, Chairman Haas noted that some parking problems were present. He suggested that something be done at the entrance that could be enforced by the police. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C7., Future agenda items. Board Member Farris would like an update on Rabbs Bayou walking trail and would like a general discussion on the possibility of a sidewalk from Morton Street to 4<sup>th</sup> Street to Preston Street connecting to Wessendorff Park.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C8., Excuse from attendance at regular Park and Recreation Board Meeting. Board Member Hodge was unable to attend the last meeting due to a prior engagement. Board Member Pella was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a work conference. Board Member Torres was on vacation, unable to attend tonight meeting. Board Member Pittman moved to approve the absences of Board Members Hodge, Pella, and Torres. The motion was seconded by Board Member Farris. 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 6:00 p.m.

Approved



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Robert Haas, Chairman  
Parks and Recreation Board