

CITY OF MARTINEZ
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

March 4, 2008

APPROVED APRIL 1, 2008

A regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Patchin at 7:13 p.m. on March 4, 2008, in City Hall Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California 94553.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Richard Patchin
Commissioners Dylan Radke, Sherry Sank, John Fuller, Brian Eychner, and Gay Gerlack

Absent: Commissioner Katherine Hern

Staff: Joann Tool, Deputy Director of Park and Community Services

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 5, 2008

Commissioner Radke requested the following corrections of the minutes of February 5, 2008:

Page 5: Third Paragraph, first line: change the word “contact” to “contract”.

Chair Patchin requested the following corrections to the minutes of February 5, 2008:

Page 2: First Paragraph, first line: insert the word “Costa” after the word “Contra”.

Under Item d, third paragraph, second line: delete the words “per hour” before the word “charge”.

Page 3: Third Paragraph: Change 3) from “Noise levels” to Community exposure to liability for non-authorized use.

Page 5: Fifth Paragraph, first line: Change “Commissioner Radke” to “Chair Patchin”.

Commissioner Fuller, moved to approve the minutes with changes of the February 5, 2008 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Radke. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

A representative from First Light Christian Center on Pacheco Blvd., requested use of Nancy Boyd Park on March 23, 2008, for their annual Easter Egg Hunt. There will be a DJ playing Christian music. They were unable to submit the appropriate paperwork prior to tonight’s meeting and would like to formally request use of Nancy Boyd Park at this time.

Commissioner Radke, moved to approve this item as an emergency agenda item, seconded by Commissioner Sank. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes

Mr. Wilson spoke on his concerns regarding the redevelopment survey being coupled with the Parks and Recreation Bond.

Commissioner Radke explained that redevelopment and bond are both up for the November, 2008 ballot. Therefore, the poll is to find out the likelihood of the success of the bond being on the ballot at the same time as redevelopment as the bond needs 66.6% of the voters to pass.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Special Request ◊ Waterfront Group Area ◊ Sunday, September 14, 2008

Staff recommends the special request be approved with the condition that four additional toilets are rented due to the size of the event and that the grass area be rented as well.

The Commission discussed the event, with concerns about the size of the event and vehicles driving on the lawn area.

Commissioner Fuller believes that there should be a \$200.00 fine for each vehicle violating the “no vehicles on the grass” rule.

Commissioner Sank moved to approve the special request of the Waterfront Group Area on Sunday, September 14, 2008, for the Torlakson chili cook-off, with the conditions of the staff recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Fuller. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes

b. Special Request ◊ Rankin Park-Olive Grove ◊ Saturday, August 2, 2008

Staff recommends the special request be approved as they have held a reunion in 2005, without any problems.

Commissioner Radke moved to approve the special request made by Barbara Chambers to use Rankin Park-Olive Grove on Saturday, August 2, 2008, seconded by Commissioner Gerlack. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes

c. Special Request ◊ Waterfront Group and Lawn ◊ Saturday, & Sunday, September 6 & 7, 2008.

Staff recommends the special request from Raise the Roof/Mission Eternal Life be approved with the condition that a minimum of 15 portable restrooms are rented. This is a new event.

Marlene Ssebulime of Raise the Roof/Mission Eternal Life spoke on the event and the Commission asked several questions for clarification purposes.

Commissioner Gerlack moved to approve the special request made by Raise the Roof/Mission Eternal Life to use the Waterfront Group and Lawn area on Saturday and Sunday, September 6 & 7, 2008, with staff’s recommendation of additional restrooms

and fee waiver, seconded by Commissioner Eychner. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes

- d. Emergency Special Request ◇ First Light Christian Center ◇ Nancy Boyd Park ◇ Sunday, March 23, 2008

The Commission discussed the need for First Light Christian Church to complete the required paperwork in order for this request to be fully approved. Linda Stoddard from First Light Christian Center said she spoke with Robin in Recreation who told her the park was available that day. Ms. Stoddard stated she understands the need for the required formal request for use of Nancy Boyd Park.

