

**CITY OF GALT  
GALT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING**

**Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive, Galt, California  
Monday, June 9, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair Person Buchanan Reuthinger. Roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioners Reuthinger and Smith.

Staff members present: Parks and Recreation Director, Armando Solis, Street Superintendent, Adin Selby, and Administrative Assistant Deborah Porteous-Toste.

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** - none

**OLD BUSINESS** - none

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Subject: User Fee Study and Fee Recommendations

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend that City Council approve recommended user fees for Parks and Recreation programs and facilities.

Solis presented the complete fee study to show that this was a City wide study. He noted that facilities are allowed to charge Market rate (i.e. Littleton Center, Chabolla Center, Walker Park, etc.) however by law we are not allowed to charge more than the cost for any program.

Time got away from Solis due the office flood and he was unable to prepare his Power Point presentation.

Solis reported the Department is continuing to subsidize our programs although not to the level of other cities because we do have the Market. The Market brings in almost 3 million in revenue annually which is dedicated to the 06 Culture and Recreation Fund which allows us to not charge as high a rate as other cities. He pointed out the comparison cities of Lodi and Elk Grove and Dixon. It was noted that Elk Grove and Lodi are larger than Galt and Dixon is closer to our size City. MGT was hired to do the fee study for the City.

Moore asked how the fees were calculated and did they include other departments' fees etc. and also asked if the benefit to individual or community was also included in the new fee consideration.

Solis reviewed the newly proposed fees for our department:

- Parks and Recreation office rentals for private usage
- Greer Basin rental fee
- Harvey Park rental fee when needed beyond Galt Youth Baseball
- Complex - an hourly rate fee
  - o - fill in tournament fee when the weekend is open and not being used.
- Community Baseball Park. – 2 day tournament fee added
- Veterans fees – hourly fee for usage other than games
- Walker Park – 3 field - 2 day tournament fee
- Tiny Tots (4 year olds) baseball program due to losing the instructional level to GYB, we wanted to try to reach this group of kids
- Dry fee for adults accompanying youth at the pool –watching or in the water with child \$1.00
- Pool Pavilion for pool parties \$25 per hour.
- Private pool parties have a fee now.
- HUB Insurance fees add an administration fee.

Solis asked the Commission about any questions they may have regarding the proposed fees.

Buchanan asked about the sliding scale fee for the Pool Parties. Pricing is based on a base cost and the cost to cover the staff needed for then number of participants.

Moore asked about the Skate Park. Explained that the Skate Park is the fenced area not the grass area. The grass area is a park and will be expanded for pool patron usage. The only change to the Skate Park is the entrance gate has been moved to the Parks and Recreation Parking lot.

Solis contacted all of the youth sports organizations regarding an increased fee that will impact them which is the Galt Based Youth Organization light fee. There is a recommendation that the fee be increase from \$15 per hour to \$20 per hour. Currently the groups that participate in our Youth Sports Player fee are entitled to this reduced fee for lights at any field used. As of January we are proposing the new rate go into effect January 1, 2015.

This rate was agreed to in 2011 and even at \$20 the Department is still subsidizing a substantial amount of the cost.

Moore asked if they revisited those figures again to how they derived those costs. Solis said they have put that into all of the programs.

The fees for the after school programs has very little overhead and additional costs because they are held on non-city property.

Ben Gamez from Galt FC spoke to the \$20 light fee. According to the U.s Census families below the poverty level are at 18.9% in Galt. Galt FC has 228 players which equates to approximately. 200 families and believes that 50% of them are in this financial category. Galt FC is a non-paying club to the coaches. All the coaches are volunteers. Teams have to pay for referees, lights, soccer supplies and other events here and there. So each team has to come up with a monthly fee, some \$15, \$20 or \$30. There will be an impact with that additional \$5.00 per hour fee. . The argument can be made that they do not have to be in soccer, but if the kids aren't playing sports or are in some kind of activity then these kids are going to get into trouble and hanging out with the wrong crowd. Gamez understands that the Commission is in the middle and that it is a tough decision to make but hopes that the Commission goes home be able to sleep and make a difference in the life of a Galt resident.

