

**Regular Meeting
Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission
February 15, 2011
Martinez, CA**

A regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission was called to order by Chair Radke at 7:01 p.m. on February 15, 2011, at Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California 94553.

I. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Karen Bell-Patten, Commissioner, Brian Eychner, Commissioner, John Fuller, Commissioner, Gay Gerlack, Commissioner, Ingemar Olsson, Commissioner, Richard Patchin, Commissioner, Donald Pallotta, Commissioner, Dylan Radke, Chair, and Marta Van Loan, Commissioner.

EXCUSED: None.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Mitch Austin, Recreation Manager
Tim Tucker, City Engineer
Alan Shear, Assistant City Manager

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. PRMCC OUTGOING MEMBER CEREMONY

Katherine Hern, former Vice Chair, said it was an honor to work with the Commissioners and that she had a wonderful time serving the community. She encouraged the Commission to continue to fight for the community and acknowledged all of their hard work.

At 7:05 p.m., on motion of Chair Radke, the Commission took a recess to bid former Vice Chair Hern farewell. The meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Minutes of January 11, 2011 and January 22, 2011 Retreat

The Commissioners requested the following corrections to the minutes of January 11, 2011 :

Page 3: Under Library Subcommittee, paragraph 2, line 4: Insert "18" after the word "January".

Page 3: Under Library Subcommittee, paragraph 7, line 2: Replace the number "30" with the number "35".

Page 4: Under Grants Subcommittee, paragraph 3, line 1: Replace the word “Street” with the word “Avenue”.

Page 4: Under Grants Subcommittee, paragraph 3, line 4: Replace the word “recently” with the words “soon to be”.

Page 4: Under New Business, paragraph 1, line 6: Replace the word “with” after the word “vendor” with the word “to”.

Page 5: Under Amphitheater Summary of Use, paragraph 2, line 4: Delete all words after the word “time” and insert the words “and money into something that is marginally usable”.

Page 6: Retreat Agenda, paragraph 1, line 1: Insert “” after the word “January”.

Page 7: Under Commissioner & Staff Comments, paragraph 3, line 2: Delete the word “bring” after the word “will”.

Commissioner Van Loan made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes of the January 11, 2011 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Olsson. The motion was approved by the following vote: All ayes.

b. Staff Updates

i. Recreation

ii. Parks Maintenance

c. Special Requests for Uses in Parks

i. Waterfront Lawn - Jog A Thon

Mitch Austin, Recreation Manager, explained that the event was approved for November, however, due to the weather they have requested that the Jog A Thon be postponed until May 7, 2011. M. Austin noted that the event will be longer than was originally proposed.

Commissioner Patchin made a motion to approve the request for use of the Waterfront lawn area on May 7, 2011, from 8:00 am to Dusk, seconded by Commissioner Van Loan. The motion was approved by the following vote: All ayes.

ii. Waterfront Lawn - Congressional Fundraiser

M. Austin informed the Commission that the Friends of George Miller are requesting the use of the lawn area in front of Waterfront Park on Saturday, May 14, 2011, from 8 a.m. to dusk. They are also requesting permission to serve alcohol and use amplified music. M. Austin noted that they are working with staff regarding parking.

Commissioner Pallotta wanted to be clear that the Friends of George Miller have received the required ABC permit.

Commissioner Van Loan raised concerns about security. David Johnson, representative for the Friends of George Miller, said the event is by invitation only, will be contained,

alcohol passes will be handed out, and that they've never had security problems before.

Commissioner Pallotta made a motion to accept the special request with the stipulation that they follow through with the ABC permitting, seconded by Commissioner Bell-Patten. Motion was approved by the following vote: All ayes.

V. PRMCC SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Playgrounds Subcommittee Update, Tim Tucker, City Engineer

Tim Tucker, City Engineer, reported that after City Council approved the two new proposed projects, the City has entered into a contract amendment with Brian Killian for Hidden Lakes. He said that staff will also review the proposal and process a contract amendment with Frank Kluber for Nancy Boyd and Cappy Ricks.

