

## **CALL TO ORDER**

A special joint meeting of the Martinez City Council and the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission was called to order by Mayor Rob Schroder at 5:35 p.m. on February 1, 2012, in the Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California 94553.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL**

Council Present: Mayor Schroder, Vice Mayor Ross (arrived shortly after Roll Call), Councilmembers DeLaney, Kennedy, and Menesini.

PRMCC Present: Chair Radke, Vice Chair Bell-Patten, Commissioners Eychner, Fuller, and Gerlack.

Mayor Schroder noted that he had met earlier in the afternoon with the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and the PRMCC Chair, Dylan Radke to discuss the agenda. He turned the meeting over to City Manager Phil Vince.

Mr. Vince began with an apology to the members of the PRMCC, and he acknowledged that his concerns about the City budget and efforts to cut costs where possible had resulted in the PRMCC members thinking that their work was not appreciated nor recognized. He stated that was not his intent, commenting on the need to match the resources and abilities of staff with the expectations of the community while balancing the City budget. He indicated that the PRMCC will continue to meet on a monthly basis, with a rotation of staff members providing support to the Commission.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Phil Ciaramitaro reviewed a survey of lights at the Marina that need to be repaired, and he asked that the survey be added to the record. Public Works Director Dave Scola explained that the lights are replaced as quickly as staff is able. He noted that the lights will be replaced with better and more efficient vandal-proof fixtures. In the meantime, staff will be checking the lights daily to ensure public safety is preserved.

Councilmember DeLaney asked that the issue of vandalism at the Marina and the Bocce Courts be added to a future agenda for a full discussion.

Cookie Tellas requested that the pool season be extended. Mayor Schroder stated that he wanted to put together a group to discuss the matter and perhaps find ways to do that. He added that anyone who wants to be a part of the group should sign up on the list at the table in the Council Chambers.

Katherine Hearn spoke about cutbacks affecting the PRMCC and stressed the importance of the Commission. She was grateful that the issue seems to have been resolved, based on what Mr. Vince said earlier. She also noted that Parks and Recreation have the potential to be moneymakers for the City.

Brian Walker agreed that the Commission was important, and he too appreciated the decision to continue the PRMCC monthly meetings. He expressed appreciation to the Commission for all their hard work.

Mike Alford stated that this meeting should have not taken place because the PRMCC is very important to the life of the City. He also expressed his concerns regarding Patch, The Gazette, and the revenue that could be gained from taxing bunker fuel.

Seeing no further speakers, Mayor Schroder closed public comment.

## **CALENDAR**

None.

## **CITY COUNCIL/COMMISSION**

### **1. City Budget Overview**

City Manager Phil Vince presented the staff report, discussing the impacts of the budget.

Councilmember DeLaney commented on budget projections and necessary cuts to balance the budget, which is why the reduction in staff support and meeting frequency was originally proposed for the PRMCC.

Mayor Schroder acknowledged the financial challenges facing the City and the Council, noting that the Council had to set priorities in terms of the use of staff time. He discussed the role of the PRMCC, primarily in overseeing the implementation of Measure H. He suggested that in addition to receiving copies of the PRMCC minutes, it would also be helpful if a member of the PRMCC reported to the Council on a quarterly basis.

Vice Mayor Ross commented that in the past members of the Council visited the various Commission meetings to observe and to represent.

### **2. Discussion of PRMCC Role Supporting Council**

PRMCC Chair Dylan Radke discussed his view of the role and purpose of the Commission, to support the Council but also to serve the public.

PRMCC Member Donald Pallotta expressed concern that the rotation of staff serving the Commission could affect the continuity of and diminish the effectiveness of the Commission. He briefly reviewed the role played by the staff support person in facilitating subcommittee meetings as well as communication from other parts of the City. Mayor Schroder discussed the necessity for Mitch Austin to focus on Marina issues, as well as staffing constraints facing the City at this time.

PRMCC Member Gay Gerlack thanked the public for their support and discussed the Commission's efforts to develop a new Parks Master Plan, based on Measure H. She also thanked the Council for recognizing the very important role that the Commission serves.

Councilmember DeLaney noted that when Measure H was passed, the issue of staff support presented a conundrum in terms of staff support and financial resources. She indicated that the Council has always understood the importance of the Commission. She also thought a quarterly report from the PRMCC to the Council would be good.

PRMCC Chair Radke thanked the Council again for their consideration and support.

Vice Mayor Mark Ross acknowledged the level of responsibility borne by the Commission. He noted that many cities have formed a recreation district to handle their parks and recreation needs. He suggested the PRMCC consider doing the same if it seems feasible, or perhaps join with the Pleasant Hill Parks District.

