

CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - ROLL CALL

Mayor Schroder called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California. He noted Mr. and Mrs. Franklin had not arrived and requested to wait a few more minutes.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:15 p.m. He noted since this was a Special City Council Meeting, public comment will only be allowed regarding items listed on the Agenda.

PRESENT: Lara DeLaney, Councilmember, Debbie M^cKillop, Councilmember, Mark Ross, Councilmember, AnaMarie Avila Farias, Vice Mayor, and Rob Schroder, Mayor.

EXCUSED: None.

ABSENT: None.

PRESENTATION(S)

A. Waterfront Park Field Enhancements "Showcase Tournament Baseball."

City Engineer Tim Tucker provided some background indicating that Cris and Wayne Franklin met with former City Manager Rob Braulik to explore the possibility of expanding fields and adding amenities to the Waterfront Park Renovation Project to provide a venue for "Showcase Tournament Baseball." Mr. Tucker reviewed the three options provided by the Franklins and noted staff refined Option 3, which expands Fields 1 and 3. In addition to expanding the fields, several upgrades to the facility would be required to make it a showcase facility such as enhanced lighting, improved bleachers, batting cages, bullpens, dugout upgrades, seating, storage areas and an electronic scoreboard. He also briefly commented on field constraints, cost considerations and the staff recommendations. He then introduced the Franklins to provide more information on the possibilities.

Cris and Wayne Franklin provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the uniqueness offered by Waterfront Park and the City, as well as the benefits of having two baseball fields (in-house tournaments, increased income from field rentals) and the potential to make a home for an independent ball team. They noted that having a better baseball environment can provide better opportunities (development, coaching, and tournaments) for the youth of Martinez and create new partnerships with reputable organizations that offer great experiences benefiting the community. As a mother, Ms. Franklin noted they see the potential for a great facility for local kids that are currently not available in the area, as well as a more family-focused environment. She also acknowledged that the downtown and the open space areas provide for the players, families and visitors to the community.

Mr. Franklin commented on the demand for good baseball facilities up and down the 680 corridor. Ms. Franklin also discussed opportunities to continue playing on college teams and/or professionally, potential national tournaments and for recruitment.

Mayor Schroder asked about site constraints and how that will affect future use of the fields, and Mr. Tucker discussed the correlation between field size and type of sport played.

Mayor Schroder stated there is another item on tonight's agenda to consider an action for this project and there will be an opportunity to discuss the report further.

Recreation Supervisor Patty Lorick reviewed statistics related to field usage in recent years, current demand, tournaments, and other activities.

Councilmember DeLaney asked what were the significant differences between the options being considered, and Ms. Franklin discussed factors such as the amount of renovation needed, location of the concessions, lesser impacts, and financial considerations.

Councilmember Ross asked whether the current level of use is a contraindication for expansion, and Ms. Lorick confirmed there is demand among many different types of field use.

There was discussion between staff and the Council regarding the advisability of expanding or enhancing existing facilities to meet the demands and impacts on the fields.

Councilmember DeLaney asked about lighting upgrades and safety issues with the proximity to the railroad tracks. Mr. Tucker discussed lighting options, and Ms. Franklin discussed their goals and purpose for the lighting upgrades.

City Engineer Tucker reviewed the fiscal impacts for the enhanced field improvements, unfunded projects, such as a dog park, Joe DiMaggio Center, Main Street restrooms, pickleball courts, playground equipment for Cappy Ricks Park, shade structures, etc. In response to a question from Councilmember DeLaney, he also confirmed that the balance of the WW funds were committed to this project.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Complete Speaker Card and present it to the Clerk)
Comments are limited only to items listed on the Agenda**

No comments were made.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Motion Waiving Reading of Text of all Resolutions and Ordinances.

1. Resolution No. 004-16 authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Martinez and the Martinez Police Officers Association (MPOA), for the contract period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019. [A.Shear/4.5.7]

Councilmember DeLaney said she thought this negotiation process had resulted in a contract that suited both sides of the table, as well as meeting the goals of officer retention and public safety needs.

Councilmember Ross observed that the more successful negotiations often end with both parties feeling a little bit pinched. He was especially glad that the issue of officer retention had been addressed satisfactorily for the benefit of the community.

Vice Mayor Avila Farias agreed with Councilmembers Ross and DeLaney, although she was concerned that the process had not been resolved very quickly. She noted the Council values all City employees, but especially those that affect public safety. She expressed hope that a comprehensive salary/benefit analysis for all City employees could be done in the near future, which will help in future negotiations.

Councilmember M^cKillop was also hopeful that the new contract would lead to greater officer retention. She was optimistic that the new contract and the new police chief mean the department will grow, and that there are good things for the City in the future.

Mayor Rob Schroder indicated he was glad the negotiation process was over and that the end result was a fair deal for everyone. He noted there was a correction to the Article 5 of the final MOU, which Assistant City Manager Alan Shear read into the record (but he also clarified that the tentative agreement that was signed by both sides was correct).