T. Tucker said the pool project is on schedule and that the ribbon cutting will be held July or . He reported that the pool is concreted, the piping is done, and that utility work is currently being done. He said the library project is on schedule. T. Tucker also informed the Commission that the Rankin Park, Tavan Field, and Holiday Highlands projects will go out to bid in 1 or 2 weeks. He noted they are on target for an early spring construction start date.

T. Tucker also reported that the artist and contractor for the pool project are focusing on coordinating their work.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Casual Use of Library Downstairs

M. Austin said the master agreement with the county states that the City determines the use of the area. M. Austin discussed the County and Municipal Pooling Authority's safety concerns of an unsupervised area, liability insurance, and risk management. He said that with these considerations necessitate supervised use of the downstairs.

M. Austin detailed the two primary options for providing supervised use of the downstairs area. Option 1: Work with Friends of the Library to recruit and train volunteers. Option 2: Use County library staff (cost paid by the City). He broke down the two possible schedule options and the cost estimates for both.

M. Austin said Staff recommends that City staff work with County staff and Friends of the Library to provide a volunteer program that allows casual use of the downstairs area. There was a brief discussion about the viability and success rate of volunteer programs and the safety and responsibility of volunteers.

There was an extensive discussion about the extent of danger/safety issues if the area was unsupervised. Several commissioners expressed their frustration that the expansion of the library has not led to more accessible space to the public because the downstairs area is only open for about 16% of the total library hours. Commissioner Van Loan said they must consider the growth of the programs and the need to allow time for expansion.

Commissioner Eychner asked if it is too early for the issue to come forward to the Commission. Commissioner Van Loan said it was her opinion that it is too early.

Commissioner Bell-Patten stated she takes a firm stand on the need to install cameras in the library.

Citizen Deirdre Siguenza expressed concerns about Measure H and the discrepancy with how the library expansion project was sold to the public and what has come to pass. She said she thought they were expanding the library for public use, not for making more community space.

Commissioner Eychner stated that the issue should go before City Council, the City should find the funds for staffing, and that Council should go to the County for staffing. He suggested they do both options (volunteers and county staff).

Chair Radke expressed concern that voters are going to see that nothing has changed at the library because the new area is not open to them.

As a cheaper alternative to County staff, M. Austin suggested the City could hire a recreation leader to supervise the downstairs.

Commissioner Van Loan made a motion to have staff explore downstairs use options including staffing variations and come back to the Commission with the information, seconded by Commissioner Olsson. The motion was approved by the following vote: All ayes.

b. Public Art and Main Street Plaza

M. Austin reported that Main Street Martinez's proposal for the installation of the mural by Mario Alfaro on the wall that faces Main Street in Main Street Plaza will cost \$6,200. The City would be able to cover the cost with the plaza improvement funds. M. Austin said staff recommended that benches and a vase type planter with flowers be installed, an effort Main Street has agreed to support by finding donors or funding for benches. He reviewed the mural, the details of the installation, and mural specifications.

Commissioner Patchin praised the idea of the mural, but expressed concern that the Pony Express is the central image in the mural. He suggested that the image be switched with that of John Muir or the ferry service.

Commissioner Pallotta made a motion to approve the mural proposal with the discussed changes to the mural concerning the Pony Express and John Muir, seconded by Commissioner Van Loan. The motion was approved by the following vote: All ayes.

Debra Dotson, representative for Main Street Martinez, said that the artist's price may increase due to the changes to the mural.

c. Childcare at Morello

M. Austin reported that staff recommended that an RFP be put out for use of the childcare facility at Morello Park. He brought forward the RFP key considerations for their review. He said care is currently provided by Lasting Impressions, which will be invited to submit a proposal. M. Austin noted that the proposal will be put out at the end of the month and will be due at the end of March. Proposal reviews will take place in April.

Commissioner Patchin suggested that they specify minimum revenue to the City that would have to be met.

Commissioner Fuller said the original lease with the school needs to be reviewed to determine if the school district has the first right of refusal should it go out to bid.

There was a brief discussion as to why the item is before the PRMCC. Commissioner Bell-Patten said that these types of matters are out of the Commission's scope and that they should be handled by staff.

