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Marina Park moving forward with Laishley

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PUNTA GORDA -- Construction of the Laishley Crab House could begin in eight to 10 weeks.

The **Marina Park** partnership -- which includes Chris Evans, Bruce Laishley and other local businessmen -- is ready to move forward with their plans for the construction of a two-story building at the Laishley Park Marina.

The second-floor will be devoted to a 15,000-square-foot restaurant, while the first floor will have 12,000 square feet of retail space.

Last week, the city's Development Review Committee -- made up technical staff from various departments -- recommended **Marina Park's** plans for the building.

"We're shooting to have our building permits in six weeks," Evans said Tuesday. "And we will be having a groundbreaking party."

Originally, the partnership proposed to build public amenities that would include an interactive fountain, two open-air pavilions, landscaping and additional public parking. However, during the course of negotiations, city officials decided they would provide the amenities.

Earlier this month, the city's Community Redevelopment Agency board -- which includes the City Council, plus Jane Sturges and Frank Weikel -- approved the plan for a 40-foot-in-diameter fountain for the park.

Evans said he and his partners are happy with the direction the city is taking with its plans for constructing additional amenities at the park.

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