

Regular Meeting
Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission
May 20, 2014
Martinez, CA

Chair Dylan Radke called the Regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission to order at 7:04 p.m., Council Chambers 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, CA,

1. ROLE CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Donald Pallotta, Chair Dylan Radke, Commissioner Ingmar Olsson, Commissioner Richard Patchin, Commissioner John Fuller, and Commissioner Brian Eychner arrived at 7:09p.m.

EXCUSED: Vice Chair Karen Bell-Patten and Commissioner Gay Gerlack

ABSENT: None

Staff present: City Engineer Tim Tucker, Civil Engineer Joe Enke, Recreation Coordinator Barbara Patchin, and Minutes Clerk Robin Agostino.

2. PRESENTATION(S) None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marlene Haws representing Friends of the Library asked the Commission to reconvene the Library subcommittee to discuss the best way to utilize the down stairs Community Room at the County Library.

Philip Ciaramintaro invited all to attend monthly dances at the Veterans Hall. He asked the Commission consider a title change of the Park, Recreation, Marina, and Cultural Commission to Park, Recreation Cultural and Arts Commission. The "M" should be removed because the City Council has taken the Marina out of the hands of this Commission. He went on to say that he feels he has been wasting his time as the Marina has been slow tracked by the Interim City Manager Anna Gwyn Simpson and Mayor Rob Schroder. He indicated that East Bay Regional Parks WW Grant monies have been sitting around for six years and has not been touched, and could be used at the Marina.

Mike Alford agreed with Mr. Ciaramintaro comments and added that the City Council that has been wasting their time.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2014 with corrections by Commissioner Fuller, seconded by Commissioner Pallotta, Motion passed 5 – 0 one abstention by the following vote: Chair Radke, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Patchin, Commissioner Fuller, Commissioner Gerlack. Yes; Commissioner Fuller Excused, Vice Chair Bell-Patten and Commissioner Gerlack, Abstained Commissioner Ingmar Olsson

5. ACTION ITEM (S) FOR REQUEST NONE

- a. Motion to approved the request made by the Martinez Arts Association for use of Ignacio Plaza, for amplified sound, fee waiver/reduction, sale of alcoholic beverages, more than park capacity, parking lot closures and street closures on August 17, 2014 for the 45th Annual Art in the Park. Chairperson Radke opened and closed Public Comment

with no speakers coming forward. Motion to approve use by Commissioner Olsson seconded Commissioner Pallotta by unanimously passed 6 – 0 by the following vote: Chair Radke, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Patchin, Commissioner Pallotta, Commissioner Olsson, Commissioner Fuller. Excused Commissioner Karen Bell-Patten and Commissioner Gerlack

- b. Motion to approve the request made by the Worth a Dam Organization for use of Alhambra Park, for amplified sound, fee waiver/reduction, more than park capacity on August 2, 2014 for the 7th Annual Beaver Festival. Chairperson Radke opened and closed Public Comment with no speakers coming forward. Motion to approve Commissioner Patchin seconded by Commissioner Olsson unanimously passed 6 – 0 by the following vote: Chair Radke, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Patchin, Commissioner Pallotta, Commissioner Olsson, Commissioner Fuller. Excused Commissioner Karen Bell-Patten and Commissioner Gerlack
- c. Approval of the schematic designs for Susana Park, Mt. View Park and Waterfront Park Mr. Tucker presented a PowerPoint presentation on designs the Parks Subcommittee would like the Commission to recommend to the City Council for approval. He reported that the Parks Subcommittee has been working over the last few months with staff, the public and the designers of the three parks to develop schematic plans for the projects. These parks represent the highest priority areas for our Measure H park rehabilitation program.

Susana Street Park

Current issues with the park are deteriorated paths within the park; frontage improvements that are crowding existing trees around the perimeter of the park; obstructed views in the center of the park and a lack of picnic tables to accommodate the neighborhood.

