

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

**Approved May 15, 2012**

A regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission was called to order by Chair Radke at Council Chambers, City Hall, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez at 7:04 pm. on April 17, 2012

**ROLL CALL**

Chair Dylan Radke called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with all members present, ~~except Commissioner Fuller.~~

Staff present: Patty Lorick, Recreation Supervisor and Tim Tucker, City Engineer.

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

EXCUSED: None.

ABSENT: None. John Fuller

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

MARY HATCH, Rankin Aquatic Center Partners (RACP) told the Commission about the mission of their group, to support, enhance and promote the pool in partnership with the City. She also thanked Ms. Lorick for her hard work at the pool. Commissioner Gerlack said she is a member of the group and there would be an article in an upcoming Community Focus. Staff thanked Ms. Hatch for the work of her organization.

PHIL CIARAMITARO thanked City staff for the new lights at the Marina. He shared research he had done to see if Ferry Point Park is included under Measure H and if it can be included for improvements. He also suggested that the amphitheater be replaced with an RV park, and he noted that the parking facility needs to be cleaned up and a permanent home found for the Joltin' Joe. He asked the Commission to make recommendations to the Council for a 10-year plan, with an investment of \$300,000 a year for the marina.

MIKE ALFORD expressed concern about the neglect of the marina by the Council and the need for gas facilities. He stated that Almar is doing nothing to improve the marina, and he indicated he is encouraging citizens to come to City meetings and express their feelings about what goes on in the City. Commissioner Gerlack explained that the PRMCC is advisory to the Council. She also explained that Measure H money cannot be used for maintenance costs.

Commissioner Pallotta asked whether Ferry Point Park was included in the planning for Measure

H. He asked staff to research further.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

### a. Minutes March 20, 2012

#### 3 a Minutes of 3-20-12

Changes were made to page 1; changing MCST to "Martinez Community Swim Team" and on page 5, change "Staff Comments" to "Commissioner Comments".

On motion by Vice Chair Bell-Patten, seconded by Commissioner Pallotta, to approve the Minutes of March 20, 2012, as amended. Motion unanimously passed 7 - 0. Yes: Vice Chair Bell-Patten, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Gerlack, Commissioner Olsson, Commissioner Pallotta, Commissioner Patchin, and Chair Radke

### b. Staff updates

#### i. Recreation

##### 3 b i Recreation Staff Report

Commissioner Gerlack thanked Ms. Lorick for helping with research on the pool history. Commissioner Pallotta expressed appreciation for the 14 new lifeguards. Chair Radke said he was pleased that there will be fireworks on the 4th of July.

#### ii. Library Attendant Oral Staff Report

- Jessica Bradley, library attendant, told about programs at the library and explained her duties and cooperation with the Friends of the Library and Recreation staff since the library opened. Commissioner Pallotta questioned why the gates to the backyard are not open more, at least while the library itself is open. Commissioner Gerlack said at the last meeting of the "Friends" the issue of backyard access was addressed. Commissioner Olsson asked how many users at the library and about computer users. Staff clarified that Ms. Bradley does not work for the library itself. The Commission and staff thanked Ms. Bradley for her work and for her report.

#### iii. Parks Maintenance - no report available

### c. Special Requests for Uses in Parks

#### i. King of the County BBQ request for fee waiver, amplified sound, non-picnic uses, sale of alcohol, over park capacity and use of the Waterfront Picnic and Lawn area for approval

##### 3 c ii King of the BBQ

Dwayne Glemser explained their requests and responded to questions from the Commission about the proposed event. Commissioner Patchin expressed concern about potential damage to grassy areas from the bounce house. Mr. Glemser said there hasn't been a problem in the past from the use. He noted that the sprinkler heads would be well marked. Commissioner Gerlack added that the carnival area is very small, primarily for very young children. She confirmed there has been no damage issue from the carnival. Ms. Lorick asked about parking issues, and Mr. Glemser confirmed they had contacted East Bay Parks about using their area. Ms. Lorick noted there is also a baseball tournament the same weekend. Commissioner Patchin

