

**CITY OF MARTINEZ
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

February 3, 2009

A regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Patchin at 7:01 p.m. on February 3, 2009, in the City Hall Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California 94553.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Patchin

Commissioners Dylan Radke, John Fuller, Gay Gerlack, and the late arrival of Katherine Hern (8:24 p.m.)

Absent: Commissioners Brian Eychner and Sherry Sank

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

Tim Tucker, City Engineer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 13, 2009

Chair Patchin requested the following corrections to the minutes of January 13, 2009:

Page 1: Under Public Comment, 1st paragraph, line 2: Insert a period after the word “neighborhood” and insert the words “The trees” before the words “are a fire”.

Page 3: Under Bond Project Tenets, 1st paragraph, line 2: Change the word “flush” to the word “flesh”.

Page 5: Under New Business, item e, 4th paragraph, line 1: Change the name “Carol Bauer” to “Carol Baier”.

Page 5: 4th paragraph, line 2: Change the words “low-housing income” to “low-income housing”.

Commissioner Gerlack moved to approve the minutes with changes of the January 13, 2009, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Radke. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil Raines of the Martinez Little League said the league needs a storage container in Rankin Park from the 1st week in April to the 1st week in June to store the equipment used to prepare the baseball fields for the season. Chair Patchin stated because the issue is not on the agenda the Commission cannot take an action on it. He said it can be put on the March agenda. Joann Tool said it would go to the new commission in March and be an item on the agenda under new business.

Tim Tucker said there is room behind the church by the park and that they may be able to put a container there. Chair Patchin said they may be able find a temporary location

Mike Alford stated he wanted the Commission to take note that Gino Titullio has asked to be on the Oversight Committee and that there is no reason he should not be on the committee. Mr. Alford asked why the Zocchi property has no fences around it.

Mr. Tucker explained that the fencing was removed because the police had trouble getting access to illegal activity at the site. He said the police requested that the buildings be left open so they can easily access them. Mr. Tucker said once there is money to remove the buildings fences will be put up.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Special Request ∞ Susana Street Park ∞ Saturday, September 19, 2009

Staff recommends the special request be approved.

Commissioner Gerlack moved to approve the special request by Heather Scott for the Susana Street Park on Saturday, September 19, 2009, seconded by Commissioner Fuller.

- b. Special Request ∞ Gazebo, Peppertree & Olive Grove (Rankin Park) ∞ Saturday, May 9, 2009

Staff recommends the special request for the use of the whole park be approved. Joann Tool said a fee waiver and permission for amplified music has been requested.

Victor Tibbs spoke on behalf of the Star Touring and Riding Association and stated the event to be held at Rankin Park is a fundraiser for the Contra Costa Food Bank. Mr. Tibbs stated all profits from the fundraiser will go to the Contra Costa Food Bank. He requested the use of two 20 amp outlets.

Commissioner Gerlack moved to approve the special request by Victor Tibbs on behalf of the Star Touring and Riding Association with a fee waiver and permission to have amplified music on Saturday, May 9, 2009, seconded by Commissioner Fuller. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes.

- c. Special Request ∞ Susana Street Park & Ignacio Plaza ∞ Saturday, July 25, 2009

Chair Patchin said the commission must postpone item c because they do not have enough commissioners to vote on the item. He explained they need one more commissioner to consider it because it is an item in which he has to recuse himself.

**see below under Old Business, item a.

- d. Special Request ∞ Waterfront Group and Lawn Area ∞ Saturday & Sunday, June 20 & 21, 2009

Staff recommends the special request for the use of the Waterfront Group and Lawn Area for the Chamber of Commerce annual King of the County BBQ be approved and a fee waiver considered.

Ms. Tool said the item is a returning request from the chamber of commerce. She said the commission asked them to return with a plan after looking at the amphitheatre.

