

Regular Meeting
Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission
November 19, 2013
Martinez, CA

APPROVED January 21, 2014

A regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission was called to order by Chair Radke at 7:00p.m. on November 19, 2013, at Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California 94553.

ROLL CALL

Chair Radke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with all members present except Commissioner Eychner who arrived after roll call.

Staff present included Recreation Coordinator Barbara Patchin, Deputy Director of Strategic Planning and Economic Development Anna Gwynn Simpson, City Engineer Tim Tucker, and Minutes Clerk Robin Agostino.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Douglas VanRaam spoke about the skateboard park and expressed that the users of the park should be allowed to decoratively paint the concrete, which will help with maintenance.

Greg Staffelbach said he was opposed to the idea of skaters decorating the concrete at the skate park, and he noted that most of the skaters are not wearing helmets or pads as directed by posted signs at the park. He was concerned about potential liability from lack of enforcement.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. [Minutes September 17, 2013](#)
[PRMCC minutes Sept. 17, 2013 U](#)

Commissioner Patchin corrected page 4 under Old Business regarding status of the train depot - he added, "...if the Council determines it will be used by a nonprofit organization. The Historical Society has been fundraising for the restoration of the building."

On motion by Donald Pallotta, Commissioner, seconded by Karen Bell-Patten, Vice Chair, to approve Minutes September 17, 2013, as corrected. Motion unanimously passed 7 - 0. Yes: Karen Bell-Patten, Vice Chair John Fuller, Commissioner Gay Gerlack, Commissioner Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner Donald Pallotta, Commissioner Richard Patchin, Commissioner , Dylan Radke, Chair.

- b. *Staff updates*

- i. *Recreation*

[Patty October Staff 2013](#)

Commissioner Gerlack thanked Recreation Supervisor Lorick for the color pictures in her report. Chair Radke asked for a comparison of picnic rentals for 2012 and 2013.

- ii. *Family Fest*

[Family Fest staff report](#)

iii. [Parks Maintenance](#)

[Parks Staff Report DL November 2013](#)

Commissioner Patchin commented on the new gates at the Alhambra Cemetery. Commissioner Pallotta asked City Engineer Tim Tucker about the tree in Ferry Point Park that was struck by a car.

c. [Special Requests for Uses in Parks - None.](#)

PRMCC SUB -COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. [Measure H Updates](#)

[Measure H](#)

City Engineer Tim Tucker reported that all current projects are running smoothly, and he reviewed the work being done to complete Nancy Boyd Park, including work on the playground, shade structures, new plants, restoration of the Nancy Boyd monument area and paving of the parking lot. He added that staff is processing a change order to install colored surfacing on the basketball courts. He also reported on work at Cappy Ricks and Hidden Valley Parks, and he discussed scheduling of projects to coincide during low use times.

b. [Old Train Stations Status Patchin](#)

Commissioners Patchin and Gerlack reported that Deputy Director Simpson and City Councilmember Anamarie Avila-Farias had taken a fieldtrip to the train station in Danville to see the museum and train depot, and they noted that the Martinez Historical Society hopes to pursue a similar effort with the old train station in Martinez. Commissioner Gerlack expressed hope that improvement of the old train station will help Martinez become a more popular destination. (Commissioner Eychner entered and was seated during the presentation).

c. [Dog Park Olsson](#)

Commissioner Olsson reported that the dog park subcommittee had taken the Golden Hills Park from the list of potential sites for a dog park and will focus on the Alhambra Avenue location.

Chair Radke opened public comment on the item. Beth Mallone thanked the subcommittee for removing Golden Hills Park from consideration. She also questioned the wisdom of removing money from other city budgets to fund a dog park, especially considering the maintenance that may be required.

Greg Staffelbach agreed with the subcommittee's decision to remove Golden Hills from the list, but he disagreed with Ms. Malone regarding the necessity for a dog park. He also reviewed his list of possible dog park sites and said he thought Hidden Valley and Waterfront Parks would be suitable.

[NEW BUSINESS](#)

a. [Waterfront Park Improvement Workshop](#)

[Waterfront Park Workshop 11-19-13](#)

Mr. Tucker introduced Reed Dillingham from Dillingham Associates Landscape Architects, who presented and overview of the project and background as well. Mr. Dillingham reviewed the park boundaries, the scope of work, regulatory agencies with jurisdiction and necessary permits, proposed changes to the ballfield lighting, orienting of the softball fields to minimize sun impacts, green waste area, sewer lines, changes for the entrance to the park, signage and police

patrol routes. He noted that the amphitheatre is not under the scope of Measure H, but will be looked into separately.

