

Regular Meeting  
Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission  
January 17, 2012  
Martinez, CA

**APPROVED February 21, 2012**

A regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission was called to order by Chair Radke at City Hall 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez 7 p.m. on January 17, 2012, at Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California 94553.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Dylan Radke, Chair, Brian Eychner, ~~Interim Vice Chair~~, Gay Gerlack, Commissioner, Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner, Richard Patchin, Commissioner, Donald Pallotta, Commissioner, and John Fuller, Commissioner.

EXCUSED: None.

ABSENT: Karen Bell-~~Patchin~~. **Patten**

Staff present: Mitch Austin, Community Services Contract Manager  
Tim Tucker, City Engineer

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion by Donald Pallotta, Commissioner, seconded by Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner, to approve the Minutes of November 15, 2011 Motion unanimously passed 7 - 0. Yes: Dylan Radke, Chair Brian Eychner, Interim Vice Chair Gay Gerlack, Commissioner Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner Richard Patchin, Commissioner Donald Pallotta, Commissioner , John Fuller, Commissioner.

Mr. Austin noted that the library is seeing much activity now, including board games and crafts.

Commissioner Pallota commended Ms. Lorick for the good update. Chair Radke expressed appreciation for the Holiday Frolic and letters to Santa, noting he was impressed with coordination between the City and Santa.

There were no comments from the Commission regarding the staff report.

PRMCC SUB -COMMITTEE REPORTS

Measure H Report

City Engineer Tim Tucker presented the staff report. He distributed an updated schedule and reviewed potential milestones that could be added to the schedule. He discussed work on the facilities at Nancy Boyd Park and construction issues that could conflict with classes, etc.

Commissioner Pallotta asked about the year of the milestones, particularly the one for design that

doesn't come until March. Mr. Tucker indicated where the current quarter was located on the chart, and he confirmed that awarding of the contract should be in March of 2012.

In response to a further question from Commissioner Olsson, Mr. Tucker reviewed different stages of the project, including advertising, awarding of the contract and construction.

Commissioner Fuller asked if the fields are going to be torn up again. Mr. Tucker said yes, the infield will need to be skinned some because the grass is too close at second base.

Commissioner Fuller encouraged staff to be sure to inform AYSO of the dates and area to be affected.

Chair Radke asked about irrigation work. Mr. Tucker said there would be none in the area of the fields, just in the front near the picnic area.

Mr. Tucker also updated the schedule for Cappy Ricks Park, Hidden Valley Park, the Waterfront bathrooms, Rankin Park and rehabilitation of the sports courts.

Commissioner Fuller asked if the Parks Subcommittee had seen the schedule. Mr. Tucker said no, but it could be **available** if the Commission desired. Commissioner Fuller commented on issues with the basketball court at Morello Park, and the Commission briefly discussed potential changes.

Mr. Tucker agreed to refer the issue to the Parks and **Playground** Subcommittee. He asked whether the **Parks** Playground Subcommittee would also be interested. Chair Radke said yes.

After further discussion, Mr. Tucker indicated willingness to take members of the PRMCC to see the work in progress at Rankin Park.

Mr. Tucker discussed the schedule for the Holiday Highlands Park also. Commissioner Pallotta commented on the materials used for the walls, and Mr. Tucker responded that they were trying to use materials from the natural settings. Commissioner Pallotta said he would like to have input if the material were going to be used at other parks - he didn't think they worked.

Chair Radke asked when the equipment will be ordered for Rankin Park. Mr. Tucker said it has all been ordered except for the customized play equipment. He confirmed the park would be finished and ready for use by Memorial Day. He noted that neither he nor Brian Killian would recommend going with this equipment provider again.

At the request of Mr. Tucker, Commissioner Patchin reported on the neighborhood meeting, including attendance and issues raised (fields open during school year, herbicide use, security, additional facilities). He indicated that overall it was an excellent meeting, and people went away satisfied. He also noted that the Patch was represented at the meeting.

Mr. Tucker commented on the combined experience represented on the Commission, and their input into design of the park.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Marina Update**

Mr. Austin presented the report, including correspondence from the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW), which added a new condition requiring the City's debt ratio to be lower before the City can qualify for new funding from them. He discussed options, the effort being made to revise the scope of work, and the revised budget available. He confirmed the need for a maintenance dredge soon.

Mr. Austin also noted that the Council Marina Subcommittee would be meeting on January 26, 2012.

Commissioner Olsson asked how firm the DBW requirement was. Mr. Austin confirmed there is little hope for funding from DBW at this point. Commissioner Olsson asked if the depth survey report could be shared at the next meeting, and Mr. Austin said he would send it to the PRMCC by email.

Commissioner Fuller said the best solution for the Marina would be to develop the upland side concurrently with improvements on the water side, to enable it to be an independent entity, with or without Tom Hogan and Almar.

