

Regular Meeting
Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission
February 19, 2014
Martinez, CA

Chair Dylan Radke called the Regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission to order at 7:15 p.m., Council Chambers 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, CA,

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Karen Bell-Patten, Vice Chair, Commissioner Brian Eychner (arrived shortly after roll call), Commissioner John Fuller, Commissioner Gay Gerlack, Commissioner Richard Patchin, Commissioner Donald Pallotta, Chair Dylan Radke

EXCUSED: Commissioner Ingmar Olsson

ABSENT: None

Staff present: Recreation Supervisor Patty Lorick, Recreation Coordinator Barbara Patchin, City Engineer Tim Tucker and Minutes Clerk Robin Agostino.

2. **PRESENTATION(S)** Presentation made to the PRMCC from the Pacific Association of Professional Baseball Clubs. Team Owner and General Manager Tom Macari introduced Owner Mr. Wayne Franklin and Owner Business Manager Ms. Cris Franklin. Mr. Franklin presentation regarding use of the Waterfront Ball field for a Professional Independent Baseball Team (Indy Ball), Mr. Franklin said Martinez is an ideal location for the Indy Ball with its deep roots in recreational sports, the ballpark location near downtown and the train station. Mr. Franklin said that the plan to name the team, *Martinez Clippers* wear pin striped uniforms honor of Martinez Baseball history the uniforms and include a patch with the city seal on the sleeves and incorporating the city colors in the uniforms. Ms. Franklin explained about community partnerships, the organization has reached out to city businesses, Marty O's and Universal Sport Academy. Ms. Franklin introduced Managing Principal Owner of the San Rafael team Eugene Lupario who spoke of his experience in the two years of baseball in San Rafael and that this is family fun and a safe environment for everyone and emphasized the team will bring civic pride.

Chairperson opened Public Comment concerning the presentation: Jim Blair and Linda Meza stated that they are in favor of the prospect of a baseball team in Martinez and look forward to attending games.

Ed Feldman from All World Sports Bay Area Sports is concerned about the 16 tournaments already scheduled at the Waterfront Ballfields for the 2014 season at this late date that he will not find suitable replacements fields. Mr. Feldman said tournaments bring over 200 to 300 families traveling to Martinez any weekend with 25% of the families staying overnight. He explained his organization is willing to improve fields and add lights. Mr. Feldman understood that lights at the Waterfront Ballfields were not wanted by the neighbors.

JayZets of All World Sports Bay Area Sports said that they always been loyal to the City of Martinez hopes that travel ball and Indy Ball can both use the fields. Lynny Lungstrum also from All World Sports Bay Area Sports was opposed to the idea, felt kicking youth off of the

fields for washed up ball players is a bad idea, and the youth need to be playing ball not in the streets.

Douglas VanRaam is not in favor of the team name.

Alhambra High School Baseball Coach Paul Weibens concerned about the timing of the readiness of the ballfields summer's schedule and if the fields are a lock and key field. Coach Weibens did not want to see youth misplaced from the ballfields for the adults. Ms. Franklin said there are no plans to use the high school field.

Commissioner Comments concerning the presentation: The commissioners had concerns and asked the Indy Ball representatives to address these concerns, lights, bleachers, funding/sponsors, existing tournament schedules, weekday and night games, parking, length of the season, field improvements, concessionaire, and the possibility of high school fields use.

Indy Ball Representatives replied, lights and bleachers will be provided by Indy Ball. Funding/Sponsors they will be contacting Martinez businesses and have already contacted Marty O's and Universal Sports Academy and will be reaching out to local clubs and organizations for sponsorship. Indy Ball is aware of the scheduled tournaments and will be working with tournament directors. If the Indy Ball proposal is approved by the PRMCC and City Council, they will hopefully have more conversations for use of the parking lot close to the water. The season starts June 1 and runs through August, with 72 to 80 games, six to eight games under the lights. Night games start at 7:00pm with weekend double headers. At this time there are no weekday games. Indy Ball this season will be adding grass to the infield. For the first year they will just get by with the temporary facility, and each year with diligence the facility will be improved. Marty O's is on board to be the concessionaire. Indy Ball has no plans to use the ball fields at the high school.