The subcommittee has chosen a historical theme for the park. Interpretive panels with various historical facts and events will be placed on each segment of the interior pathways. A Susana Martinez memorial plaque will be placed at the center of a new circular seating area. The park will have metal Victorian benches that match the existing metal benches in the park. It is proposed to place four concrete picnic tables in the park. An arborist report is currently being done as part of the project. Pruning and other maintenance recommended in the report will be implemented.

Chairperson Radke opened Public Comment: Harlan Stickland said he liked the existing benches in the park and hoped the new benches will be in the shade.

Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Pallotta asked about sidewalk repairs and location of park benches within Susana Park. Mr. Tucker replied that because the trees are mature the sidewalks repairs will not affect the tree's roots. The design will include Victorian Iron benches and picnic tables within the park, decorative concrete, and plaques with information about Susana Martinez as well as the history of the community.

Mt. View Park:

The Mt. View Park project is focusing on replacing the non-compliant play equipment. Currently the play equipment is located in tot and school aged children play areas in different parts of the park. In addition, some of the concrete in these areas have lifted. Lastly the small walk/seating areas along the first base side of the diamond needs to be

reconstructed to correct some erosion and access issues. The project will group the play areas in a more central part of the park, away from the street. The subcommittee is currently refining the exact play equipment layout but it will include tall slides, climbers, spinners and swings. Rubberized surfacing will be used which creates a nicer area to play on and a surface that is nearly maintenance free. The project will also include new picnic areas in three locations and a new wider sidewalk to connect the various areas of the park.

Commissioner Comments: None

Chairperson Radke opened Public Comment: No one from the public coming forward

Waterfront Park:

This is by far the largest of the tree projects and will be one of the largest Measure H projects. The Subcommittee has held three public workshops to develop and refine the schematic design for the project. The PRMCC participated in the first workshop. Three design options were developed from the workshop, Subcommittee with staff and public input. The workshop narrowed design to a preferred alternative, focused on noise and light concerns of some of the nearby residents. The project does not include changes to the bocce courts. In addition a new restroom has recently been completed. The most significant change to the park in the preferred design is the shifting and rotating of the ball fields. In addition the project proposes lights for the softball fields. The benefit of rotating the fields is to reduce some of the sunset light issues in the eyes of key infielders. Moving the fields further from the residential area reduces some of the potential noise and light issues also. Field 3 has been identified as a championship field with larger outfield dimensions. A new concession building will need to be constructed with the new field layout. The project will also include new large group and smaller group picnic areas, a new parking lot along Joe DiMaggio Drive and a redesigned parking lot that enters off Tarantino. The plan is to extend the meadow area to connect to the ball field area, bridging the exiting two halves of the Park. The Subcommittee will work with staff and the designer to identify a location for an additional restroom near the play area. Lastly it is proposed to relocate the entrance to the skate park further from the park and to provide addition shade. During the second and third workshop noise and lighting issues was a topic of discussion with residents both in favor and against the lighting installation, however using state of the art lighting and moving the fields away from the houses will help mitigate this issue. At least two of the subcommittee members questioned the validity of using Measure H funds for the lights. Ultimately this decision will be made by bond council and the City Council. Mike Alford commented on the smell from silt holding ponds. He is concerned that the wind will blow the smell into the park; there is a need to hide the ponds from the park and suggested planting a row of trees.

Chairperson Radke opened Public Comment Harlan Stickland hoped that the lights will focus on the fields and not to the neighborhood with a light curfew of 10:00pm. Philip Ciaramintaro asked if the East Bay Regional Park District WWW Bond monies could be spent on repaving North Court Street. Chair Radke explained the WWW money can only be used for capital improvements that will last 20 years Mr. Ciaramintaro asked the Commission to pass on the need of repaving to the City Council. Carol Wiley urged the Commission not to rush into changes to Waterfront Park.