On motion by Mark Ross, Councilmember, seconded by Lara DeLaney, Councilmember, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion unanimously passed 5 - 0. Yes: Lara DeLaney, Councilmember; Debbie M^cKillop, Councilmember; Mark Ross, Councilmember; Anamarie Avila Farias, Vice Mayor; Rob Schroder, Mayor.

CITY MANAGER

2. Waterfront Park Field Enhancements:

Provide direction to staff: Option 1-Proceed with the current design at the current budget level; or Option 2-Proceed with the alternative to increase field dimensions and provide additional field amenities that will require additional allocation of Park and General Funds at the award of a construction contract. [T.Tucker/10.05.03&11.05.03]

Mayor Schroder reviewed the options before the Council in regard to the Waterfront Park Enhancements.

Mayor Schroder opened public comment on the item.

Daniel Nappier agreed the Waterfront is a beautiful place, but he expressed concern about the proposed size of the fields, which he indicated is almost the size a major league playing field. He was also concerned about where the restrooms would be located, limited parking, and whether the small town atmosphere would be lost if the park is expanded too much.

John Abraham, president of the Martinez Baseball Club was worried about time taken away from current teams, as well as the additional maintenance that will be needed after increasing field use.

Phil Raines was equally concerned about field maintenance issues, noting the City has a hard time keeping up with maintenance already. He indicated he wanted to see details of the agreement before he could decide whether it was good or not. He noted that the fields are already used daily from January through June, and the teams are mostly Martinez residents. He was skeptical that out-of-town users would bring significantly more shoppers to downtown businesses.

Councilmember Mark Ross asked about fencing for the fields and how the size of the field can be adjusted to accommodate the different levels of play. Mr. Abraham discussed sizes of the fields for the different age groups in Little League, noting that among older ages (teen years) there is less interest in continuing to play.

Councilmember DeLaney asked if having a long field prevents younger teams from playing. Mr. Abraham said no, although it is less comfortable for the players when chasing balls in the outfield and/or behind the plate.

Ms. Lorick stated temporary fencing is usually brought in for girls' tournaments. In response to a further question, she confirmed that Martinez does not have room to store the fencing between uses.

Marty Ochoa questioned how adding extra or larger fields would benefit the Martinez baseball community, since there is plenty of demand currently for the fields and plenty of the children in the City are able to play already. Mayor Schroder said he thought the presentation had explained the benefits for the City, including park improvements, etc. He asked Ms. Franklin if there was anything she would add in response to Mr. Ochoa's question.

Cris Franklin commented on youth athletics in other cities and aspects of their programs, including enhancements that the youth of Martinez could enjoy as well, through expanding and improving the current facilities. She also noted that the proposed programs would be offered during the off-season and would not push out any of the existing programs or teams from Martinez; nor would there be any changes to existing fields to limit their functionality.

Councilmember DeLaney asked what Ms. Franklin meant by "off-season" use, since Ms. Lorick had indicated that the fields are currently being used year-round. Ms. Lorick explained that for Martinez, off-season would be a week during August, September, October and November.

Dick Duncan discussed how lighting can affect the usability of a field, although he expressed concern about the costs to the City (and the taxpayers, ultimately) from increasing the number of lighted fields and/or the number of hours the lights will be on. He also noted differences between the needs for softball players compared to baseball and potential difficulties in changing between users. He expressed concern about the number of projects proposed by the City that are currently unfunded, and he questioned the advisability of spending City money to improve facilities for out-of-town "guests" while leaving more important needs unattended.

Seeing no further speakers, Mayor Schroder closed public comment on the item.

Mayor Schroder commented on his concern that this project is done right, and requested the item be continued to February 17th so he can fully investigate what has been done elsewhere and what features would work in Martinez, etc., as well as cost implications.

Councilmember Ross discussed the need for balance between the new and the old, as well as how the proposed enhancements and improvements can benefit local youth but recognizing the economic benefit from drawing others to the City to enjoy the recreational facilities and help stimulate downtown businesses. He was confident the balance can be found to meet the needs all those involved.

Councilmember DeLaney agreed with the Mayor and Councilmember Ross. She also expressed concern that maintenance issues, financial aspects, parking, public bathrooms and the balance between local users and a broader vision - all should be carefully considered.

Councilmember Debbie M^cKillop commented she would like to be sure the maintenance, parking and lighting issues are known before an option is chosen. She agreed with other Council comments about the need for balance between local needs and regional opportunities, and she especially was concerned that no local teams be displaced once the improvements are finished.

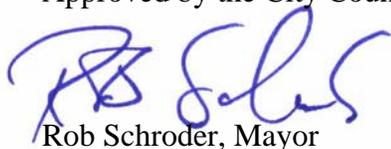
Vice Mayor AnaMarie Avila Farias was appreciative of the report that was presented. She acknowledged it is a complex issue, and she agreed with Mayor Schroder taking extra time to study the options was a good idea.

Item continued to February 17, 2016 Council Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:31 p.m. to a Regular City Council Meeting February 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez California.

Approved by the City Council,



Rob Schroder, Mayor

Mercy G. Cabral, Deputy City Clerk – 2/17/16