Commissioner Fuller stated that he wants to put the fear away and focus on the betterment of the community and work together to build on it and make Indy Ball work for everybody. He went on to say, Recreation is an economic driver for downtown and encouraged the Commission to advise City Council to go with the idea of Indy Ball coming to Martinez.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Philip Ciaramintaro reported that the lights at the fishing pier are not working and loose boards on the fishing pier, the turnaround at the Marina is full of pot holes and it is shameful for people visiting the most important park in Martinez. He would like to see the council give a digressional fund to the PRMCC for improvements to the Marina. He also noted that the streets at Pacheco and Brown Street are in need of pothole repair. He urged City Council to invest in our Marina. Commissioner Pallotta explained to Mr. Ciaramintaro when the city had the Arts and Library commission they the commission had grants to administer, but those had been taken away, when the council combined the Arts and Library Commission, Park and Recreation Commission and Marina Commission into the one Commission. That there are developer fees and some of the fees can come into the hands of this Commission to administer as the commission sees. Chair Radke reminded Commissioner Pallotta that this is not an agenized item.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2014
Motion to accept the minutes of January 21, 2014 to approve as amended from Vice Chair Bell-Patten, seconded by Commissioner Fuller, Motion unanimously passed 5 – 0 by the following vote: Vice Chair Bell-Patten, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Pallotta, Commissioner Patchin, Chair Radke, Yes; Abstained, Commissioner Gerlack, Excused Commissioner Olsson
- b. Motion to approve agreement between the Martinez Community Swim Team and the City of Martinez for use of the Rankin Aquatic Swim Center for the 2014 season as amended by Commissioner Pallotta, seconded by Commissioner Gerlack, Motion unanimously passed 7 – 0 by the following vote: Vice Chair Bell-Patten, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Pallotta, Commissioner Patchin, Chair Radke, Commissioner Gerlack Yes; Excused Commissioner Olsson

5. ACTION ITEM (S) FOR REQUEST NONE

6. SUBCOMMITTEE(S) REPORTS

- a. Dog Park: City Engineer Tim Tucker updated the commission on locations of a dog park in Martinez. Mr. Tucker reported the unused area in Golden Hills Park area is off of the table for a dog park. The Subcommittee is looking at the retention basin off of Alhambra Ave and Pleasant Hill Road East. Commissioner Patchin explained there are two issues, one is parking within the area itself and the traffic concerns for a dog park by the retention basin and how to accommodate small and large dogs, and noted that even if there is a dog park, dog owners will still use parks thought out the city. The recommended site for a dog park requires a least an acre. Mr. Tucker explained we have a lot of open space in the city but it is difficult to find an area that is not too long of a walk to get to a park as the park in Concord. Commissioner Pallotta asked if the retention basin will accommodate small and large dogs, Commissioner Patchin answered one of the advantages to this location of a Veterinary Office next to the retention basin. Bill Nichols said that this area is a gem of a thriving wetland, and urges the city to recognize the hydrographic and topographic history of this area. Mr. Nichols does support the idea of a dog park, keeping in mind the wetlands. Patchin said that they are looking at the upper end where it stays dry and dog parks are closed in the winter months.

7. PUBLIC HEARING(S) NONE

8. CITY STAFF COMMENTS

Recreation Monthly Report: No comments

Parks Monthly Staff Report: Commissioner Patchin reported that the individual that has been driving over the fields and chewing up the lawn at Hidden Lakes Park had been caught and is a resident of San Ramon.

Recycling Report: Mr. Chandler report for next month will answer recycling questions.

Measure H updates: Bocce Restrooms: Mr. Tucker reported the Waterfront restroom Replacement Project has been awarded to Romtec. He also reported the construction debris left at the Hidden Valley site did not belong to the construction company and all debris will removed before the park opens.

Waterfront Park Subcommittee: Chair Radke informed the commission items discussed location of the ballfields and new designs. It was a very positive meeting and the next public meeting will be held here at 7:00 to 8:30pm on March 12, 2014.

Commissioner Bell-Patten asked about a bond update, Mr. Tucker said we can ask finance for a report. Commissioner Radke was glad to see that Susana Park is going forward with Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Tucker explained the orange dots on the sidewalks and trees at Susana Park are for surveying trees and sidewalks. Mr. Tucker added that a report for Susana Park will include an Arborist report. Commissioner Bell-Patten wanted to remind Commission not to forget the Art work in our parks.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Pallotta requested an addition to the future agenda list: Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) for PRMCC to oversee potential distribution of funds. Mr. Tucker will bring the CIP project to the Commission they are every two years.

Commissioner Pallotta wanted the notes from the Indy Ball presentation, staff will provide. He went on to say that minutes are a bit too brief, and wanted to commend Patty Lorick for her diligence and work at the Rankin Aquatic Swim Center and her report on the pool fee structure and hoped that we do not go too far reducing staff time for our minutes. Commissioner Gerlack stated how proud she is of the FACILITY DESIGN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE from the California Park & Recreation Society for Rankin Aquatic Center and thanked Patty Lorick. Commissioner Gerlack also thanked staff for the refreshments for the ribbon cutting ceremonies at Cappy Ricks and Nancy Boyd prior to the meeting. Chair Radke and Commissioner Patchin noted that the Nancy Body Park has had a great number of families using the park. Commissioner Bell-Patten noted the all the trees in bloom on Main Street were spectacular this year. Chair Radke informed the Commission he went to Walden Park in Walnut Creek to see their new Disc Golf Course and was interesting to see how Walnut Creek took an area that was an eye sore and turned it in to a facility that was used by many.

- a. **ADJOURNMENT** Motion to adjourn at 9:30pm Commissioner Fuller seconded by Commissioner Bell-Patten, unanimously passed 7 – 0 by the following vote: Chair Radke, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Patchin, Commissioner Pallotta, Commissioner Patchin, Chair Radke, Commissioner Gerlack Yes; Excused, Commissioner Olsson

Adjured at 9:30pm to a Regular PRMCC Meeting on April 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez California.