Cynthia Murdough, Chamber of Commerce Director, spoke on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce to explain the plan. She stated they went over the problem areas of last year's event with Ms. Tool. Ms. Murdough talked in some length about the extra measures they will be taking to ensure the event is safe and orderly this year.

Commissioner Radke moved to approve the special request by Cynthia Murdough on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce with a fee waiver for the Waterfront Group and Lawn Area on Saturday & Sunday, June 20 & 21, 2009, seconded by Commissioner Gerlack. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes.

e) Highland Avenue Park – tree removal

Mr. Tucker stated they have money to remove the eucalyptus trees. He said if the Commission approves the tree removal the funds will be available to remove the trees this year.

Commissioner Fuller asked where the funds are coming from. Mr. Tucker replied they came from Measure H.

Chair Patchin asked if the project will include replanting trees. Mr. Tucker stated they may have to hold off on replanting because they want to look at the overall plan for the park first, but that the money does include replanting.

Robert Christy said he is concerned about the trees catching on fire this year.

Molly Anderson of Highland Avenue asked if a certified arborist has diagnosed the eucalyptus trees. Chair Patchin said he is not aware of it. Ms. Anderson said before they remove the trees she would like the trees to be professionally assessed to determine whether the trees are a threat or not.

Delia Estrada said she lives across the street from the trees and watched a branch fall in front of her mother.

Mr. Alford asked if the bond money is available now. Chair Patchin said no, the bonds have not been sold yet. Mr. Alford said he wanted a time frame when they money would be available.

Ms. Tool explained they are deciding whether to sell the first issue of the Bond (\$15 million) on March 11, 2009. She explained their decision to sell depends on the volatility of the market and their ability to get the lowest interest rate. She noted they have an attorney and a financial advisor watching the market so they get the best interest rate for the bonds. She said they are trying to sell it in March 2009.

Mr. Christy reiterated the fire danger of the trees and suggested they see if Shell may participate in dealing with the trees.

Commissioner Gerlack suggested her husband, Ken Gerlack, a former landscape contractor who installed John Muir Park, look at the trees and give his opinion. Ms. Anderson said she would prefer a professional arborist inspect the trees. Commissioner Fuller spoke to commemorate the Commission and said he has never worked with a better group of people. He said it is important to celebrate what they have done as a Commission. He also noted that the staff has been phenomenal.

At 7:55 p.m., the Commission broke for refreshments to commemorate this last meeting as the Park and Recreation Commission. The meeting reconvened at 8:22 p.m.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a) Zocchi property

Commissioner Fuller said he information and numbers regarding the Zocchi property.

** Back to Special Request ∞ Susana Street Park & Ignacio Plaza ∞ Saturday, July 25, 2009

Commissioner Fuller made a motion to move to item

.....c). Chair Patchin excused himself from the meeting for the item and turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Fuller.

Staff recommends the special request for Susana Street Park and Ignacio Plaza be approved.

Vice Chair Fuller noted, as is required by the Ignacio Plaza policy, Katie Patchin delivered notices to neighbors of the Plaza regarding the event. Vice Chair Fuller said they received one response to the notice by Marshall Mick Erath, of 1105 Estudillo Street, who said he would not happy with amplified music at the plaza.

Maria Bello, of 1224 Estudillo Street, stated she would have no problem with amplified music.

Kristen Henderson said she would have not problem either and congratulated Katie Patchin and Ronnie Rones.

Katie Patchin asked if they could pick up the portable bathrooms the next day (Sunday, July 26, 2009). Ms. Tool said yes.

Commissioner Gerlack moved to approve the special request of Katie Patchin for Susana Street Park and Ignacio Plaza on Saturday, July 25, 2009, seconded by Commissioner Radke. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes.

At 8:29 p.m. Chair Patchin returned to the meeting.

