

# Thousand Friends of Martinez

## What Can I do? Next Steps

- 1 **Donate to Thousand Friends – funds will be used to elect better candidates and to support local grass roots issues.** The 2018 elections will be the most important in years. Please be generous. Donate to the P.O. Box at bottom or at:  
<http://www.thousandfriendsofmartinez.org/donate.html> .
- 2 **Like Us on Facebook – we have both a page and a group - that’s where we can reach you most quickly about important issues, events, etc.**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/1747525495462234/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1747525495462234/) ; [www.facebook.com/Thousand-Friends-of-Martinez-1673996572917936/](http://www.facebook.com/Thousand-Friends-of-Martinez-1673996572917936/)
- 3 **Come to our Quarterly Meetings –** to get updates on current Martinez issues and to talk with others about these issues.
- 4 **Subscribe to our E-Newsletter – to get updates on current Martinez issues:**  
<http://thousandfriendsofmartinez.us14.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=5a7a4abeb7d4d7c4a426e5a0a&id=9589d6af14>
- 5 **Protect Our Parks and Open Space - Help us qualify the Martinez Open Space Initiative –** We need several thousand signatures to qualify the initiative to protect our parks and open space. If we’re successful, the city council has two choices – adopt the initiative and make it law, or place it on the ballot. There’s a table at our quarterly meeting, or call Tim Platt at 925 808-9684
- 6 **Urge the City Council to Protect Our Parks and Open Space and to support the Martinez Open Space Initiative.** Write: City Council, City of Martinez, 525 Henrietta Street Martinez, CA 94553 - 925-372-3500 - [website@cityofmartinez.org](mailto:website@cityofmartinez.org)
- 7 **Get Involved in the Martinez General Plan Update – Please Contact the Martinez City Council,** City of Martinez, 525 Henrietta Street Martinez, CA 94553 - 925-372-3500 - [website@cityofmartinez.org](mailto:website@cityofmartinez.org) It’s better if you send a paper copy, but please also send a copy to Thousand Friends at PO Box 225, Martinez, CA 94553 or [thousandfriendsmartinez@gmail.com](mailto:thousandfriendsmartinez@gmail.com). A summary about the General Plan process is at: [thousandfriendsofmartinez.org/files/GeneralPlan1216.pdf](http://thousandfriendsofmartinez.org/files/GeneralPlan1216.pdf) Tell them to:
  - a. A new General Plan Update public engagement process should start;
  - b. Hold public workshops and Planning Commission; Park, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission; and City Council study sessions to educate the public about the process and about General Plan issues;
  - c. Recirculate the draft General Plan Update and draft Environmental Impact Report for

- public comment;
  - d. Respond to the Task Force, 2015 and 2017 comments, and improve the draft General Plan;
  - e. Hold public hearings to discuss the updated draft Plan; and
  - f. Hopefully complete the General Plan Update by the end of 2017, but not without an open, transparent, inclusive process.
  - g. The City Council recently indicated they would include a Recreational Trail Plan in the General Plan. Thank them for doing so.
- 8 Volunteer to distribute literature** – we’re setting up a volunteer network to drop campaign literature on doorsteps. Saving on postage will make us more competitive.
- 9 Write letters to the editors or comments about these issues in our local media, on their webpages, Facebook pages etc.**
- a. Martinez News-Gazette – [www.martinezgazette.com](http://www.martinezgazette.com) ; [www.facebook.com/martinez.newsgazette/](http://www.facebook.com/martinez.newsgazette/)
  - b. Martinez Tribune – [www.martineztribune.com/](http://www.martineztribune.com/) ; [www.facebook.com/MtzTribune/](http://www.facebook.com/MtzTribune/)
  - c. East Bay Times - [letters@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:letters@bayareanewsgroup.com) ; [www.facebook.com/eastbaytimes/](http://www.facebook.com/eastbaytimes/)
  - d. Martinez Rants and Raves - [www.facebook.com/groups/570134869769493/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/570134869769493/)
- 10 Attend City Council & Planning Commission Meetings – especially when we ask you to show up.** The best prescription for good government is sunshine – public scrutiny. We welcome short summaries of what took place at council and commission meetings. City Council meetings are generally the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Planning Commission meetings are generally on Tuesday at 7:00 pm but have been much more irregular or likely to be cancelled. Agendas and meeting times can be seen at: <http://www.cityofmartinez.org/depts/mayor/meetings.asp>
- 11 Take a Walk or Hike and Enjoy Our Beautiful City** – We’ll schedule several walks soon. Check our Facebook page and E-Newsletters.

**The Mission of Thousand Friends of Martinez is** to provide a stable organization which will work with residents to elect informed, conscientious representatives; promote open government; enhance our quality of life by creating a livable city; defend our parks and open spaces, and; conserve natural areas and historic elements in the greater Martinez region.

**Our Geographic Focus is:** The greater Martinez region, including the city and unincorporated areas, the Briones Bioregion and significant watershed lands.

**Our Objectives are to:**

- Endorse, support and fund responsible and environmentally supportive leaders
- Promote transparent government
- Promote better land use planning and the development of policies for the public benefit
- Defend parks, creeks, wetlands, open space and historic elements
- Support budgeting, ballot measures and funding for these purposes
- Educate the public about these objectives and strategies