

**City of Martinez
Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission
October 6, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission was called to order by Chair Radke at 7:03 p.m. on October 6, 2009, at Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California 94553.

I. Roll Call

Present: Chair Dylan Radke
Commissioners Karen Bell-Patten, Brian Eychner, John Fuller, Gay Gerlack, Ingemar Olsson, Don Pallotta, Richard Patchin, and the late arrival of Commissioner Katherine Hern (7:07 p.m.).

Absent: Commissioner Marta Van Loan

Staff: Karen Majors, Assistant City Manager of Community and Economic Development
Michelle Wierschem, Recreation Manager

II. Public Comment

Paul Wilson made a comment regarding the City Council study session for community visions for housing in Martinez. He said the working vision for 2025 includes loft housing at the waterfront marina. Mr. Wilson stated he never envisioned loft housing or high density housing at the waterfront. He asked if the Commission is aware that this is part of the vision.

Julian Frazer spoke on a concept called the commons (north of the railroad tracks). He said the area became part of the parks and needs to be protected. In reference to naming the park near the beaver habitat, Mr. Frazer stated they should name facilities after fallen police officers, but said parks should be named after people who work for or created the parks.

Mike Alford said he is concerned that Delta Research is calling Alhambra Creek an estuary.

Commissioner Gerlack noted the Historical Society Home Tour and the Restaurant Tour will take place on Sunday October 10th, and the Ferry Point Fall Music Festival will take place October 9th-11th.

III. Consent Calendar

a. Minutes September 1, 2009

The Commission requested the following corrections to the minutes of September 1, 2009:

Page 2: Under Recreation, paragraph 3, line 1: Delete the words "Staff was" and insert the words "programs were".

Page 3: Paragraph 6, line 2: delete the word "houses" and insert the words "residents".

Page 3: 2nd to last paragraph, line 5: delete the word "are" after the word "but" and insert the word "take".

Page 7: Under Commissioner Comments, paragraph 5: Add the suffix “er” to the word “Commission”.

Page 7: Under Commissioner Comments, paragraph 5: Delete the name “Mark” and insert the name “Chris”.

Commissioner Bell-Patten made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes of the September 1, 2009, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Pallotta. The motion was approved by the following vote: All Ayes.

b. Staff updates

i. Recreation

Commissioner Pallotta said it was very thoughtful of staff to wash and donate the clothing left over from the pool lost and found.

Commissioner Hern asked if there are alternative ways to promote after school programs besides putting them in students’ homework packets. Karen Majors, Assistant City Manager, stated that the homework packets are the main avenue for promotion.

Commissioner Patchin suggested the City work with Chamber of Commerce to make information packets with places to stay and restaurants to eat at in Martinez for people traveling to the area for events like the Girl’s Fast Pitch Tournament. He asked if Patty Lorick can look into it.

Commissioner Pallotta asked if they are going to have a second Girl’s Fast Pitch Tournament in October. Ms. Majors said there will probably be another tournament this month.

Commissioner Hern asked if staff has any cumulative numbers for recreation programs and whether or not the numbers have been shown to City Council. She suggested the facts could back up Commissioner Fuller’s Chelsea’s Pier Idea. Ms. Majors said she would work with staff to bring forward cumulative numbers showing participation in recreation programs over two years.

Chair Radke asked about Holiday Frolic and whether Main Street had approached anyone regarding the snow park service. Ms. Majors said they have not brought anything to staff as far as a special events application. She noted they need significant financial support. Commissioner Fuller stated they found the funds, but got caught in bureaucracy and ended up losing the funding.

Commissioner Gerlack noted First Night was dropped this year because the vendor was lost. She also noted they still owe money to vendors from last year.

Mr. Alford stated the Historical Society is doing a fantastic job.

ii. Parks Maintenance

IV. Park Use Information

Ms. Majors said there are no pending permits.

V. PRMCC Sub –Committee Reports

a. Pool Sub-Committee Written Report - Tim Tucker, Engineer

Commissioner Fuller asked why the pool is 25 yards long instead of 25 meters, which is the length used in swim competitions. Commissioner Patchin replied that 25 yards fits better in the area they have. He stated they are also looking at the amount of water and the operating budget. Commissioner Eychner explained that the pool is not being built for competitions. He said the pool will be used for recreation and they have no intentions of using the pool as a competition facility.

Chair Radke said if they make the pool 25 meters it can still be used as a recreation facility, but will also leave them with the option to use it for competitive purposes.

Commissioner Hern asked if an operating budget has been discussed or if they know what the operating hours will be.

Commissioner Olsson suggested they lengthen the pool to 25 meters, but make it narrower.

Commissioner Eychner said they have to take into account the chemical costs. He said they are trying to maintain the same number of gallons of water as the old pool and use that as a basis to develop a budget.

Chair Radke asked if use sets the operation hours. He also asked if the decrease in use of the pool led to reduced operation.