Commissioner Gerlack moved to approve the special request made by First Light Christian Church for use of Nancy Boyd Park on Sunday, March 23, 2008, with final approval being made by City staff, seconded by Commissioner Sank. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes

- e. Use of boulders as automobile deterrents in parks.
Discussion of possible placement of boulders at designated places within the parks

Commissioner Eychner said he has access to boulders that can be donated to the parks. He will take some pictures to send to, Public Works Superintendent, Bob Cellini for review prior to bringing them in.

Bob Cellini spoke on how vehicles driving on grassy areas in the parks have destroyed the grass. This is an ongoing issue. He said he thinks the boulders would be a good idea as well. He does have a place where the donated boulders can be stored prior to placing them in the parks.

- f. Presentation by Public Works Superintendent, Bob Cellini, graffiti removal product

Bob Cellini handed out some pictures and information on the solution for the clean-up of graffiti at the Skateboard Park presented by Urban Restoration Group. He spoke on how the solution works and how easy the clean up would be.

Mr. Cellini said that at this time the major focus on the skateboard park would be:

1. Fencing
2. Clean up graffiti
3. Temporary signs stating the park is temporary closed for clean up
4. Lighting for security
5. Camera pole

Mr. Cellini said that gate would be locked every night by the janitor and the tall poles would be utilized for security lighting. He said he has spoken with some of the kids who utilize the park in order to obtain their feedback as to their feelings regarding the park.

Mr. Cellini said a new sign outlining park hours and rules and to include that the park would be closed due to any graffiti or vandalism would be created.

Mr. Cellini spoke on how the skateboard park in Benicia lets bicycles use the park on specific days and times which are posted.

The Commission discussed the fact that the Skateboard Park was originally constructed for skateboarders and not bicyclists. The use of bicycles in the park wears the structure down as the park was not built for this use. They also discussed the insurance issue for mixed use of the park.

Commissioner Sank asked who actually utilizes the park. Mr. Cellini said that it appears that use is approximately 50/50 by skateboarders and bicyclists.

The Commission requested that staff look into the insurance regarding mixed use with the idea that specific days and hours would be utilized by either skateboarders or bicyclists, but not a mixture of both at the same time.

Commissioner Eychner thought that after the insurance issue has been resolved, the park could open with the idea of a 3 month probation period to monitor the new rules/use of the park.

Chair Patchin talked about the intimidation of the younger skaters down at the Skateboard Park as it appears they utilize the area outside City Hall instead. He also asked that the insurance issue be investigated and this be item be added to the next agenda for further discussion. Commissioner Radke suggested that they look into seeing if the park can be retrofitted for the use of both bikes and skateboards.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Nancy Body Park
Update on field/building and verbal recap of Peace Corp Day

Ms. Tool explained the Design Review Committee approved the new building and at this time the selection of type of windows and doors needs to be completed. She said this should be done by this week and then ordered and hopefully be up by June, 2008. She said that they also requested that the appropriate landscaping be placed along the sides of the building.

Chair Patchin spoke on Peace Corp Day. He said it was fabulous, a positive group of approximately 35-40 people which included Peace Corp volunteers, people who wanted to become Peace Corp volunteers and some that were affiliated with the Peace Corp in some way. He said that even the San Francisco Director of the Peace Corp volunteered. He said Navlet's donated \$300 worth of plants. Other businesses also donated plants. The globe was painted and the park was cleaned up. Channel 2 News and the Gazette were both at this event. Chair Patchin said that, Peace Corp volunteer, Brian Lynch also wanted to plant some Oak Trees and stated that he wanted to re-plant the fruit trees and have the Peace Corp maintain them and donate the fruit from these trees.

Commissioner Fuller thought it would be a good idea to invite the Peace Corp out to have a grand opening of the new building as well.

- b) Bay Area Boot Camp - Hidden Lakes Park
Outcome of possible contract for a boot camp program

Ms. Tool explained that Mary Beth Gonzales of BABC declined to work with the City of Martinez as she felt the \$30.00 per hour charge was outrageous.

c) Retreat

Discussion about possible date and items for the agenda

Ms. Tool said that the facilitator, Carolyn Boone Duncan, would be available on a Sunday.

The Commission was not ready to choose possible dates and said this would be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

a) Deputy Director, Parks and Community Service

Ms. Tool said that Planning staff has asked if anyone on the Park and Recreation Commission might be interested in working with the City on a downtown community based transportation plan.

Commissioner Sank said she might be interested and requested more details to what this task would entail.