asked about costs for the carnival use by Highway 4 recently. Mr. Glemser said he was not sure, but he would get the information and let staff know. Commissioner Patchin also expressed concern about the fee waivers in view of the extra staff work, as well as the potential damage to the lawns from the bounce house. Commissioner Pallotta indicated he was also concerned about the fee waivers. Mr. Glemser noted that the Chamber is partially funded by the City, so saving the Chamber money saves money for the City as well. Commissioner Gerlack discussed the positive impacts to the City from partially subsidizing the event through fee waivers. Commissioner Eychner said he thought staff should look at the fiscal impacts of fee waivers and the costs to the City as opposed to the benefits that might result. He also questioned whether the downtown is being promoted through the event. Mr. Glemser said the downtown is definitely being promoted through magazine and newspaper advertisements, radio spots, and discounts to Martinez businesses who participate. Commissioner Eychner asked, and Ms. Lorick confirmed that the new sports facilities and other businesses in the area have been made aware of the event. Commissioner Pallotta said he would like to know more about the costs to the City from supporting the event. Chair Radke asked whether the carnival items were similar to what was used last year. Mr. Glemser said yes, and he discussed precautions that are taken in preparation for the event. Commissioner Gerlack suggested that maps for the event could include advertisements for local businesses.

On motion by Vice Chair Bell-Patten, seconded by Commissioner Pallotta, to approve the King of the County BBQ request for fee waiver, amplified sound, non-picnic uses, sale of alcohol, over park capacity and use of the Waterfront Picnic and Lawn area for approval. Motion unanimously passed 7 - 0. Yes: Vice Chair Bell-Patten, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Gerlack, Commissioner Olsson, Commissioner Pallotta, Commissioner Patchin, and Chair Radke..

Mr. Glemser expressed appreciation for the improvements to Holiday Hills Park.

- ii. [Excandalow Car Club request for amplified sound and exclusive use of parking lot next to the Bocce Fields for approval](#)

### [3 c iii Car Show](#)

A Member of the Excandalow car club briefly discussed some details of the event, which will be similar to the one last year. Ms. Lorick requested that DiMaggio Drive not be blocked off as it was last year. The applicant assured her that it will not be a problem.

On motion by Vice Chair Bell-Patten, seconded by Commissioner Patchin, Excandalow Car Club request for amplified sound and exclusive use of parking lot next to the Bocce Fields for approval Motion unanimously passed 7 - 0. Yes: Vice Chair Bell-Patten, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Gerlack, Commissioner Olsson, Commissioner Pallotta, Commissioner Patchin, Commissioner and Chair Radke.

- iii. [Support for Recovery request for amplified sound and over the capacity event at Waterfront Park for approval](#)

### 3 c i Walk for Recovery

Tom Aswad, Support for Recovery, discussed the purpose of the event, similar to previous years.

On motion by Commissioner Olsson, seconded by Commissioner Patchin, to approve Support for Recovery request for amplified sound and over the capacity event at Waterfront Park for approval. Motion unanimously passed 7 - 0. Yes: Vice Chair Bell-Patten, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Gerlack, Commissioner Olsson, Commissioner Pallotta, Commissioner Patchin, Commissioner, and Chair Radke.

## PRMCC SUB -COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Oversight Committee Report

#### 6 a Measure H Status Update 4-17-12

Commissioner Patchin noted that the report reflected information as of December, 2011. He indicated there will be a meeting April 25th and a report will be made at the May meeting. He noted that City Finance Staff, Cathy Spinella, is adamant that the funds be spent as promised. Some projects have been over budget but others under budget.

Ms. Lorick added that there are still incomplete projects at the pool, and City Engineer Tim Tucker indicated there are still parks projects that are incomplete also. He noted that Rankin is over budget but the pool is under budget, and the City has not signed off on the pool.

Commissioner Eychner said it would be helpful to have updated financial information. He also asked if the bathrooms are being re-done at Waterfront Park.

Chair Radke clarified that the over budget items were not due to over-spending, but rather because additional amenities were included. In response to further questions from Vice Chair Bell Patten, staff discussed that some of the projects have not been finalized by the City because the Council has to approve them.

Commissioner Patchin thanked Cathy Spinella for her report. He stated that the report will be given to the Council.

