

CITY OF GALT

MINUTES

**GALT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

**Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive, Galt, California
Wednesday, January 8, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Moore. Roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

Staff members present: 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 were approved as presented.

PRESENTATIONS – None

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Subject:** Election of Chairperson – Administrative Assistant to conduct election of Chairperson Administrative Assistant, Deborah R. Porteous-Toste opened up the floor for nominations for the new Chair Person for 2014 Commission.

ACTION: Commissioner Moore nominated Commissioner Buchanan for the position of Chair Person, the nomination was seconded by Commissioner Steele. The vote was called for with Commissioner Buchanan presenting the only objection. Nomination passed 4 – 1.

2. **Subject:** Election of Vice-Chairperson – Chairperson to conduct election of Vice- Chairperson Newly elected Chair Person Buchanan opened up the floor for nominations for the new Vice Chair Person for the 2014 Commission.

ACTION: Commissioner Steele nominated Commissioner Reuthinger for the position of Vice Chair Person, the nomination was seconded by Commissioner Moore. The vote was called for and nomination passed 5 -0

OLD BUSINESS

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

This item was brought back from last meeting for consideration. Armando noting that if the Commission chooses to change the meeting schedule to every other month that a special meeting can be called whenever needed.

Commissioner Moore has no objections but would like to begin in March due to the current litigation. He would like to meet in February in hopes of an update to see if there is something that is relevant and affects the Commission. Will be willing to make a motion to that effect beginning in March.

Commissioner Smith asked why we were considering every other month to meet. Was is due to lack of business? Solis responded yes. Smith noted that in the past when there was a lack of business the Commission would just cancel the meeting. Solis responded that cancelling was still an option.

GALT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING OF January 8, 2014
PAGE 2

Commissioner Moore noted that in the last meeting that Council Payne brought an issue of Childhood Obesity to the Commission. Without the dynamics and nature of being together monthly and being able to discuss the issues he felt it would hinder the Commission's input in that activity.

Commissioner Steele realizes that there is a lack of business, but wonders if there truly is a lack of business or is the Commission not doing their job. Steele has mixed emotions about changing the meeting schedule. From a public stand point he feels the public expects a monthly meeting and that the citizens know when the meetings are scheduled and can show up if needed.

No motion was presented so the recommendation dies due to lack of motion.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Subject:** Housing Related Parks Grant Program – Informational

The Housing Related Parks Grant Program was taken last night to City Council for direction. Solis apologized that this was not brought to the Commission first but the Grant had time constraints and needed to be acted on immediately to secure the funds. The City Council needed to decide on which park to provide the grant funds to. The choices were the Sports Complex or Harvey Park. Solis went into detail on the particular grant as to how the funding could be appropriated for each site. City Council chose Harvey Park which the Grant provides \$170,000. Council directed staff to bring back the items that the money could be used for.

Commissioner Steele asked how the funds would be used. Solis said that the Staff report presented to City Council had suggestions. Council wants to make sure the Commission is a part of the decision making as to how the funds are going to be used. Suggestions brought forward to Council were upgrades to irrigation, restrooms, and storage areas etc.

Council Member Payne would like to get the Commission's ideas and how the money should be spent. The GYB president and participants were present at the Council meeting. She suggested see a tot lot for the younger siblings to have something to do.

Her concern is also to have a SAFE park. Officer Tonn's death and the shooting of the teenager both in the vicinity is why and feels that more occupancy, lighting, etc would help.

Council wants Commission thoughts on the project. Solis will meet with Chris Erias and bring back ideas to the next meeting. Solis will schedule a special meeting if the Commission needs to meet sooner.

Commissioner Steele suggested cameras or even signs stating that there was surveillance as a deterrent. Increased lighting is needed not only for more visibility but for cameras to work. The cameras he saw at CPRS conference were mobile and placed in a box is mobile and the public would not know if a camera was in there or not.

Commissioner Moore asked if there were BBQ's and tables at Harvey Park. Selby responded that the BBQ's were removed due to the ordinance that allows alcoholic consumption at parks with BBQ's and tables. The intent was to make this park alcohol free.

GALT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING OF January 8, 2014
PAGE 3

Commissioner Reuthinger commented that she was confused about the comment about a year ago regarding the Officer Tonn Memorial Park. The GYB group at that time\did not want anything under the trees because they wanted the area for warm up and now they are coming in supporting this new project.

Solis speculated that it may be due to the fact that they have a new president and board. Commission Reuthinger pointed out that discussion a year ago was concern about the little kids, duck and cover, bullets and wonders how their concerns and views can change so much due to a new board. Commissioner Steele commented that last year when GYB thought it was too dangerous of an area he and Commissioner Moore were not in agreement with the location concerns brought forward last year by GYB.