Ms. Majors said they all need to give the Pool Subcommittee credit. She noted they are operating under basic understandings and gathering information from workshops. The pool will go to Council after the Commission sees it at the November 3rd meeting.

Commissioner Hern asked if the old operating budget under which they are working is restraining the pool design.

Commissioner Eychner explained that they have used \$6 million as a benchmark. The facility they have designed meets that budget. They are working with a designer to give them design costs and that is the budget they are using.

Commissioner Bell-Patten said water surface determines your facility operation. She said they have to be conscious of what people would pay to go the pool.

Commissioner Fuller stated by making the pool 25 meters they would only be making the pool 6.5 feet longer. Commissioner Patchin explained that the old pool was 225,000 gallons and the new pool is 260,000. He said they have already increased the number of gallons in the pool. He further explained that surface area dictates the facilities (e.g., the number of bathrooms, showers, etc.).

Commissioner Eychner said they asked themselves for whom they are building the pool. Commissioner Patchin added that they are building the pool for the community of Martinez.

Commissioner Pallotta stated swim meets are not a revenue source. Michelle Wierschem, Recreation Manager, said Commissioner Pallotta is correct and that swim lessons are what generates revenue.

b. Park Sub-Committee Written Report - Tim Tucker, Engineer

Commissioner Hern noted they are looking at new designs and proposals from architects and designers for the parks.

Commissioner Patchin said staff requested Statements of Qualification from six local Landscape Architects, and they received four responses.

Ms. Majors said at the November meeting the subcommittee will provide recommendations for the architect for the Commission's full consideration.

c. Library Sub-Committee Written Report-Dave Scola, Public Works Director, Michelle Wierschem, Recreation Manager

Ms. Wierschem said the Subcommittee had a meeting with architects and provided a foundation for a public outreach program. She said the architects went through the conceptual design. She summarized the feedback received at the public workshop. Ms. Wierschem said the next subcommittee meeting will take place on October 13, 2009, 3:30 pm at City Hall.

Mr. Frazer asked if the library building belongs to the City, which rents the building to the County. He also asked if the county will be contributing funds. Commissioner Fuller said that the county supplies staff and maintains the building. He noted the City will now take over maintenance and that the County may extend the hours.

***item taken out of order - Former Arts and Library Commission Goals and Program Report – Karen Bell-Patten, Don Pallotta, Marta Van Loan**

Dorrie Langley, former Arts and Library Commission Chair, gave an overview of the former Arts and Library Commission's goals and programs. She said they helped create the brochure "Art Around Us", the amphitheatre, and got a budget to support arts in the community. Ms. Langley stated they gave grants up to \$1000 and invited non-profits to tell them what they were doing. She said with the research Commission Bell-Patten did they came up with a cultural plan and established funds for public art.

Commissioner Fuller asked if anything has been written down for this cultural plan.

Commissioner Bell-Patten said a cultural plan has not been written down. She said she would like them to bring back a structural process and that they need to have a plan.

Chair Radke said they need to put use and improvements of amphitheater on the future agenda.

Commissioner Hern said she would like to see an arts foundation.

Commissioner Pallotta said they made a promise to the art community that they would not be forgotten.

Commissioner Gerlack recommended they create a culture and arts subcommittee and volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Chair Radke said they will put that on the future agenda items for the November meeting.

Ms. Langley provided the phone number of the gallery (370-6270) and stated if the Commission needs them to do anything to give them a call.

Mr. Frazer said they need to get artists on the subcommittee. He suggested they do a live action show of a mural.

Ms. Majors noted the City is about to start to update its 35 yr. old General Plan. She stated this would be a good time to begin to see what a cultural plan would look like.

VI. New Business

a. Name the Park Near the Beaver Habitat – Chief Simonetti

b. Beaver Habitat Proposals – Worth-A-Dam

Heidi Perryman spoke on behalf of Worth-A-Dam and showed a powerpoint presentation detailing a tile project on the Escobar Street bridge. Ms. Perryman's proposed project consists of putting tiles decorated by children on the cement bridge on Escobar Street. Phase one would include putting 3 panels with a total of 81 tiles on the 40 ft. space. She noted they received a donation from Safari West (Santa Rosa) which covered the cost of the tiles and the ceramic pens used to draw on them.

Ms. Perryman said licensed general contractor Dmitri Dorokin volunteered to do the labor for free and is ready to start any time. She stated they would also like to include interpretive signs for the area. Ms. Perryman said they applied for a grant last year for interpretive signs. She suggested they have two signs, one at the Escobar Street bridge and one next to the foot bridge.

Commissioner Pallotta asked if they have consulted with Tim Tucker, city engineer, and ESA regarding the paths and signs. Ms. Perryman said yes, they have been in contact with them. Commissioner Pallotta asked what Worth-A-Dam is asking from the Commission.