Ms. Tool spoke on the Hidden Valley and Hidden Lakes park plans. She said they are at 50% at this time. She said the stumbling block for Hidden Valley was the equipment caused the area to be pushed out, therefore, in order to prevent the need for extra grading and cement work, they had to eliminate one of the diggers. This is a savings of \$30K. Also there were three slides, but one will now be removed and replaced with a climbing pole. This also saves from area expansion, thus ~~elimination~~ eliminating additional costs.

Ms. Tool spoke on her experience at the Long Beach Conference and brought back pamphlets for the Commission to review. She handed these out and the Commission reviewed them which included play equipment, climbing equipment and interactive exercise equipment.

Ms. Tool said that, Recreation Supervisor, Patty Lorick took a tour of the aquatic parks in the Los Angeles area which included facilities ranging from \$2 million to \$39 million. She said that Arch Pac, the company who has done our pool studies in the past, has agreed to develop a design we can discuss, which would be approximately 5000 square feet so they can stay with the skimmer system. She said they have figured out a way to have a walk-in pool, water park for kids as well as still having a slide and diving board. The starting estimate is \$5 million, but they think they might bring it in under that. Arch Pac will be putting together a drawing which should help the bond.

Chair Patchin asked if Ms. Lorick would be willing to come to the next Park and Recreation meeting to share her tour experience and provide feedback.

Ms. Tool also talked about the need to increase the park usage fees by 10% on January 1, 2009. Martinez has the lowest fees in this area.

Chair Patchin thought it would be nice to explore Pleasant Hill's fees as this City is comparable in size to Martinez.

VII. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

a) Youth Sports Subcommittee (Fuller)

Commissioner Fuller said they were not going to meet until they know where they stand with the bond. He wants to work on an inclusion plan to include as many kids to participate in a recreational activities.

b) Chelsea Pier Subcommittee (Fuller)

Commissioner Fuller stated they met with Bill Nichols of East Bay Regional Parks. They provided him with an overview of what they had been thinking about for the waterfront area. He appeared interested and said he would talk to others at East Bay Regional Parks and get back to him.

Commissioner Fuller said he would like to see a recreational facility and lay out a plan for this to eliminate any housing being developed just north of the railroad tracks. He said he will wait to see what East Bay Regional Parks comes back with, but would like to see the warehouse turned into a recreational facility with something such as basketball hoops being installed.

c) Playground Subcommittee (Patchin)

Chair Patchin stated that this topic was covered earlier in Ms. Tool's staff report, the subcommittee wanted to make the Hidden Valley Park play structure as universal as possible. He said it also occurred to him that they should talk with families with children with special needs to determine if the design would be of a benefit to them.

Swimming Pool (Eychner)

Commissioner Eychner said he had nothing new to report at this time.

d) Bond (Hern)

Commissioner Hern was not present. Commissioner Radke stated at this time they had worked on the polling questions, finalized them and the poll should have begun on March 3, 2008, with anticipation of completion by March 5, 2008. The poll is 20 minutes in length. Redevelopment was addressed to see if the two issues were in competition and if so, if it would undercut the bond. The preliminary results should be completed by next week. The next meeting will be held on March 11, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gerlack's residence.

e) Marina Report (Radke)

Commissioner Radke said there was nothing new to report as no meetings have been held.

f) Other

Commissioner Fuller questioned Mr. Cellini about the Hidden Lakes soccer fields. Mr. Cellini said they have been repaired with top soil and re-seeded.

Chair Patchin stated that another headstone has been returned from Solano County which belonged to a child in Martinez, Mabel Stranahan.

Chair Patchin also discussed his attendance at the, Recreation Department's, After School Sports Program's Basketball games and part of the playoffs. He said for children were 3rd to 5th grade

level, he witnessed some real skills in these games. He said that the playoff games utilized a professional referee as well.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) City Council Minutes, January 9, 16, 23 and February 6, 2008

IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioners' Reports
Update on Nancy Boyd Park's field
Bond Issue
Retreat - bring calendars
Skateboard Park Update

Chair Patchin thanked Bob Cellini for attending tonight's Park and Recreation meeting and providing his input and sharing his information with regard to the Skateboard Park.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Fuller, seconded by Commissioner Eychner, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen Jennings
Minutes Clerk