Commissioner Fuller commented that the park needs to be a recreational economic driver for the downtown, and he discussed extending the softball field, adding a soccer field, a better entrance for the soccer field, parking and drainage. He asked about moving the bocce courts, and Mr. Tucker explained that the bocce courts are not under Measure H.

Commissioner Gerlack noted that the restrooms and picnic areas next to the bocce courts need to be refurbished. Commissioner Pallotta asked about the number of ballfields, bocce parking, and signage. Vice Chair Bell-Patten expressed interest in the fields being designated multi-use rather than how it is currently. She also asked how many Waterfront Improvement Workshops are scheduled, and Mr. Tucker said three, with the last one before the City Council.

Commissioner Patchin agreed parking is critical, with more picnic areas. He expressed that lighting only two of the fields, not all four, could alleviate the light problem for the residents who live on the hill facing the ballfields. Chair Radke said parking is always an issue and a better entrance to the soccer field will be helpful. He thought a thematic approach to the park will blend the areas better and ease the separation within the park. Commissioner Eychner said he liked the idea of moving the bocce courts if it will benefit them. He was also appreciative of an overcrossing over the train tracks, and he thought additional workshops should be planned.

Chair Radke opened public comment on the item. Greg Staffelbach said a dog park could be placed in area #5 or by the ditch near fields #4 and #1. He also suggested dog waste stations. Henry Tomnaga, Pleasant Hill Soccer Association, expressed concern about drainage issues at the soccer field, and he suggested changing the size of field #5 to bring it to regulation size, and expand a field westward.

An unidentified speaker was opposed to lights at the softball field and thought the funds could be spent in a better way than extending field time by only one hour. Another unidentified speaker noted that if the layout of the fields was similar to Heather Farms Park in Walnut Creek, the fields could be used for soccer and baseball. Susan Guffston commended the City and engineering staff for staying within budget. She also discussed park security, evening police patrols, traffic flow, improved parking and multi-use fields.

Beth Mallone expressed that if the bocce courts are moved, make sure the parking and restrooms are accessible to seniors. Douglas VanRaam said he would like to see an inline hockey rink that can also be used for women's flat line roller derby, located next to the skate park. An unidentified speaker agreed with Commissioner Eychner that more workshops would be better, and the process should be slowed down for more opportunity for public input.

Bambi Baker asked Commissioner Fuller to explain his plans for the waterfront in relation to the businesses at the waterfront. Commissioner Fuller explained he does not want anything relocated, and he discussed his idea for how the waterfront could become the "Recreation Hub of the East Bay." He commented that increasing recreation opportunities (of all sports) in the area can revitalize the dying downtown. Mr. Staffelbach asked if there are any plans for moving or removing the boat repair/storage business, which in his opinion contributes to blight. An

unidentified speaker asked if there is a possibility of a pedestrian overpass over the train tracks. Mr. Tucker said that with the slope of the overpass to meet ADA requirements, the distance would be the same. He also indicated construction will not begin before 2015.

OLD BUSINESS - None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. *City Council and PRMCC Joint meeting*
- b. *Relocating entrance to Skateboard Park (park subcommittee)*
- c. *Marina Improvements*
- d. *Park Maintenance Overview and Goals*
- e. *Park Master Plan review*
- f. *Waterfront Planning*
- g. *Ferry point restrooms*
- h. *Mural maintenance*
- i. *Consultant for the John Muir Amphitheater*
- j. *Future Agenda Plan*
- k. *Feasibility Study*

The Commission had no additions or changes to the list of future agenda items.

COMMISSIONER & STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Gerlack discussed See's Candy sale for the Kiwanis, which will be on Main Street. Vice Chair Bell-Patten stated that the Main Street Plaza mural is getting scuffed because of people sitting on the wall - she asked about having a protective surface or seal put on the mural. Commissioner Pallotta said he would like to have the Commission minutes one week before the meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE - None.

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 17, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Patchin, Commissioner, seconded by Karen Bell-Patten, Vice Chair, adjourn at 9:20 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting, December 17, 2013. Motion unanimously passed 8 - 0. Yes: Karen Bell-Patten, Vice Chair Brian Eychner, Commissioner John Fuller, Commissioner Gay Gerlack, Commissioner Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner Donald Pallotta, Commissioner Richard Patchin, Commissioner , Dylan Radke, Chair.