Mr. Austin confirmed work was being done on developing upland, which might encourage other entities to join with the City in the development. Commissioner Fuller said he thought it would be best if the Marina operates independently from the City.

Commissioner Pallotta said he thought it will take more than the \$2.15 million for a long-term plan for the Marina. He suggested a long-term bond might be possible now, given the success of Measure H. He agreed the land side needs to be developed too.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Joint meeting with council**

Mr. Austin reviewed the proposed agenda from the Mayor for the joint meeting scheduled for February 1 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Pallotta said the meeting should also discuss the potential reduction of PRMCC meetings to a bi-monthly schedule. Chair Radke agreed, noting it could be included under the discussion of the PRMCC role.

Commissioner Pallotta said he preferred the PRMCC schedule be a separate item. He questioned whether 90 minutes would be sufficient, considering it has been two years since the Council has met with the PRMCC. He thought bi-monthly meetings would be pennywise and pound foolish.

Chair Radke agreed, commenting on the role that the PRMCC should fill, including acting in the Council's stead when dealing with public issues with parks and recreation. He asked, and Mr. Austin confirmed that his focus will be exclusively on the Marina for the remainder of his contract with the City.

Chair Radke discussed a meeting he had with the City Manager, and he informed the Commission that one reason for the joint meeting is to discuss the role of the PRMCC and for the PRMCC to make its case regarding the rotating staff that will work with the Commission in the future. He reiterated that if the PRMCC is not able to deal with the public's concerns in a timely manner, the public will take their issues directly to the Council.

Commissioner Pallotta said fewer meetings could delay subcommittee reports/recommendations to the PRMCC.

(Commissioner Fuller left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.)

Mr. Austin added it is not just the PRMCC that is being considered for a reduction in staff function and meeting frequency. Chair Radke and Commissioner Patchin responded that Measure H is providing funding to the City, and the PRMCC needs to meet more frequently in its role to oversee Measure H spending. **Commissioner Patchin** questioned whether the Council might be trying to control Measure H funding and allocation.

Commissioner Gerlack agreed, pointing out that the Measure H campaign promised the citizens that the PRMCC would be overseeing the expenditures, together with the Citizens Oversight Committee. She commented on the important role that Mr. Austin plays and his skills and experiences.

Mr. Austin stated that the Council acknowledges the role of the PRMCC in overseeing Measure H. He expressed confidence that the joint meeting will be fruitful.

Commissioner Olsson encouraged the PRMCC members to come to the joint meeting prepared and ready to speak to the issues. The PRMCC discussed at length their issues with the proposed curtailment of their meeting schedule.

Interim Vice Chair Brian Eychner noted that the Martinez Gazette often has much news related to the actions of the PRMCC. He also noted that the PRMCC has already been combined from three separate committees into one.

Chair Radke said it might be possible to rotate the Commission meetings - one month for Parks, then the Marina, and the Cultural issues.

Commissioner Gerlack suggested Chair Radke prepare a statement on behalf of the PRMCC, to save time at the joint meeting. Chair Radke agreed, indicated he would email a copy of the statement to the others. Mr. Austin suggested framing it as informational, rather than asking for input back, to conform to Brown Act requirements.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Olsson asked for a discussion of the dogpark. Commissioner Patchin asked whether the joint meeting will replace the regular February meeting. Chair Radke said it depends on what the Council says about future meeting frequency. Chair Radke asked who will

oversee the next meeting agenda. Mr. Austin said it will be Assistant City Manager Alan Shear. Chair Radke also suggested a discussion of the fee schedule.

### **COMMISSIONER & STAFF COMMENTS**

Commissioner Gerlack said if the Council does try to cut back the meeting frequency, she will use other forums to raise awareness of the issues. She noted that several Councilmembers are up for re-election, and they might want to consider the public support that has been shown to the PRMCC. Commissioner Pallotta agreed.

Mr. Austin said he has been working with a production company in Vallejo to do a Shakespeare performance in August, *The Twelfth Night*, in an afternoon performance.

Interim Vice Chair Eychner said he received email that said construction on the sports facility will begin soon. Mr. Austin confirmed the first phase should be finished by the end of February. Chair Radke noted that Commissioner Fuller told him there are already tournaments scheduled there. Interim Vice Chair Eychner said that should bring more business to downtown restaurants.

Commissioner Gerlack said she thought the Council had added oversight of the sports facility to the PRMCC duties.

Commissioner Pallotta asked if the meeting could adjourn with a moment of silence in honor of Hulet Hornbeck. Commissioner Gerlack mentioned other activities in his memory.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD**

Mr. Austin confirmed the next meeting date will be February 21, 2012, unless the Council decides otherwise.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Richard Patchin, Commissioner, seconded by Donald Pallotta, Commissioner, to adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m., *with a moment of silence in memory of Hulet Hornbeck*, to the next regularly scheduled meeting, on February 21, 2012.