**Back to Zocchi Property

Commissioner Fuller read over a report composed by lacrosse detailing the figures about the renovations needed to prepare the Zocchi building for box lacrosse. The report stated there is a need for a local indoor facility because there are no indoor rinks to

accommodate the number of players in the sport in Contra Costa County. The report detailed the costs and renovations to ready the building as an indoor rink as follows: \$10, 000 for 20, 000 sq. ft. of indoor turf, \$6000 for 40,000 sq. ft. of safety netting, and \$4000 for 10,000 sq. ft. of safety boards. Commissioner Fuller said the average rent charged by facilities is \$50-\$150 per hour. He estimated they would be able to rent the space for 10 hours a week, 50 weeks per year, and that all cost to renovate the building to prepare it for box lacrosse would be paid for in roughly a year. Commissioner Fuller stated they would have no problem renting the space and that De La Salle H.S., Alhambra High School, Diablo Valley College, Walnut Creek, and Lamorinda have shown interest in renting the space.

Chair Patchin asked how much money it would take to do the basic upgrades to the building so it is in a usable condition. Tim Tucker said they have yet to develop the cost estimates, but noted some of those costs would include electrical panel, wiring, lighting, and safe access to the building. Mr. Tucker said Dave Scola wants to walk through the site this week and come up with a number for them.

Commissioner Fuller noted that the electrical panel will cost \$8500 to fix.

Mike Alford asked the square footage of the building. Commissioner Fuller said the building they plan to use for lacrosse is 3200 sq. ft. Mr. Alford wanted to know why they are renting the building for lacrosse instead of baseball or bocce ball.

Commissioner Fuller explained there are no funds to fix the building and that the cost to prepare the building for lacrosse is very inexpensive. He noted that only lacrosse teams have put in the time and effort into looking at and researching the building for use.

Maria Billingsley of the Martinez Opera said she looked at the Zocchi buildings and asked if there is any possibility of shared use of the large building. She noted the building has offices in it and asked if the Opera could use 3 or 4 of the offices.

Chair Patchin asked what would be the next step concerning the building. Tim Tucker said after the scheduled walk-through of the building they would tighten up the numbers for the building repairs and bring the estimate back to the Commission for the final word on the building.

b) Bond project tenets

Ms. Tool said the Commission decided on bond tenets A, B, C, and a new D at the January 13, 2009, meeting. She said they have tenets E, F, G, H, and I to discuss and make more changes to A, B, C, or D if they would like.

Chair Patchin asked that the following changes be made to Tenet A (*Structured Transparent Process*): delete the words "Such as" before the words "Public and neighborhood meetings".

Commissioner Fuller asked that Tenet C be changed to the following: "*Maximize Partnerships with Outside Agencies*: When possible, maximize partnerships with other agencies and their resources (i.e. East Bay Regional Park District bond funding)."

Ms. Tool suggested Tenet H and I be combined. Commissioner Gerlack Agreed.

c) Possible projects for Prop WW

Ms. Tool said she has the application and procedural guide for Prop WW. She noted the item will be on the Council agenda to approve the initial resolution that tells East Bay Regional Park District they want the money. Ms. Tool explained the steps to be taken to apply for the money.

Chair Patchin asked if the money is used for historic preservation, does it have to be a park or recreational related facility. Ms. Tool said it has to be used for recreation for 25 years after they use the money to purchase it.

Ms. Tool said staff would like to present the idea of using the money for recreation offices, which would benefit the whole city. She said recreation would be able to build classrooms. Ms. Tool said they have 8 years to spend that money, but have until March 31, 2009, to put in projects for this year. She noted it is critical to earmark the money, but it is not critical to come up with projects for this year.

d) Parks Master Plan

Ms. Tool said they have made the changes to the Parks Master Plans. She stated administrative staff, Ramona Togonon, added details to the ADA assessment and created an appendix to the Master Plan. Ms. Tool asked that the Commission consider approving the Parks Master Plan tonight because it needs to be approved in order to go to the City Council meeting in March.

