

Regular Meeting
Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission
March 20, 2012

APPROVED April 17, 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 at 7:00 p.m. on March 20, 2012, in the Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Dylan Radke, Chair, Karen Bell-Patten, Vice Chair, Brian Eychner, Commissioner, Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner, Don Pallotta, Commissioner, and Richard Patchin, Commissioner.

EXCUSED: John Fuller, Commissioner, and Gay Gerlack, Commissioner

ABSENT: None

Staff present included: Patty Lorick, Recreation Supervisor and Don Salts, Deputy Public Works Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil Ciaramitaro expressed appreciation for the new lights at the marina and the fishing pier. He also shared concerns about the Ferry Point improvement projects. He did not understand why the PRMCC was left out of the decision-making regarding the Marina. He wondered if there was any money from Measure H that could go into rebuilding the Ferry Point Park.

Commissioner Eychner said it would depend on what was included in the Measure H expenditure plan.

CONSENT CALENDAR

a. *PRMCC Minutes February 21, 2012*

Commissioner Patchin made the following corrections to the minutes: page 1 under Public Comment; page 4 regarding the wording of a motion; and page 5 regarding staffing of the meetings.

On motion by Don Pallotta, Commissioner, seconded by Karen Bell-Patten, Vice Chair, the Commission voted to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2012, as corrected. (Commissioners Fuller and Gerlack absent.)

b. *Staff updates*
i. *Recreation*

Commissioner Patchin asked whether the City Council had approved the Martinez Community Swim Team (MCST) agreement. Staff confirmed the Council had given its approval as well as the PRMCC.

Vice Chair Bell-Patten asked how often the Gantt charts would be updated. Chair Radke said he thought every other month, but perhaps every month.

ii. Parks Maintenance

c. Special Requests for Uses in Parks

i. Boy Scout fee waiver and Waterfront Park Lawn use for approval

Commissioner Patchin expressed concern about waiving any fees, although he acknowledged this is a recurring request for which fees have been waived in the past.

On motion by Richard Patchin, Commissioner, seconded by Don Pallotta, Commissioner, the Commission voted to approve the Boy Scout fee waiver and Waterfront Park Lawn. (Commissioners Fuller and Gerlack absent.)

ii. Tom Torlakson request for amplified sound and more than park capacity for approval

Recreation Supervisor Patti Lorick discussed the reason for the request.

Commissioner Patchin asked if any thought had been given to requiring portable toilets. Ms. Lorick said not at this time as 300 is the most they would expect to attend.

Vice Chair Bell-Patten asked whether fees would have to be paid in advance. Ms. Lorick said that the Recreation Staff collects fees after the Commission approves the Special Request. Commissioner Pallotta said the agreement specifies two days in advance, which he thought was fair, since they will be setting up on the day before the event. He thought the City should consider charging some for setup days, not just for the event days.

Vice Chair Bell-Patten suggested that future applications include the amount of the fees to be charged, so the Commission is aware. Ms. Lorick said by including it on the application, it would be difficult to raise the fees in the future. Vice Chair Bell-Patten suggested it could be added in the memo section.

Commissioner Pallotta asked about potential damage to the ground from the tents. Ms. Lorick said it was unlikely.

On motion by Richard Patchin, Commissioner, seconded by Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner, the Commission voted to approve Tom Torlakson's request for amplified sound and more than park capacity, provided that the amplified sound is in keeping with City ordinance. (Commissioners Fuller and Gerlack absent.)

PRMCC SUB -COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Measure H Updates for information

Chair Radke asked about the status of the Holiday Highlands Park update, which staff provided. Chair Radke asked if there were any plans for a ribbon-cutting, and Ms. Lorick said there are several dates being considered, preferably a simple event in the evening. The Commission suggested it be advertised on the website.

Chair Radke asked if Rankin Park construction was still on schedule, and staff said yes - most of the equipment is already in place, except for a few items. Commissioner Patchin expressed appreciation for the progress thus far.

Commissioner Pallotta commented on public reaction to what happened to the Olive Grove, which was diseased. He asked whether an arborist had been consulted, and staff confirmed that one had.

Commissioner Pallotta also mentioned the eucalyptus trees at Nancy Boyd Park that were removed, and staff confirmed they had presented a public safety hazard. Staff discussed the usual process.

NEW BUSINESS

Item c taken out of order

c. Cobourg Dredge Report - information only

Mr. Phil Ciaramitaro expressed appreciation for the change to the agenda on his behalf. He briefly reviewed the report.

Vice Chair Bell Patten noted that the PRMCC can only serve in an advisory role in this matter because the City Council has the final decision. Commissioner Patchin agreed, although he suggested the Council might relinquish control in the future.

Chair Radke clarified that the Council did ask the PRMCC to make a recommendation. He asked staff to consider and report back as to whether the Cobourg dredge would work in the Martinez Marina, or if the conditions in Martinez are substantially different.