Chair Radke asked if this is the appropriate forum for the item and whether or not they can vote on the item. Ms. Majors replied that it is appropriate that it comes to the Commission and that they can ask staff to look at the project. She noted the Public Works Department needs to weigh in on how the project is going to work and that public input is needed before the project goes before City Council.

Commissioner Eychner said they are probably going to need some type of permit. He suggested some simple drawings be brought to the Building Department.

Ms. Majors said the project will not be able to get on City Council's agenda until the November meeting.

Commissioner Gerlack moved to recommend that City Staff work with Worth-A-Dam to get the item on the City Council Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Pallotta.

Mr. Frazer said this project fits in with the City plan and park improvement. He said he wants to preserve the creek.

Commissioner Eychner asked why the project must go to City Council and if it must be approved by Council. Ms. Majors said the project is a new concept, so they must seek the approval of City Council.

Commissioner Eychner said he wants to see a more detailed plan. Commissioner Fuller agreed and said he would like to have more structure when it comes to proposing projects.

The motion made by Commissioner Gerlack, seconded by Commissioner Pallotta, was approved by the following vote: 7 ayes, 2 nays.

c. Grant Opportunities Review and Discussion – Michelle Wierschem, Rec. Manager

Michelle Wierschem said they have grants they have yet to allocate. She said \$1.1 million in Measure WW funds can be utilized, but noted if they want to utilize them this the grant project submission is due in March 2010. Ms. Wierschem noted they have until 2016 to use the Measure WW funds.

Ms. Wierschem told the Commission the State Parks Department is accepting competitive grant applications Proposition 84 (Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program). She said \$184 million in competitive grants will be made available to applicants. Ms. Wierschem said there are requirements they must meet in order to be eligible for the grants. Ms. Wierschem stated that the City meets the eligibility requirements in several parts of the City. She said the City could be competitive with this grant and receive up to \$5 million. Ms. Wierschem said they will come back to the PRMCC with more grant information at the November meeting. She noted applications for the grant are due March 1, 2010.

Ms. Wierschem said they would have to come up with projects for the Prop. 84 grant, but noted if they do not get the grant then the project ideas can be used for Measure WW.

Commissioner Pallotta said he wants to keep the Ferry Point Park Project Idea in the forefront for Measure WW funds.

VII. Old Business

a. Marina and Shoreline Park Overview PowerPoint Presentation

Moved to future agenda items.

b. Marina Review and Update

Michelle Wierschem directed the Commission's attention to the gant chart and said the City is moving forward on several fronts with the marina project. Ms. Wierschem the City is securing consultant services for the next phase of work for the marina along with reviewing and remodeling the financial model for the marina. She stated they must secure Department of Boating and Waterway funding so they can move forward with the construction of the water and landside improvements. Ms. Wierschem told the Commission that staff will meet with the State Lands Commission staff to discuss the terms of the new lease agreement after the marina is appraised in mid-October. She said they are meeting with them in hopes that they get on the State Lands Commission December agenda.

Ms. Majors noted it is critical that they have the State Lands Commission lease renewed.

Commissioner Patchin asked if the annual rent payment is based on 6-9% of the land worth. Ms. Majors said yes. She also noted they are looking at making payments on the 1960 loan. Commissioner Patchin asked if the money is covering principle and interest. Ms. Majors replied that those costs have been built into the repayment schedule.

c. Former Arts & Library Commission Goals and Program Report – Karen Bell-Patten, Don Pallotta, Marta Van Loan

*See above New Business, page 4.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

a. Pool and Library Projects Extensive Update

b. Projects for Measure WW Funds, Other Grant Funding and Project Ideas

c. Use of and Improvements to Amphitheater

d. Draft Bylaws

e. Review Potential Fees for Arts Projects

f. Donation and Special Events Policy Updated

g. Library Conceptual Design

h. Batting Cages at Hidden Lakes Park

i. Marina and Shoreline Park Overview PowerPoint Presentation

j. Creation of Arts and Cultural Sub-Committee

k. Inclusion of Cultural Plan

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Bell-Patten asked if they have heard back from City Council whether or not sub-committees are ad hoc or standing committees. Ms. Majors confirmed that subcommittees are ad hoc committees.

Commissioner Hern thanked staff for the numbers on the pool. She also thanked Commissioner Bell-Patten for bringing the arts to the forefront. She noted she is appreciative of all those who have been working on the pool project.

Commissioner Patchin asked if Ms. Majors was able to obtain the license capacity of the preschool. Ms. Majors said she will have those numbers at the next meeting. Commissioner Patchin said the pool architect will be present at the November meeting. He noted the Commission will see the issues they have been confronting in developing the pool and that they have taken into consideration all users of the pool.

Chair Radke asked if anyone was able to track down the group who had an in prompt to affair at the waterfront park. Ms. Wierschem said not yet, but staff is still looking into it.

X. Correspondence

XI. Next Meeting Date: November 3, 2009

XII. Adjournment

On motion of Commissioner Patchin, seconded by Commissioner Olsson, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jinelle LeSage
Minutes Clerk