Commissioner Fuller left the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

d. Appointment of Vice Chair

M. Austin explained that with the resignation of Katherine Hern the Vice Chair is vacant.

Commissioner Olsson nominated Commissioner Van Loan for the Vice Chair position. Commissioner Van Loan did not accept the nomination.

The Commissioner discussed postponing the appointment of a permanent Vice Chair until City Council makes a decision on the PRMCC positions in May or June.

Commissioner Eychner offered to serve as interim Vice Chair.

Commissioner Bell-Patten made a motion to appoint Commissioner Eychner as interim Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Olsson. The motion was approved by the following vote: All ayes.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. Marina Master Plan Review

M. Austin broke down the Master Plan and provided the Commission with an overview of projects/improvements. He discussed the parts of the plan that have been completed, changed, or are in progress. He explained that as the marina has evolved some developments and plans have fallen outside the scope of the Marina Master Plan (e.g. Zocchi Property, Amphitheater, etc.) since it was created in 1994. As a result, the plan needs to be updated and a new planning map developed. M. Austin said staff is recommending that the PRMCC Marina Subcommittee and City Council Marina Subcommittee review the Master Plan in an effort to create an addendum to reflect recent development and plans for the waterfront. He noted that funding sources are scarce to do a complete update.

M. Austin said that once staff works with the subcommittees on an addendum it will be brought forward to the Commission for review.

b. Marina Financial Plan Funding/Use of Measure WW

M. Austin provided the Commission with a report on the funding for the Marina Construction Project and the most recent technical survey results. He said that dredging with not fix the eastern wall would not be an efficient use of money as the marina would

silt in within two years. This is a change from the original scope of repairs to the wall. Originally the eastern wall was only to be taller, not replaced. This change increases the reconstruction costs by almost one million dollars and means that the City needs to have the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) re-approve project changes and the use of previously approved funding. M. Austin noted that DBW loan standards have changed, thus, the City has had to change the rebuild plans and financial model. He explained the key issues surrounding the financial model, rebuild, and new loan changes.

M. Austin discussed possible funding sources and different strategies to obtain funds. He noted that Measure WW is a possible funding source and that the use of the grant for the marina is supported in concept by the Council Marina Subcommittee. M. Austin also noted that if the City cannot find financial solutions that meet DBW standards, the City may be denied the currently approved loan funds and would then have to reapply for a loan which is a lengthy and competitive process.

Commissioner Pallotta said he did not approve using Measure WW to entice the loan.

A few other Commissioners while not enthusiastic about using Measure WW funds for the marina, can understand that this may be were the Council feels it needs to go to save the marina.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Review Agenda Plan for 2011

Commissioner Van Loan said they should think about uses for the Train Depot once the interim library is gone. M. Austin said he wants to explore that idea with City Council. Commissioner Patchin said the Historical Society is the lead agency for the use of the facility.

Commissioner Patchin said he would like to discuss the grand openings for the pool and library and re-discuss the items from the retreat.

Commissioner Olsson asked when the next joint meeting between City Council and the PRMCC will be held. M. Austin said the next meeting may not take place until after the new PRMCC commissioner appointments.

M. Austin said he has been in contact with the family who owns Pine Meadow and that they have been exploring the idea of a development agreement. He said the Commission should discuss what kind of space they would potentially like to see.

Commissioner Olsson suggested they prioritize marina projects and establish regular safety checks.

In response to an earlier inquiry by Commissioner Pallotta, M. Austin reported on the ordinances regarding motor homes at the marina. He said a permit is required to stay overnight and can be purchased at the Harbor Master's office. Martinez Police is in charge of enforcing the permit and cites those vehicles that do not have one.

M. Austin provided an update on the Zocchi Property. He informed the Commission that Council is interested in using both buildings should the Proposition 84 Grant not be approved, so they are discussing this option with both vendors.

IX. COMMISSIONER & STAFF COMMENTS

None.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: March 15, 2011

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Commissioner Patchin, seconded by Commissioner Bell-Patten, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:19 p.m.