

CITY OF MARTINEZ
ARTS AND LIBRARY COMMISSION

May 9, 2007

APPROVED JUNE 13, 2007

A regular meeting of the Arts and Library Commission was called to order by Chair Dorrie Langley at 7:03 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Dorrie Langley
Commissioners Marta Van Loan, Karen Bell-Patten, Donald Pallotta, Michael Gandy and Carol Wiley

Absent: None

Staff: Joann Tool, Deputy Director - Parks & Community Services

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 10, 2007

Commissioner Gandy requested the following corrections to the minutes of March 14, 2007:

Page 2: Second Paragraph; second line: change "3 or 3" to "3 or 4".

Page 3: Under Item a; Item 1. Sixth paragraph down include "the balance" after Ms. Tool stated.

Page 4: Under Item 2. Second paragraph, last sentence. Change the word "able" to "unable".

Under Commissioners' Matters: First paragraph, first word. Change the word "Commission" to "Commissioner".

Commissioner Van Loan moved to approve the minutes of March 14, 2007, seconded by Commissioner Bell-Patten, with above stated corrections. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Van Loan commented on the article in the Chronicle, which stated that the Willows Theater will be opening this weekend.

Ms. Tool said that they are hoping that it will be opening this weekend and there are many people working very hard to make this happen by Friday night, May 11, 2007. She explained that the Friday night opening is their preview for the donors, City Council and three city staff members will be attending. This is by invitation only. Saturday, May 12, 2007, is the grand opening for the public.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Library Issues

Ms. Aaronian presented pictures of the library's backyard to the Commission. The Commission reviewed the pictures and commented on how nice it looks. Ms. Aaronian explained that the backyard is pretty much done except for the art work. Paul Craig will be doing approximately six sculptures and they are hoping to have the mosaic installed this week. A grand opening date has not yet been determined, but she is hoping for a June date.

Commissioner Van Loan stated that she completed the library users survey, analyzed the data and provided Ms. Tool with a copy of this information. The following questions were asked:

1. Would you support the construction of a new library?
2. Would you support a \$15 million bond for the new library?
3. Would you support renovation of the existing library?
4. Would you support a \$5 million bond for the renovation?
5. Would you support a \$5 dollar parcel tax for more library services?

Commissioner Van Loan said that overall the survey showed a result of 90% yes votes to all of the questions from the library users.

The library is open 35 hours per week between County and City hours provided to the library. An additional \$78,000 would be needed for the library to be open for 40 hours per week. In order to determine if this is feasible for the 40 hours, the Commission would need to know how many parcels are in Martinez that could be taxed at the \$5 dollar per parcel rate in order to obtain more library hours.

Commissioner Van Loan said she will be presenting this to the City Council to see if a parcel tax can be put on the ballot.

Chair Langley asked what is percent of users verses the number of voters in Martinez.

Commissioner Van Loan explained that she received 180 responses from the library users in a four week span.

Ms. Aaronian said she would obtain information from the County as to how many people of the 36,000 population of Martinez actually have library cards.

Commissioner Bell-Patten wanted clarification as to what the \$78,000 would cover.

Ms. Aaronian explained that this would cover all expenses required to operate the library for those additional hours. She is hoping these additional hours would allow the library to be open an additional day that they are currently closed, making the library open six days per week.

Ms. Aaronian explained the libraries are given 29-County hours and 3 additional County hours if the City matches those 3. **base hours-City chooses 3 County matches 3. Split between the County and the City.** The standard operating hours for a library is 35. Right now the City pays for the additional hours from the 29 to the 35.

b. JMFC

Ms. Tool said that JMFC, in partnership with Main Street Martinez, will be doing the day time portion of the 4th of July celebration. The Chamber is not doing the 4th of July as they are doing a "King of the County" barbeque at the Waterfront on June 23, and 24, 2007.

Chair Langley asked about the status of the amphitheater.

Ms. Tool said that the amphitheater is being run by the City and there are quite a few events already scheduled.

May 19, 2007 - Contra Costa Hospice will be doing "A Walk to Remember" They are expecting 100-500 people for this event which will include a band, food and activities.

June 14, 2007 - Vincente Graduation ceremony

June 17, 2007 - "Rock for Relief" A benefit for wounded Veterans coming back from the War. This will feature tribute bands.

The middle of June through August - Thursday night Family nights. This will start at 6:30 p.m. and will include events for families which will include movies, clowns, talent show etc.

In August there will be a band which will include Juliet Lewis.

There will be a bluegrass festival one weekend

Chair Langley asked if these would events be posted on the City's website.

Ms. Tool said yes.

c. Community Art Plan

Nothing new to report at this time; will be placed on the next agenda.

VIII. COMMISSIONERS' MATTERS

Commissioner Cheryl O'Brien has officially resigned.

Commissioner Bell-Patten asked if there were any "Walking Art" flyers left. Ms. Tool said she had them and will provide them to the Commission.

Commissioner Van Loan asked if there was an electronic version of the application for the Art and Library Commission so that interested candidates could fill out. Ms. Tool said yes, it was on the City website.

Commissioner Bell-Patten asked about what happened to the money left from the carryover from the library survey was spent on.

Ms. Tool explained that there was \$3,010 left and it was donated to the Friends of the Library as the Commission had voted on during the meeting of March 14, 2007.

IX. CORRESPONENCE

- a. Julianne George

Chair Langley said that the letter was very nice and thanked Ms. Tool for sending it.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Langley announced the Martinez Arts Association is showing their art in the Sharkey Building. This is a co-op art gallery. It will be open **Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and Sundays** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will also be open in the evening when anything is happening on Main Street. She is hoping it will be open the same night the library backyard garden is open. She explained it is located in the corner of the Sharkey Building. There will be a sign outside in which will be made with the "art" of Martinez in bigger letters.

(**MART**INEZ ARTS ASSOCIATION)

Chair Langley commented on Earth Day and spoke about the mural of butterflies at the John Muir House. She said there were approximately 2,000 people who came through, which is up from last year.

Commissioner Wiley announced there the "Paving Paradise" for teens event will be held sometime in June. They are taking entries now.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Chair Langley, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen Jennings
Minutes Clerk