Commissioner Comments: Chair Radke and Commissioner Patchin were concerned about the funding source of the lights at Waterfront Park. Commissioner Pallotta requested that there is a drivable path for the Police to patrol. Commissioner Patchin

commented that to date the Commission, City staff, contractors and the Bond Oversight Committee have been very conscientious about how Measure H funds have been spent. He is very concerned about and objects to using Measure H money for ball field lights. He went on to say the element was not included in the list of projects for the Waterfront Park, and believes this was a conscience effort to avoid the historic controversy associated with the lights to better the chance of Measure H passing. He said there were a number of projects yet to do; and we do not want to shortchange those, perhaps other funds can be identified if lights are installed.

Motion to approve schematic designs for Susana Park, Mt. View Park and Waterfront Park Commissioner Olsson seconded by Commissioner Pallotta passed 5 – 1 by the following vote: Chair Radke, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Pallotta, Commissioner Olsson, Commissioner Fuller, Abstained: Commissioner Patchin. Excused Commissioner Karen Bell-Patten and Commissioner Gerlack

6. SUBCOMMITTEE(S) REPORTS

Assignment of Joltin' Joe to the PRMCC Subcommittee: It was reported that at the April 15th meeting of the PRMCC, Phillip Ciaramintaro from Community Initiatives of Martinez, made a presentation regarding the historic overview of Joe DiMaggio and the Joltin' Joe, the boat once owned by Mr. DiMaggio. Mr. Ciaramintaro requested that a special subcommittee of the PRMCC evaluate options to create a special boathouse at Ferry Point to house the Joltin' Joe.

Staff is looking for direction from the Commission regarding the appropriate subcommittee to evaluate the options presented by Mr. Ciaramintaro.

Chairperson Radke opened Public Comment: Mr. Ciaramintaro would like a member of the Sons of Italy be included at the next meeting of the Marina Subcommittee and the meeting will include the future of the housing for the Joltin' Joe.

Commissioner Comments: The Commission discussed the Commission's role of the with regards to the Marina and its goal with the Joltin' Joe. Mike Alford encouraged the Commission to find a home for the Joltin' Joe.

Motion of assignment of Joltin' Joe to the PRMCC Marina subcommittee: Motion Commissioner Olsson seconded by Commissioner Pallotta unanimously passed 6 – 0 by the following vote: Chair Radke, Commissioner Eychner, Commissioner Patchin, Commissioner Pallotta, Commissioner Olsson, Commissioner Fuller, Excused Commissioner Karen Bell-Patten and Commissioner Gerlack

PUBLIC HEARING(S) NONE

7. CITY STAFF COMMENTS

a. Recreation Monthly Staff Report: No comments

b. Park Maintenance Monthly Staff Report: No comments

c. Hidden Valley Parking Gate: Staff Report from Assistant City Manager Alan Shear reported City staff now has a key to the gate for the Hidden Valley lower Parking Lot. Public Works staff will be opening the gate on Saturday mornings, and it will stay open until Monday. Allowing parking to occur in the lower half of the parking lot over the weekend. Chair Radke thanked Public Works Superintendent Bob Cellini for the opening of the gate, as it will help people visiting the park with mobility issues.

Chairperson Radke opened and closed Public Comment with no speakers coming forward.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Olsson reported that the next meeting of the Dog Park subcommittee is scheduled for June 10, 2014.

Chair Radke shared with the Commission an email from Kristine Henderson concerning her interaction with Chamber of Commerce CEO John Stevens.

Commissioner Fuller asked the Commission to discuss the role of the PRMCC with regards to the Marina. This item will be agenized for the next PRMCC meeting of June 20, 2014. Commissioner Olsson wanted to know who the staff person is for the Marina. Mr. Tucker said that Interim City Manager Ana Gwynn Simpson is the person to contact. Commissioner Fuller and Commissioner Patchin requested clarification of the Commissions role in the Marina. The Commission requested Marina update.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 9:05pm to a Regular PRMCC Meeting on June 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez California.

Respectfully submitted by

Robin Agostino