Solis said when he brings this back to the Commission it will be in a more constructive lay out for the Commission's review. Commissioner Steele stated what is needed versus what is wanted. The priorities will be presented for the Commission to look at and give a recommendation.

UPCOMING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

A. **Subject:** Annual Report to City Council - January 21, 2014

Moore will give a verbal report 5 – 10 minutes of what has been done over the year and introduce Buchanan as the new Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Winter Bird Festival – February 1, 2014**

Solis wanted to remind the Commission of the event.

Tours all day but the actual event at McCaffrey is 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS/COMMENTS

- a. Chairperson Moore
 - Looking forward to providing input into the grant program and feels that items like this is a good reason to continue the monthly meetings.
 - Congratulated Commissioner Buchanan on his election to the new Chair Person. Wanted to thank the Commission for their assistance and support during his year as Chair.
- b. Vice- Chairperson Buchanan – thanked Moore for the past year and the nomination
- c. Commissioner Reuthinger - nothing
- d. Commissioner Smith
 - Asked about the independent audit of the 06 fund that was previously done and why we are no longer doing this. It was to ensure that the City's usage of the funds were spent in compliance to the State Legislature to ensure the funds are being spent for Parks and Recreation resources. Solis will ask the Finance Director about this item.
 - Noticed when out at Lake Canyon park that the restroom door handle was not ADA compliant. Selby responded that they are in the process of coming up with a list of deferred maintenance issues that need to be addressed and prioritizing them. Also the lights for the Community Sign are burnt out
- e. Commissioner Steele – thanks Brendan – great job
 - Reference Court case. Felt at some level they need to be made aware of what is going on. Feels that when the public asks about it and their response is that they knew nothing about it.

GALT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING OF January 8, 2014

PAGE 4

- Smith noted that he was there at closing arguments
- Steele asked with the Flu epidemic does the City have a clinic for the flu shot. Solis responded that no we did not have one.
- Asked about if irrigation had to be reinstated due to the lack of rain. Selby responded they did have to this week

STAFF COMMENTS

- Adin commented on the deferred maintenance list. Because the landscape clocks are manual and it takes staff 3 – 4 days to turn them back on. Selby just met with a gentleman to discuss a centralized irrigation system. They will be setting up the software at Walker Park to demo it. Selby sees this as a CIP project that will have to be phased in, hopefully in 5 years. i.e. 1st years software, 2nd years new clocks, etc. This kind of system would assist especially with overwatering as it takes time manually turn them off and on and adjust as needed.
- Staff has been working on the Sports Complex renovations
- Selby reported McCaffrey needs one more need of broadleaf spraying
- Solis reported that the Department is in full blown basketball. Went into detail who's playing when and where.
- Boyce has been given a start date is January 13th. The position of Recreation Coordinator was offered to him and he accepted the position. His primary duties will be to supervise the youth activities.
- Youth baseball start registrations February 20th. Opening date is tentatively scheduled for April 5.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Moore would like to follow up on the Sac Bee article on the City trial referencing that the true financial situation was off the mark when Boyce was let go, but the November revenues showed additional revenue than had been projected.

Moore wanted to discuss the decisions Council made to increase and implement fees based on the reported shortfall. Wants to know what was done with the money. Should the fee changes be rescinded based on this news?

Decision were based upon projected revenues and the Commission was not made aware of City's the actual financial situation.

Solis asked for the Commission to be specific in the information being requested.

Commission Moore would like to know how the 10 per player fee has been spent. Then assess whether the fee should be continued to be collected based on any given economic changes.

Commissioner Smith noted that the decisions to implement the new fees were made based on the projected revenues at the time of the decision. Question: Why weren't the actual/final numbers that came out in November 2011 given to the Commission with the information that there was more money than previously projected?

GALT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING OF January 8, 2014
PAGE 5

Commissioner Smith thought so they could would like to see actual reports and would like to compare those numbers. Solis clarified that they only want to see the reports. Commissioner Smith responded that he was requesting the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal years 2010 -2012 and the Basic Financial statements report for fiscal years 2010-2012.

Commissioner Steele said that they used to get the reports of the fiscal status in prior years. Solis said he will look into what was provided in the past.

Commissioner Moore wanted to point out that the fees were approved at the Sept 6 City Council meeting and then implement in January 2012. He would like information about the uptake and is concerned had they had that information would they have changed their mind about the implementation of the new fees.

Solis indicated he had planned to bring back the \$10 per player to look at the definition on how the fee is implemented versus how it was intended to be implemented,

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Porteous-Toste, Administrative Assistant