



CITY OF MARTINEZ

PARKS, RECREATION, MARINA & CULTURAL
COMMISSION

DATE: April 6, 2010
TO: Parks, Recreation, Marina & Cultural Commission
FROM: Michelle Wierschem, Recreation Manager
SUBJECT: Marina Subcommittee Report

RECOMMENDATION

Informational; no action required

BACKGROUND

The Marina Subcommittee met on March 23rd to discuss the ongoing vandalism at the marina and the specific impacts to the bathroom happening at the Harbor Masters Office. Also in attendance were representatives from the Police Department, Public Works Department the City Manager and representatives from Almar Marine Management.

Over the past couple months the fishing pier and bathrooms located in the Harbor Master's Office have been hit with a wave of vandalism that has cost the City thousands. The company that manages the Marina also makes the boating bathrooms available to the public between the hours of 8:00am and 4:45pm Monday through Saturday. Almar staff has had to clean up significant amounts of human waste on walls and other areas the past six weeks. Unlike park bathrooms which are very austere, these bathrooms are designed to be nicer and more aesthetically pleasing as they were constructed with the boating community in mind. Due to the need for bathrooms at the Marina by the water, Almar has agreed to keep the bathrooms open to the public. However the extra cleaning is taking its toll on staff and resources so Almar asked to meet with the City to entertain solutions.

During discussions with the Subcommittee, staff and Almar a short term strategy was identified. It includes the Police Department assigning the vandalism at the Marina as a COPS project to an officer. COPS stand for Community Oriented Policing, a Sergeant, Corporal or Officer is assigned a COPS Project. That person has the latitude to use any resource at their disposal to remedy the problem. This may include allocation of police department resources, interacting with other city, county or federal agencies and in some cases private resources. Almar will also work with boaters to encourage them not to allow use of the bathrooms after office hours. Boaters have a key to access bathrooms when they are not open to the public. These measures are being put in place. Along with investigating if a curfew can be applied to the fishing pier giving the Police more leverage to remove people from the park after dark.

A longer term strategy was explored by the Subcommittee which included use of video cameras and installing park like bathrooms at the Ferry Point Park. Staff will continue to look for resources to implement some of these more permanent solutions.