Mr. Tucker shared a PowerPoint presentation with pictures of the updated Rankin and Holiday Highlands parks.

Vice Chair Bell-Patten asked about park rules regarding animals. Staff indicated there would be new signage, although there was some skepticism as to whether people would pay attention.

The Commission discussed art in the parks. Mr. Tucker also invited the Commission to visit the sites while they are still being updated.

## NEW BUSINESS

### a. *Fees for Rankin Park for approval*

Ms. Lorick presented a brief staff report, discussing the different rate scales for the park areas.

Ms. Lorick also responded to questions/comments from the Commission regarding comparisons with other jurisdictions.

On motion by Karen Bell-Patten, Vice Chair, seconded by Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner, to approve Fees for Rankin Park for approval. Motion unanimously passed 7 - 0. Yes: Karen Bell-Patten, Vice Chair Brian Eychner, Commissioner Gay Gerlack, Commissioner Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner Donald Pallotta, Commissioner Richard Patchin, Commissioner , Dylan Radke, Chair.

### b. *Dog Park*

Commissioner Olsson explained reasons to have a dog park in Martinez Vice Chair Bell-Patten said she recommended each park have a "chipped area" for a doggie potty. The Commission and staff discussed potential locations, as well as compliance/enforcement issues. Commissioner Pallotta voiced concern about City liability that could result from dog parks within existing parks, as well as costs associated with maintenance of the parks. Commissioner Patchin discussed a dog park in Cambria, CA, where residents do the necessary maintenance. Chair Radke opened public comment on the item.

Kristen Henderson expressed support for the idea, especially if high density housing is ever approved. She discussed dog socialization, etc.

Seeing no further speakers, Chair Radke closed public comment on the item.

In response to a question from Commissioner Olsson, City staff agreed to meet with the subcommittee to discuss the best location, especially since there could be city-owned properties that might work.

### c. *Kristen Henderson: Presentations for California Points of Interest for information*

Ms. Henderson explained the need for the City to have Susana Park and Rankin Park added to the California Points of Interest, as compared to national or state registries. She discussed the process and her willingness to work on the application, etc. The Commission discussed the idea with Ms. Henderson and with staff, including impacts from tree removals, criteria used to determinate if a site can be added to the list, and benefits to the City from having a park designated a "point of interest." Commissioner Patchin noted that the cemetery is a California Point of Interest. Ms. Henderson indicated she will go by herself to submit an application without the permission of the City and then will return to the Commission next month to discuss the issue further. The Commission thanked Ms. Henderson for her work.

## OLD BUSINESS

Vice Chair Bell-Patten expressed an interest in having better communication with the Council, which should be reflected in the minutes of the joint meeting between the Council and the PRMCC, as well as actions resulting from the meeting. Staff will send her the minutes. Commissioner Bell-Patten also asked for confirmation from the Council as to whether the marina is under the PRMCC, and she asked for updated information regarding which staff will be at the next PRMCC meeting.

## FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items included the Dog Park, Oversight Committee report, update on Measure H and Ferry Point Park, California Points of interest, and further review and discussion of fee waivers.

## COMMISSIONER & STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Pallotta said the lights at the Marina are wonderful. He would like to have a path for handicap accessibility to the Children's Memorial. Mr. Tucker responded that the plan is for rocks to help with drainage on the pathway.

There was some discussion about making Susana Park and Rankin Park California Points of Interest. Mr. Tucker indicated that could be added to the future agenda items.

The Commission also discussed briefly how fee waivers could still benefit the City and how they should be structured.

Vice Chair Bell-Patten asked if staff could have someone check and clean the murals on Alhambra Avenue, Alhambra Valley Road, and Main Street. Mr. Tucker said he would see to it.

Commissioner Gerlack updated the Commission on upcoming events in the City.

## **CORRESPONDENCE - None**

## **NEXT MEETING DATE: May 15, 2012**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Commissioner Patchin, Commissioner, seconded by Commissioner Pallotta, adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Motion unanimously passed 7 - 0. Yes: Vice Chair Bell-Patten, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Gerlack, Commissioner Olsson, Commissioner Pallotta, Commissioner Patchin, Chair Radke.

Submitted by Minutes Clerk Mary Hougey