

**Workshop Meeting
Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission
January 22, 2011
Martinez, CA**

APPROVED February 15, 2011

A regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission was called to order by Temporary Chair Patchin at 10:00 a.m. on January 22, 2011, at the Nancy Boyd Park Building, 90 Church Street, Martinez, California 94553.

I. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Karen Bell-Patten, Commissioner, Brian Eychner, Commissioner, John Fuller, Commissioner, Richard Patchin, Commissioner, Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner, Donald Pallotta, Commissioner, and Marta Van Loan, Commissioner.

EXCUSED: Gay Gerlack, Commissioner, Katherine Hern, Vice Chair, and Dylan Radke, Chair

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Mitch Austin, Recreation Manager
Tim Tucker, City Engineer (1:00pm – 3:00pm)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

**III. New Business
(see attached summary of the workshop)**

**IV. Old Business
(see attached summary of the workshop)**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Patchin, seconded by Commissioner Eychner, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 3:05 p.m.

**PMCC Retreat
January 22, 2011 Nancy Boyd Park
Facilitated by Carolyn Duncan
Flip Chart Notes**

DRAFT

Prioritized Projects for 2011

1. The Waterfront

- **Look at the Macro *and* Micro view of the area**
- **Bathroom for Ferry Park**
- **Define area**
- **Create brand vision**
- **Look into a Coast Guard station being located at the Marina**

2. Drive Economics through Recreation

- **Weddings in the Parks**
- **Advertizing, marketing**
- **Find areas that could enhance existing venues/parks- i.e. Marathon**

3. Review and Develop the Cultural Plan

Other projects discussed:

- **Identify and strengthen partnerships**
- **Dog Pak**

Commission Successes in 2010

Projects and Work:

- **Completed the work required and applied for a grant.**
- **Made the pool project a success, all interests and stakeholders were represented in the process.**
- **Public art piece approved at the new development.**
- **Came in under budget.**
- **Brought forth two policy recommendations. (Park name and Park fees)**
- **Transferred summer pool to the high school.**
- **Met the Mayor/Council's direction to concentrate on implementation of Measure H.**
- **The Commission/Council is on its way to having the Zocchi building utilized.**
- **Projects and ideas the Commission put in the "pipeline" will come to fruition in the summer.**
- **Got to all the meetings... quite an accomplishment in itself...**

Commission Collaboration:

- Everyone represented on the Commission is there to represent the citizens of Martinez, not their own personal interests.
- Worked well together with Dylan as a great leader.
- Collaborated well with the Staff on planning and decision making for the pool and library projects.
- By-in by the Commission to the structure put in place by the staff- created synergy.
- Good relationship with Staff.
- Bonded as a team under the new umbrella of the three commissions coming together.
- Worked well in subcommittee.
- Resolved our own conflicts internally.
- Worked well together as one new commission considering that the three original commissions had members with different interests, expertise and reasons for being on the commission.
- The Commission is dedicated and follows through.

Communication:

- Improved two way communications with Staff.
- Had honest dialogue with one another.

Commission Process Agreement:

When starting work on a project or determining a project to work on: Staff will identify parameters, exposures and limitations up front to the Commission.

When a Commissioner has a pressing concern/question, it is important to not wait until a meeting to voice that concern. Please call Mitch Austin, Recreation Manager to discuss the concern so that he can answer questions and/or be prepared to address the issue at the next meeting.

Commission Challenges:

Commission Process and Collaboration:

- The Commission needs to come to *resolution* after discussion.
- The Commission needs to be proactive rather than reactive.
- There are too many people on the General Plan Committee and people don't know what others are doing- which may cause redundancy and misunderstanding.
- Everyone wants to be involved with decisions. The Commission must trust the work, decisions, and recommendations of the subcommittees.
- The Commission needs to keep moving ahead as Measure H is launched & on its way.
- The Commission needs more resources/staff to do things and get things accomplished.

Relationship with Council:

- **The Commission learns about issues/decisions through the newspaper rather than through Staff and the Council.**
- **No stated vision by the Council leads to frustration on the Commission.**
- **The Commission receives little or no feedback or visits from the Mayor or Council, yet the newspaper reporters are at many meetings.**
- **The Commission does not get feedback from the Council as to why their recommendations are not taken. (The Council is the ultimate decision maker, but the Commission would like feedback when recommendations are not utilized, as time, energy and public opinion have been collected before the recommendation has been brought to the Council.)**
- **The Commission has been shot down by the Council so many times that some members are leery about proactively bringing ideas forward.**
- **The Commission and Commissioners do not speak for themselves, but for the Citizens of Martinez, and actively solicits their input. With this in mind, the Commission wonders why their recommendations are not given more weight by the Council.**
- **There should be active engagement of the Commission by the Council so there are no disconnects between the two groups.**

QUESTIONS:

- **Should the Commission wait for the Council to give direction or does it lead with the ideas it generates?**
- **If this Commission represents the Parks, Marina *and* Cultural activities in Martinez, why doesn't the Willows Theatre fall under this Commission?**
- **Why does the Commission need a Marina Subcommittee? Why aren't issues brought before the whole Commission for discussion?**
- **What is the hierarchy between the General and Master Plan? How do they work together?**
- **With recent Commission resignations, what plan is in place to replace positions?**
- **What happens to the Campbell Theatre when the contract ends?**
- **Has there been an active thought process and/or attention given to the 425 parking places required at the transportation hub?**