

**CITY OF GALT**

**MINUTES**

**GALT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING**

**Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive, Galt, California  
Wednesday, November 13, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Moore. Roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commission Smith.

Staff members present: Sports Coordinator, Zachary Frizzell, Special Events Coordinator Armando Solis, Street Superintendent, Adin Selby and Administrative Assistant Deborah Porteous-Toste.

**CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA** - None

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** With no objections to the minutes as presented they were approved.

**PRESENTATIONS** – None

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Subject:** Childhood Obesity – Council Member Barbara Payne  
(Informational)

Council Member Payne attended a summit in Baltimore on a scholarship on the subject of Childhood Obesity. At the time she didn't feel that the City of Galt had this issue. She learned that the current generation was at a higher risk of illness and shorter lives due to Childhood Obesity.

She discovered that much of it was due to fast food, sodas, and lack of exercise.

The highest group of those who are affected to childhood obesity are Hispanic and lower income at which time she realized that they were indeed speaking about Galt. She decided to present it to the Commission seeking ideas and insight.

Council Member Payne provided facts and percentages on overall causes and risks that are associated to childhood obesity.

She believes that ultimately the responsibility falls on the family. She hopes that by educating the youth and getting them into exercise they can educate the entire family and hopes to change this generational problem.

Provided also were some locally published articles that addressed the issue of dietary rules that have been established in hopes to reduce Childhood Obesity.

Commissioner Moore gave the example of some of the schools mandates in place to eliminate sodas and junk food from the schools already in place.

Council Member Payne's position is one of a conservative approach of education rather than to have imposition of restrictions. Education is the avenue she would like to pursue.

Commissioner Reuthinger spoke about how Galt High School has already implemented a healthier lunch menu and prohibition of sodas.

Commissioner Steele chimed in on the large intake of the energy drinks by the youth.

The Commission spoke at length about the reduction of exercise and physical education requirements in the schools as the emphasis has been to ensure student pass the standardizing testing.

Council Member Payne would like to see food stamps be accepted at the Market so the lower income families can purchase fresh produce affordably. Solis responded to her suggestion noting that the vendors have to want to deal with the food stamps process. Food stamps are now issued as a debit card. The city is looking into utilizing a vendor that takes the debit cards and issues tokens to be used as tender. At the end of the day the vendor would redeem his tokens and a check would be sent. The problem is the time it takes to get the check to the vendor. Therefore even if offered it will be up to the vendors if they choose to participate. The acceptance of food stamps at the Market is presently being looked into and in the works.

Council Member Payne also mentioned that some of the overeating is cultural in that when you have a guest it is only polite to offer food and it is not always healthy. Her hopes is to reach the youth in order to change the adults' way of cooking, eating, or thinking about their way of life.

Information packets from the summit were given to the Commissioners for their review and what she is looking for is ideas on how to incorporate good nutrition through the P & R programs. She questioned what classes the department is offering classes in physical education other than sports etc. She also asked the Commission to bring forth a marketing plan to City Council even if money is needed for implementation.

Commissioner Steele suggested a promotional idea like i.e. "Chose water over soda". Commissioner Moore suggested that we may want to offer water cheaper than soda and subsidized water to encourage it over soda.

Council Member Payne says that the hardest group to influence is High School. She noted that the Elementary schools are on board. Commissioner Moore feels that there is an opportunity for a joint effort for the Parks and Recreation and the schools.

Commissioner Reuthinger suggested a poster contest to encourage healthy eating (chose water over soda) and post them at the Complex during the softball season.

Many ideas were discussed and again Council Member Payne is asking that the Commission come up with some marketing strategies about how we can make a difference and work towards change.

Solis introduced Zach Frizzell is our new Sports Coordinator for the Department who will be primarily working nights and weekends for the department.

- b. **Subject:** Parks and Recreation Meeting Schedule – every other month  
(Recommendation to City Council)

Commissioner Moore opened up first by asking for input on the subject. Solis made sure that the Commission would not be locked into this new schedule and a special meeting can be called for at any time when the Commission feels a need to meet.

