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Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Board for the City of Richmond, Texas met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 17, 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
Veronica Torres – Vice Chair
Pat Pittman
Susan Farris
Ruben Cortinas
Barbara Johnson
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.

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, June 15, 2022. Board Member Farris moved to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Board Member Pittman. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Chairman Haas introduced consent agenda item B2., Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 14, 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. No discussion on this item.

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

- a) KRB Monthly Report. Ms. Pittman stated they took a webinar class last weekend to obtain the required credits necessary to keep their affiliation with Keep Texas Beautiful. They have also signed up for an additional class.
- b) KRB Notifications, Requests, Projects, Plans, and Others. On September 2nd, KRB will be putting the flags out for Labor Day. Ms. Pittman mentioned the fall shred event is coming up soon, October 15th at the City Hall Park from 9:00 a.m. to noon. She also mentioned KRB is planning to redo the Morton Street planters around September.
- c) Membership for KRB. No discussion on this item.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C3., Access Health update. No discussion on this item.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C4., General discussion on the proposed neighborhood park near Juan Seguin Early Childhood Center. A project status report from M2L was presented to the Board by Mr. Christian. Several weeks ago, Mr. Christian and Mr. Whitehead met with M2L at the proposed park site. Since the pavilion had more damage than anticipated, staff hopes to salvage as much as possible. During their site visit, soft walking trails with exercise stations were mentioned. A rendering and an estimate of the project's cost will be provided by M2L to Mr. Christian. The City will share the information with the School District once the renderings have been obtained and the Parks Board has determined what they wish to see in the proposed park. Chairman Haas mentioned he does not think parking will be an issue. Board Member Farris asked about the park access. Mr. Christian mentioned they would have to add a parking monument to the plans. Chairman Haas wants to ensure access to the southeast corner of the park, that way Mabel Street can easier access the park. Board Member Farris asked if there would be water at this park. Mr. Christian answered no but it would be easy to obtain. Chairman Haas also mentioned to the Board they should start making a priority list. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C5., Staff Information Reports. Mr. Whitehead stated the Parks Department has been mowing and cutting down trees. There were some hazardous trees at Wessendorff Park that had to be removed. The drinking fountain at George Park has been repaired. Additionally, they sanded and painted the water fountain at Freeman Town Park. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C6., Park visits by Park Board Members. A brief discussion was held regarding the City's assistance to KRB in watering the planters on Morton Street. Board Member Farris reported that she visited Freeman Town, Crawford, and Clay Park and that they all appeared to be in good condition. In addition, she mentioned that there were chickens at Clay Park. Board Member Pittman stated her husband and herself walk the trail at George Park in July. They did a survey of the trees planted in 2018, by the Richmond Rotary Club. She reported 50% of the trees survived. They also noticed the newly installed signage about locking cars that are in various places throughout the park. In addition, they noticed that the benches and trash cans at Wessendorff Park were rusted, and the flower bed looks great at the butterfly houses. Board Member Cortinas stated the red benches at Clay Park are rusted, and the pavilion looked good. Mr. Whitehead mentioned he has budgeted for the benches to be replaced and the pavilion was power washed at Clay Park. Board Member Cortinas also

mentioned he noticed the new trash cans at George Park, he said they looked excellent. The women's restroom looked terrible, and spider webs were also visible in the corners. He also mentioned the water fountain was not working. No further discussion.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C7., Future agenda items. No requests were presented.

Chairman Haas introduced regular agenda item C8., Excuse from attendance at regular Park and Recreation Board Meeting. Chairman Haas made a motion that his absence from the last meeting be unexcused. 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 5:38 p.m.

Approved



Robert Haas, Chairman
Parks and Recreation Board