Commissioner Pallotta commented on the need for a long-term solution to the dredging problem. He discussed issues that should be considered in making a decision about investing in a dredger. He thought it might not be possible for the next dredge but more feasible in the future.

Mr. Ciaramitaro said based on the most recent comments by the Council, he does not think they visit the marina very often nor do they have much interest in it. Commissioner Eychner said he saw a similar situation with the Council regarding park maintenance.

Mr. Ciaramitaro discussed how Cobourg financed its dredge. He indicated that the information contained in his report is available for staff if they decide to investigate further, and Cobourg is willing to serve as a resource if needed. He thought the people of Martinez would support the investment if the City wanted to do it.

Commissioner Pallotta asked how this dredger differs from those that are similar to a vacuum cleaner. Mr. Ciaramitaro explained it has a section that serves as a "reaper" or auger to process the siltation. Commissioner Pallotta commented on issues with clogging from debris and the need for qualified personnel to handle the dredger.

a. Pool Fees for recommendation to City Council

Ms. Lorick presented the staff report.

Commissioner Eychner asked how the proposed fee changes compare with the fee structure that the Commission suggested last year, which was not accepted. Ms. Lorick explained the only change to existing fees is to the family pass. Commissioner Eychner commented that without raising rates, it will be difficult to do necessary maintenance.

The Commission and staff discussed the level of fees, possible alternative pricing structures, Council's direction regarding the fees, season length, anticipated revenue, rental of the shaded areas, use of portable shades and assessment of a cleaning deposit.

Commissioner Pallotta suggested giving a discount for parties that want to use both shaded areas.

On motion by Brian Eychner, Commissioner, seconded by Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner, the Commission voted to approve recommending the revision of the Aquatic Pool Fees to the City Council, with the family pass rate to be set at \$16 and a discounted price of \$250 for rental of both shaded areas (nonresidents to pay \$10 extra), with a \$30 cleaning and security deposit. (Commissioners Fuller and Gerlack absent.)

Vice Chair Bell-Patten asked about the snack bar/concession stand, and Ms. Lorick indicated staff was working with an architect on the design.

Commissioner Eychner asked if there was interest in evening activities, such as a crab feed. Ms. Lorick said that was included under private party provisions.

Vice Chair Bell Patten recommended that any restrictions on food served, etc. be included in written form with the use guidelines. She also suggested seeking interns who might be willing to work for free in return for the experience/training.

b. Ignacio Plaza and Susana Park policy and fee increase for recommendation to City Council

Ms. Lorick presented the staff report.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the clarification of the policy, for everyone's benefit. They discussed the changes, the proposed fee increases, hours of use, types of uses, definition of a weekend, priority of uses, and advanced reservations. The Commission also asked that a staff report be given to them when an application is presented, including fees

charged.

On motion by Don Pallotta, Commissioner, seconded by Richard Patchin, Commissioner, the Commission voted to approve recommendation to the Council of the revisions to the use policy and fee increase for use of Ignacio Plaza and Susana Park policy, including the provision that reservations be taken on a first come, first served basis no more than one year in advance. (Commissioners Fuller and Gerlack absent.)

OLD BUSINESS - None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items included Dog Park, a report from the Oversight Committee and update on the library. The Commission also asked for the schedule of upcoming agenda items to be included in the Commission packets as it used to be.

COMMISSIONER & STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Pallotta said it should be noted that there has been a lot of progress on the library, but there is still work to be done on the marina, especially lighting. Staff indicated they were special-order lights, which should be received soon. Commissioner Pallotta asked if something could be done on a temporary basis until the new ones are received.

Commissioner Patchin noted that the minutes of the joint Council and PRMCC meeting do not list him as present, but he was there. He also corrected "Commission Dylan" to "Chair Radke." He commented on Councilmember DeLaney's statement that it would be helpful if a member of the PRMCC attended the Marina Subcommittee meetings. Commissioners Olsson and Pallotta indicated they were already attending.

Vice Chair Bell-Patten asked if there was any feedback yet from the Council regarding items that were discussed at the joint meeting. She was especially concerned about the lack of communication between the PRMCC and the Council.

Vice Chair Bell-Patten asked who else was on the Measure H Oversight Committee. Chair Radke said Commissioner Patchin was appointed. Vice Chair Bell-Patten also reported that she had a visitor from Europe who was impressed with the City's parks and art components.

Commissioner Olsson asked if the beavers were still in the creek; no one was able to say for sure. Chair Radke said there are signs that the dam is increasing, although possibly with human assistance.

Commissioner Pallotta commented on dog park issues in Orinda and Moraga.

CORRESPONDENCE

a. *Joint City Council and PRMCC Meeting, Minutes February 1, 2012*

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 17, 2012

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner, seconded by Richard Patchin, Commissioner, the Commission voted to adjourn. (Commissioners Fuller and Gerlack absent.)