

CITY OF MARTINEZ
ARTS AND LIBRARY COMMISSION

February 13, 2008

APPROVED APRIL 9, 2008

A regular meeting of the Arts and Library Commission was called to order by Commissioner Karen Bell-Patten, acting Vice-Chair at 7:00 p.m. on February 13, 2008, in City Hall Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California 94553.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Karen Bell-Patten, Carol Wiley, Marta Van Loan and Donald Pallotta

Absent: Chair Dorrie Langley and Commissioner Michael Gandy

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 14, 2007

There were no corrections to the minutes of November 14, 2007.

Commissioner Van Loan moved to approve the minutes of November 14, 2007, seconded by Commissioner Pallotta. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Art display in the library and other venues

Discussion regarding Art displays in the library and the display of art done by Veterans at the VA Hospital

Commissioner Van Loan said she had visited the library and found that there is not floor space feasible for art displays and that there is no way to safely secure art displays on the ledge above the book shelves, which is approximately 8 feet in height. Therefore, nothing is readily available to display art at the library at this time.

Commissioner Pallotta spoke on the idea of fastening a band of molding to secure the art that could be placed on the ledge. He feels there is some type of molding that would be able to be placed up on the wall in order to safely secure the art.

Commissioner Bell-Patton stated that due to the fact that the ledge is approximately 8 feet in height, having art placed up on the ledge would not benefit unless the art piece was of a substantial size. She felt that a large flat screen television could be mounted up on the wall behind the circulation desk that would rotate pictures of art. If the artists agreed to have their art photographed, it could be downloaded and presented on the television screen in a rotating fashion.

The commission discussed the fact that having rotating art in the library would be wonderful.

Commissioner Van Loan said that the Friends of the Library will be meeting next Tuesday, and hopefully they will get a chance to discuss this issue as well.

- b. Philosophy behind the Arts and Library Grants
Discussion about the philosophy of the arts and library grants and possible modification of the current application form

This item will be held over to next regular meeting that Chair Dorrie Langley is present.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Library Issues
Verbal report by the Martinez Librarian or a Commissioner member regarding current activities at the library

Commissioner Van Loan stated all fencing and gates for the reading garden have now been completed. Wells Fargo provided the fencing and the City provided the gates. She stated that she, Ms. Tool and Frank Kluber discussed putting in a request to the City to reallocate the fencing money for outdoor furniture. They discussed their concerns with securing the furniture and Commissioner Van Loan sent a note to City Council this morning for possible solutions. They included:

- The garden is only open during library operating hours
- The garden backs up to the Wells Fargo parking area which provides lighting
- She will check with Wells Fargo to see if they have a security camera on that area of the parking lot and to see whether or not it might cover the garden area as well
- Placing a motion detector light on one corner of the garden of the building to deter any possible intruders from coming into the garden area when closed

Commissioner Van Loan stated that the furniture includes 2 picnic tables, with 1 picnic table being handicap accessible. There will be 6 benches constructed of molded/recycled lumber which will be gray and black. There will be a green matching garbage can along the back wall to blend in.

Commissioner Pallotta asked about the possibility of securing the furniture with chains and locks.

Commissioner Van Loan indicated that Mr. Kluber and she discussed this, but from an aesthetic view, they did not want to go that route, in addition, during some of the reading groups, they would like to be able to re-arrange the benches.

Commissioner Van Loan stated that the gate at the end of alley/McDonald's side would be kept locked at all times, only be utilized for maintenance and the public would only be utilizing the gate on the Ward Street side. The only concern right now with the locked gates is with P.G.& E. not being able to read the meter when the gates are locked. As this is a specialized key and one that can not be duplicated by the local key shops, they are trying to obtain the key from the gate company.

Commissioner Van Loan said that they have now received permission from the property owner of the garage at the end of the alley to do a mural on the side. This idea is currently being explored further.

Commissioner Van Loan said that they currently have 30 engraved bricks for the pathway.

Commissioner Van Loan said that once the furniture has been put in place, the Friends of the Library is hoping to have a "Ribbon Cutting Ceremony" for the garden.

Commissioner Van Loan spoke on the lamp post banner ideas and indicated she has found that property managers have different leasing rules for each location. For example, Village Oaks' lease prohibits anything in their area. She is still asking around for possibilities. She said that a graphic artist, Sandra Muller, has provided a few sketch ideas for the library outreach/campaign and provided these examples to the Commission to review.

Commissioner Van Loan stated that she attended a class at the Foundation Library in San Francisco in December, 2007, and found there are numerous foundation giving and various grants for libraries for additional operating hours and renovations.

- b. JMFC
Verbal report by staff of Commissioner

Ms. Tool said they are still working on a loan agreement for \$75K for work on the interior of the Kenny Building.

- c. Community Art Plan

Commissioner Bell-Patten discussed the Ashland, Oregon Community Art Plan and the article of January 7, 2008 in the local paper outlining how this was approved and the obstacles they encountered. She encouraged the Commission to go the website and review their Community Art Plan and said that Ms. Tool would e-mail this link to all Commissioners.

VIII. COMMISSIONERS' MATTERS

Commissioner Van Loan spoke on the bond committee that has been formed and how there will be survey/assessment completed by a professional survey group. She said the bond committee is represented by various areas of interest such as bocce, swimming pool and library, with the biggest item being the swimming pool. The bond will presented as "Read, Recreate and Rejuvenate" and the aim is for the November, 2008, ballot.

Commissioner Pallotta asked for a status update on the possible merging of the Commissions.

Ms. Tool said that the ordinance is currently with the Mayor who is editing the draft. The Art and Library Commission, Marina Commission and the Park and Recreation Commission merging will be merging.

Commissioner Pallotta wanted to know how ~~does be on the combined commission~~ **ones goes about being on the combined commission.**

Ms. Tool explained that if a Commissioner's term has not expired, they are guaranteed a seat, but there are some Commissioners would ~~de~~ **who** not want to continue, which will open up other seat possibilities.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. John Muir Association "The View", Unified Port of San Diego, Creative workfunds, The Art of the Community, Pinturas De Fe

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Van Loan stated that there will be an "Open House" for the Martinez Opera on March 2, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Van Loan, seconded by Commissioner Pallotta, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen Jennings
Minutes Clerk