Chair Patchin referred to page 21 of the Park System Master Plan and asked if there are four or five benches in Alhambra Park. Ms. Tool said it has four benches and that she would correct the number in the Master Plan document.

Chair Patchin referred to page 42 of the Master Plan and said the word "fix" is used four times. He said he wants to get rid of the word.

Commissioner Fuller moved to approve the Parks System Master Plan, seconded by Commissioner Gerlack. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

a) Deputy Director, Parks and Community Service

Ms. Tool introduced the staff intern, Richard Bonansea

Ms. Tool asked if the Commission would like to postpone the ribbon cutting for Hidden Valley because of the rain.

Chair Patchin said yes. He asked if it would be possible to identify and locate the boy who was anxiously awaiting the opening of the park and have him cut the ribbon. Ms. Tool said she would try to locate the child. She said they can set a date after they find the child.

Ms. Tool asked if the ribbon cutting scheduled for April 4, 2009, can be scheduled for Friday, April 3, 2009. Commissioner Gerlack suggested having it at 6 p.m.

Chair Patchin asked about the two recreation staff members who were attacked. Ms. Tool provided information about the attacks.

VII. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

a) Youth Sports Subcommittee (Fuller)

Commissioner Fuller said there are still some communication gaps, but that it was a successful program. He said when the new commission comes in it would be worth while to take on.

b) REDS (Fuller)

c) Playground Subcommittee (Patchin)

d) Swimming Pool (Eychner)

Chair Patchin said there was a visitation to an indoor facility. Ms. Tool said now the construction team of the bond will be planning a visitation.

e) Other

Commissioner Fuller said thank you to his co-commissioners. Commissioner Radke said he has gone to Hidden Valley Park during the day and stated he was impressed by the amount of people playing at the park and using the equipment. He said the commission should feel good about itself for the project.

Chair Patchin requested the following be included in the minutes:

"Measure H

The passage of Measure H was in large part due to the outstanding efforts of those who served on the Bond Steering Committee. Co-chairs Commissioners Katherine Hern and Dylan Radke provided exemplary leadership while Sarah Shelton, Tim Platt, Marta Van Loan, Eric Brown, Al Boyce (sign central), and Commissioner Gay Gerlack (Ms. Hospitality) made major contributions to getting the job done. Joann Tool, Deputy Directory Community and Economic Development, Recreation, Community Services and Marina, an experienced bond campaigner, provided council and information as well as general support. Commissioner John Fuller offered support and was responsible for introducing and developing the concept of using a bond as a vehicle for improving our parks and recreational facilities. City Manager Phil Vince, Assistant City Manager Karen Majors, Ken Gerlack, Nancy Hobert, Harriett Burt, Jennifer Chiarelli, Zach Farley, Mark and Susan Waterman, Walter and Sally Costa, Karen Filice, Kay Cox, Commissioner Brian and Margaret Eychner, Leanne Moran, and Marianne Griffin walked precincts and/or helped with letter writing, events, booths, etc. Mayor Rob Schroder, Council Members Michael Menesini, Mark Ross, Janet Kennedy, and Lara Delaney, recognizing the vital necessity for providing first class park and recreational facilities for the citizens of Martinez, voted unanimously to support the Bond. The 69% of voters who voted in favor of Measure H echoed the Council's desire- that this community will have

recreational and cultural facilities and programs that will help maintain a strong quality of life for all to enjoy.”

Chair Patchin said it has been a pleasure serving on the Commission. He said they are a fantastic group of people and that it has been a real joy to work with the other commissioners.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Newspaper article, Temporary sports complex on Zocchi property considered
- b) City Council Minutes, December 3 and December 17, 2008

IX. ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Commissioner Fuller, seconded by Commissioner Radke, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

Last set of informal minutes, last meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meetings. This Commission has been disbanded, February 3, 2009
Submitted by,

Jinelle LeSage and Robin Agostino
Minutes Clerk