Commissioner Steele asked if the kids need the lights and when do they practice. Fall requires lights. Largest bill last fall was \$800. Gamez is here representing Galt FC.

Solis pointed out that the recovery rate for that group is only 25%. For our programs for example t-ball the recovery is 86% and gave many more examples with the only program coming close is the 1<sup>st</sup> grad basketball program which is 27%. All other programs run 50 – 100% recovery rate.

Solis understands the concern for the kids however he just wanted the Commission to understand that we don't subsidize our own programs that much. We are having our own participants pay the cost.

Commissioner Steele is worried about raising fees when the Market supports the programs. Now with Walmart revenue etc. Solis reminded him of the minimum rate raises not reflected in the proposed rates.

Commissioner Moore believes that the \$20 fee for lights with the low recovery rate seems reasonable although a 33% increase. Commissioner Moore asked if we will be raising fees every year. The proposal is to review these fees annually but Solis cannot say that will happen annually but that is the recommendation.

Commissioner Moore asked if City Council approves the entire document or go line by line. The task was to come up with true costs. Solis agreed that it is difficult to understand completely.

Commissioner Buchanan wanted to know how many organizations does this light fee effect. Solis listed the major groups which is approximately 5 groups.

Commissioner Steele asked if when in 2011 when we implemented the original fee, participation declined. Solis let him know that it actually increased.

After more Commission discussion a motion was called for. Commissioner Moore felt keeping the light rate at \$15 is a symbolic gesture.

**ACTION:** Moore moved to accept the fee study document as presented with the exception of item #8 the Galt based youth based Organization light fee and keeping it at the \$15 rate instead of the \$20 as proposed. Moore second the motion. The vote was called for and the motion passed 3 – 0.

b. **Subject:** Sale of Kost property

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend that City Council approve the sale of the Kost property with the proceeds going to complete Phase 1B at Walker Park.

Solis went over some history on the acquisition of the property on Kost Rd 21.67 acres for a Future Park which was purchased in 2001 for \$185,000. The neighboring property owner approached the City inquiring on the possibility of purchasing the property from the City for \$250,000.

The sale of this property would allow the City to work on Phase 1B at Walker Park in the park master plan which would include of two baseball fields a concession stands, restrooms and the driveway and parking lot out to Sargent.

The Kost Property has not even been scheduled to develop so staff feels that we should sell and put the money towards Walker.

Solis reviewed future phases that are not in the works any time soon. This would be a step in getting to the goal of completing Walker Park.

Solis stated that with the new baseball parks, Meadowview could be used for other purposes by relocating GYB to Walker.

**Action:** Moore moved to accept staff's recommendation to 1) the sale of Kost Road Property to Sunny Creek Farm, LLC in the amount of \$250,000; and 2) designate the proceeds of the sale to the Walker Parks Phase 1B Project

**STAFF COMMENTS** – Parks and Recreation had a sprinkler malfunction. Estimated time 2 – 4 weeks. Make shift office in the front conference room is where the front staff girls, Debbie and Tanni will be located. Armando will be back at the Market and Monica at the pool.

Aquatic Center expansion has caused the patrons to get angry and cause problems, vandalism and disruption with the Aquatics participants.

The grass area in front of the Skate Park is a park, so expanding the Aquatic Center into that grass area. The skate park entrance is now at the P & R office parking lot. Cameras can watch the area. There have been issues regularly.

Moore asked questions about possible resolutions. Thought maybe peers could set an example. Many other suggestions were discussed.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS/COMMENTS**

- a. Chairperson Buchanan - none
- b. Vice- Chairperson Reuthinger - absent
- c. Commissioner Moore – updated the Community Garden activity and the cost to bring water to the Garden.
- d. Commissioner Smith - absent
- e. Commissioner Steele – Steele asked about the Grant. Working on trying to get the extra meeting.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Playground options for Harvey Park (July) – Bill Forrest

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Porteous-Toste, Administrative Assistant