

Regular Meeting  
Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission  
May 15, 2012  
**Martinez, CA**

**APPROVED June 19, 2012**

A regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission was called to order by Chair Radke at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at City Hall Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California 94553.

**ROLL CALL**

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

EXCUSED: Karen Bell-Patten, Vice Chair

ABSENT: None.

Staff present: City Engineer Tim Tucker

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

a. Minutes April 17, 2012

Commissioner Patchin noted that the Minutes showed "None" under "Commissioners Absent", when in fact Commissioner Fuller was absent.

Commissioner Pallotta said Ms. Lorick's report should have said the Lions & Kiwanis Clubs co-sponsored the Easter Egg Hunt, but he acknowledged that was not related to the Minutes. Commissioner Gerlack added that the Lionesses were also involved.

On motion by Donald Pallotta, Commissioner, seconded by Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner, the Commission present voted to approve the Minutes of April 17, 2012, as corrected. Motion passed 6 – 0 (Commissioner Fuller abstained; Vice Chair Bell-Patten excused).

b. Staff updates

i. Recreation

Commissioner Patchin said he would like to know how participation in recreation programs and the brickyard run compared with previous years.

ii. Parks Maintenance

Commissioner Pallotta asked for more information on the vandalism and graffiti at Virginia Hills Park and the gate stolen from Rankin Park. City Engineer Tim Tucker discussed issues with graffiti in the City overall, and even to businesses. He had no direct information on the gate theft.

c. Special Requests for Uses in Parks

i. Summer Jazz Banjo Festival in Susana Park for approval

Mr. Tucker briefly introduced the item. Mr. Bill Cooper discussed plans for the festival, noting this will be the 3rd year, but the 1st in Martinez. Commissioner Pallotta asked if approval by the Commission was necessary, and he reviewed the policy for use of Susana Street Park. Mr. Tucker said staff had already checked for compliance with the policy.

On motion by Donald Pallotta, Commissioner, seconded by Richard Patchin, Commissioner, the Commission present voted to approve the use of Susana Park for the Summer Jazz Banjo Festival. Motion unanimously passed 7 – 0.

ii. Beaver Festival in Alhambra Park for approval

Mr. Tucker introduced the item. Ms. Heidi Perryman discussed the usual program and expected attendance, (this is 5th year), as well as children's activities. Commissioner Patchin asked about bathroom facilities. Ms. Perryman said there will be two, including one with handicapped access. Chair Radke commented on the festival's past success. Commissioner Pallotta asked how many beavers were currently living in the creek. Ms. Perryman said there were four.

On motion by Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner, seconded by Richard Patchin, Commissioner, the Commission present voted to approve the use of Alhambra Park for the Beaver Festival. Motion unanimously passed 7-0.

**PRMCC SUB -COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Measure H Updates - Verbal

i. Measure H status of Ferry Point

Mr. Tucker confirmed that Ferry Point is part of Waterfront Park, so it is eligible for Measure H funds, but there are no projects identified for it in the Parks Master Plan. He noted, however, that landscaping and irrigation improvements apply to all parks. Commissioner Pallotta asked if it would be possible to add a bathroom at Ferry Point. Mr. Tucker said yes, but he added it would be best to update the Master Plan to reflect future project proposals because even if Measure H funds are not available, there might be other sources for funds. Chair Radke said the Master Plan update should be added on a future agenda to discuss further.

ii. Removal of fencing at Holiday Highlands Park

iii. Date for Rankin Park Ribbon cutting

Mr. Tucker discussed plans for the ribbon cutting and the current status of work at the park. The Commission and staff discussed whether a weekend date or one before the pool opens for the season would be better. Ultimately, they decided the original date of May 31 would be best. Commissioner Fuller asked, and Mr. Tucker confirmed the pool will be open for Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Tucker also distributed written material to the Commission related to questions raised at the last meeting regarding dog parks, the schedule for parks projects and their status, California Points of Historical Interest, and issues with the gate to the library patio. He also announced an upcoming public workshop to discuss alternative access to the waterfront.

b. Oversight Committee Report, Commissioner Patchin

Commissioner Patchin reviewed written information he had prepared. He noted that \$10 million in bonds were sold and the City's bond rating is AA+. He also discussed attendance and the membership of the Oversight Committee, as well as money allocated for the next phase of projects. He noted that careful attention is being taken to keep the allocations as originally intended with no additions to the projects and no diversion of funds. Commissioner Fuller commented on the value of the Master Plan because it makes allocation of funds so much easier.

Commissioner Pallotta asked about the hazardous tree abatement issue ~~and the claim against the City~~, which Mr. Tucker discussed.

Chair Radke asked about the Measure H budget balance and whether amounts for the library and pool are finalized, which Mr. Tucker discussed. Commissioner Pallotta asked whether future bonds would be sold. Mr. Tucker said it is based on how much the City can assess, and he confirmed that the 2nd bond issuance has occurred.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. Review and Discussion of park fee waivers

Chair Radke asked if the PRMCC park fee waiver policy has been adopted by the City yet. Commissioner Patchin discussed his concerns with waiving fees, especially considering the impacts on staff and the parks. Chair Radke agreed, especially when organizations make a profit from the events. Mr. Tucker said it might help to develop more specific criteria for fee waivers. After further discussion, Mr. Tucker indicated he would gather more information from City staff regarding the actual costs to the City for common events.

b. Discuss communication between City Council and PRMCC

Chair Radke said this item would be continued to the next meeting, at the request of Vice Chair Karen Bell-Patten.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### a. *Dog Park, Commissioner Olsson*

Commissioner Patchin shared photos of a dog park in Cambria, California, and expressed willingness to serve on the subcommittee.

### b. *California Point of Interest*

Item continued to next meeting.

### c. *Agenda Plan (November 2011)*

Chair Radke said he would update the Agenda Plan for the remainder of the year, and he asked the Commission to forward any changes or ideas to him.

Commissioner Pallotta asked about a breakfast or lunch meeting with Parks & Recreation employees. Commissioner Patchin also thought that would be helpful.

Commissioner Olsson suggested moving the marina annual report to September rather than October. Chair Radke agreed, but he noted that Almar should be told of the change.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Items included California Points of Interest, a report on statistical comparisons of recreation participants compared with previous years, discussion of the process for updating the Master Plan, and the dog park.

Commissioner Pallotta asked about the pending notice of intent for a restaurant at the marina and whether the PRMCC would have any input. Mr. Tucker responded that the Council Marina Subcommittee meetings are open to the public. The PRMCC Marina Subcommittee asked to be notified of future meetings. Chair Radke noted that the proposed site for the restaurant was earlier proposed for the Blue Eagle monument. There was some discussion about the PRMCC's role related to the marina. The PRMCC subcommittee (Olsson, Pallotta and Radke) expressed willingness to attend the Council subcommittee meetings more regularly.

## **COMMISSIONER & STAFF COMMENTS**

Commissioner Gerlack updated the Commission on upcoming City events. Commissioner Fuller said Rankin Pool is "heaven" in Martinez. Commissioner Patchin thanked the Lions, Lionesses and Kiwanis for the Egg Hunt, which was a great event. Chair Radke agreed.

## **CORRESPONDENCE** - None.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE: June 19, 2012**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Radke adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m., to the next regular meeting, Tuesday, June 19, 2012 in the Council Chambers.