PRMCC Member John Fuller said it would be helpful for the Commission to know what the Council priorities are and how much it costs to maintain the parks. He indicated he had been on the Commission since 1999 and has never had that question answered. Mayor Schroder directed the City Manager to share the Council priorities with the Commission, as well as the budget specifics.

Councilmember Menesini said his priority was the children of the City, and he was not in favor of raising fees for them. He commented on government inefficiencies and how there could be cost savings if the City, School District, and County could share resources, such as supplies equipment, etc. Public Works Director Dave Scola said there is a line item in the budget for parks maintenance, but part of that money goes to non-park needs.

Councilmember Menesini indicated that maintenance is an important part, because it enhances and improves existing facilities, which maximizes the City's investment. He also agreed with Ms. Tellas regarding extending the season for pool use. He suggested that a public/private partnership could be one way to increase funding.

PRMCC Member Fuller asked what the Council expects from the Commission regarding the Marina, noting it is in the title for the Commission, but they have no firsthand knowledge. Mayor Schroder noted that the Marina is at a critical juncture, and the Council has some decisions that have to be made, but once those issues are resolved, it will return to the PRMCC oversight.

PRMCC Vice Chair Karen Bell-Patten commented on difficulties with a rotating staff person, and she suggested it would be helpful to know areas of responsibility among staff and Councilmembers so that as issues arise, the Commission will know where to turn for help or direction.

Councilmember Kennedy agreed that park maintenance and recreation are important to the City, together with public safety. She noted that the Council has the responsibility for balancing the budget and considering all the needs of the City at large. She also agreed that knowing different areas of responsibility among staff and the Council is helpful. She indicated that she and

Councilmember DeLaney serve as the Economic Development Subcommittee, and they believe that arts and leisure are an important part of economic development.

Mayor Schroder suggested Councilmembers DeLaney and Kennedy could be contacts for parks and recreation, himself and Vice Mayor Ross for Marina issues, and perhaps Councilmember Menesini for library.

Councilmember DeLaney suggested it would be helpful if a member of the PRMCC attends the Marina Subcommittee meetings. She also mentioned that the Council has been considering the formation of a joint powers agency for the Marina dredging, etc. She invited any interested members of the PRMCC to assist in investigating that possibility.

PRMCC Member Pallotta stated that the Commission had been involved in putting together Martinez's portion of the funding to acquire Proposition 84 grants to pay for dredging and in what order the dredging should take place, but that process has now failed. He acknowledged that the current focus is on doing a maintenance dredge, but he still thought grant money should be pursued for long term needs.

PRMCC Member Fuller elaborated on Councilmember DeLaney's suggestion of a joint powers agency and what functions it would serve. PRMCC Chair Radke said there had been some discussion in the past as to whether the cities wanted to come together to purchase dredging equipment and use it cooperatively.

PRMCC Vice Chair Bell Patten commented on the need to better publicize what the City has to offer in terms of parks, recreation, arts and leisure activities, etc. She asked if Council has considered that and how they see that being accomplished. Mayor Schroder acknowledged that many cities have public information officer but Martinez has not had one for some time now and unfortunately, the budget will not allow for one at this point.

Councilmember Menesini pointed out that the City has worked cooperatively with Main Street Martinez and the Chamber of Commerce to accomplish some of that, as well as working together for City events. He acknowledged that more could be done, however.

Councilmember DeLaney said she thought the City has done a good job in taking advantage of the social networking and online publicity that are now available, which has benefitted the Chamber and Main Street events as well.

Mayor Schroder opened public comment on the item.

Marshall Cochrane noted this is the first time he's heard a budget presentation in which no numbers were mentioned. He thought some minimum details would have been helpful. He also cautioned the Council and Commission on the need for regular maintenance. Mayor Schroder noted that mid-year budget reviews were upcoming, and the Council will be making projections for the next cycle.

Cookie Tellas suggested an organization like "Friends of the Library" could be developed for the City pool and other programs, which could help raise money for activities and facilities.

Mike Alford expressed appreciation for the positive outcome of this meeting. He observed that in the past it seemed like there was no communication between the PRMCC and the Council. He also commented on the many years that development at the Marina has been “projected” with nothing to show for it at this point.

An unidentified speaker suggested creating a small RV park at the Marina, which would bring more recreational users to the City.

Seeing no further speakers, Mayor Schroder closed public comment on the item.

3. City Council/Commissioner/City Manager Comments

No comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Rob Schroder adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m., to a Regular City Council meeting.

Approved by the City Council,

Rob Schroder, Mayor

Mercy G. Cabral, Deputy City Clerk 3/21/12