This would begin in January as December is usually cancelled due to the holidays.

Commissioner Moore wants to stay connected and does not want to be less efficient. He believes that there is something to be said about the monthly meetings and the talking face to face conversations.

Solis said that if there is a time sensitive issue or something going to Council that the Department wants input from the Commission then a special meeting would be called. He also informed the Commission that with the new implementation of Social Media and a City App, that many of the citizen's issues will be addressed as they are posted on Facebook, Twitter etc. and can be handled immediately by staff which may or may not need to be routed through the Commission. If there is a need for the Commission's input and it is not a month with a scheduled meeting then a special meeting can be called.

Commissioners Steele and Reuthinger felt that this may work. The Commission has concerns on how the City Council will perceive this as uninterested or not committed to the position that they have been appointed. Solis responded that the safety commission presently meets every other month.

After much discussion amongst the Commission, Commissioner Steele suggested that the Commission postpone making this decision until January after the election of the new Chair and Co-Chair.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Steele moved to wait on the decision of changing the meeting schedule to the January meeting after the election of the new chair person. Reuthinger second the motion. A vote was called for and the motion passed 4-0.

#### **UPCOMING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS** - none

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Lighting of the Night Event – December 7th**

Solis reported that the event will begin at 6:00 p.m. Parade route is the same as last year and Shop Local events will be held in Littleton. Solis invited the Commissioners to attend. Debbie to forward final program to the Commissioners.

#### **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS/COMMENTS**

- a. Chairperson Moore – appreciates that events are calendared for his personal device. Also to the responsiveness response to the safety concern at the field that was brought to his attention by a citizen.
- b. Vice- Chairperson Buchanan - none
- c. Commissioner Reuthinger - none
- d. Commissioner Smith – absent
- e. Commissioner Steele - none

#### **STAFF COMMENTS**

Adin Selby reported on the 3 D model of the Memorial – to all Fallen Heroes. This model was put together by Galt High School students. To date there has been about \$20,000 raise by the volunteer committee (C.H.A.M.P.S) Currently city staff is evaluating how it is to be phased depending on donation of materials and professional services. The volunteer committee will be soliciting donations to help reduced cost of materials and services. The City is committed to some monetary support and

staffing to support the effort. Public Works is planning to come forward with recommendations to the City Council on how they plan to proceed.

McCaffrey Sports Park – The City entered into contract with the landscape contractor to rehabilitate the fields. To date they have sprayed for broadleaf, aerated, filled in the low spots and two weeks ago seeded which is finally taking hold. The park was closed on October 28 and it is anticipated an additional 60 days is needed to ensure grass takes hold. Signs have been posted and the area fenced in hopes for good results.

Solis reported that basketball practices began this week and sign ups were up from the past two years. The department was able have a girls division at all age levels. The Parks and Recreation Department staff is currently coaching 4 teams due to the shortage of coaches.

The department is being able to access all 6 of the elementary school facilities with McCaffrey available to the department Monday – Saturday. Because of the increase facility availability, the department was able to open up practice scheduling from two weeks at a time to the entire season with plenty of spaces still available.

The Department held their Positive Coaching Alliance training on Saturday and practice sign ups were available after the training. Coming up for our softball season the department will be conducting the next level of the training available.

Walker Turf became available on November 1<sup>st</sup> for practices. Due to the success of the LRHS soccer team the department had to bump some of the other organizations for a little over a week. With the Jr. Warriors and Jr Hawks season ended we have been able to work with the soccer organizations to relocate them to Greer.

Adult Basketball will be held at Notolli Dome. There has been a request for a 35 and older division. Solis says we need to have 3 teams to run the program, so he is hopeful.

Commissioner Moore wanted clarification about the use of the dirt area at Walker Park for parking. Commission Moore was told by a citizen that he could not park there. He was concerned about no signs prohibiting parking and the potential of getting a ticket. Selby answered saying that until there is inclement weather parking is being allowed. Solis is not aware of any citations given for parking in that area.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Porteous-Toste, Administrative Assistant