

CITY OF GALT

GALT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

**Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive, Galt California
Wednesday, January 14, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Reuthinger. Roll call was taken. Commissioners present were Joe Bitondo, Kelly Keagy, Bill Parkin, and Janice Reuthinger.

Staff members present were: Parks and Recreation Director, Armando Solis; Market Manager, Kimberly Paulson; Recreation Supervisor, Monica Lopez; Recreation Coordinator, Tanni Watts; Office Assistants Laura Sumner and Crystal Cervantes.

CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA – None

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

ACTION: Commissioner Reuthinger moved to accept the minutes of the November 12, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded. A vote was called for and the motion passed 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Subject: Election of Chairperson – Office Assistant Sumner conducted the election of Chairperson. Commissioner Bitondo nominated Reuthinger. Keagy seconded the motion. A vote was called for and passed 4-0.
- b. Newly-elected Chairperson Reuthinger conducted the election of Vice-Chairperson. Keagy was nominated. The vote was conducted and passed 4-0.

INTRODUCTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF TO COMMISSION

Recreation Coordinator Watts introduced herself and explained what her duties were. She oversees the youth and adult sports programs. We are currently in the basketball season and have over 500 children registered. The adult basketball season is underway with 12 men's teams. Youth softball will begin in April. She also runs the Star program, a monthly free program for special needs teens and adults that we've had for over 12 years.

Market Manager Paulson introduced herself and said she's been with the City for 13 years and runs the Galt Flea Market, which brings in over \$3 million per year from many vendors. She oversees the 30 staff members that help run the market. EBT is now accepted there which customers are happy about. We just opened concession truck in December 2014 and it's the first time we've done this.

Solis explained that ours is the only city owned flea market in the state of California. Some citizens look at it as a problem, but the money it brings in pays for our Recreation programs and helps keep our fees low.

Recreation Supervisor Lopez said that she oversees the whole Aquatic program including the lifeguards, CPR classes, swim lessons, Galt Gators swim team, etc. She also oversees the City Tots preschool and SOAR and ASES after school program, the senior programs and Meals on Wheels, senior clubs including bus trips, and special interest classes. She also oversees the front office personnel.

Office Assistant Crystal Cervantes was introduced and asked to explain what she and Office Assistant Laura Sumner help to take care of. Crystal explained that we are face-to-face with

the customers helping people register for programs, sports etc., as well as offering support to the department supervisors. Sumner added that we process all payments for the monthly preschool and afterschool programs, and take care of the filing and office organization. Solis added that Sumner also helps take care of our website updating and keeping things current.

Solis also mentioned that the department Administrative Assistant is Debbie Porteous and that she takes care of scheduling fields and lights and facility reservations, along with other administrative work. He welcomed the commissioners to contact any of us by phone or email.

Solis also introduced himself as P&R Director, which he was named in March of last year, and he gave some history of his work with the city for the past 23 years. He has been a reserve Policeman since 1993.

OLD BUSINESS

Subject: Housing Related Parks Grant Program. Solis said the state had \$35 million to give to qualifying cities for improvements and received a grant of \$184,000 for Harvey Park improvements. He went over the Harvey Park Priority Project List, explaining that the first 10 items were approved and will be implemented. This was decided with Galt Youth Baseball's involvement as they most often use the facility. The target date to finish is September 1, 2015.

Parkin asked if there would be another room built for a concession. Solis said no, they will use the same building. Parkin asked if they are ready to start work and Solis said they are waiting for the RFP and quotes, insurance and paperwork to complete. It should begin in another 2-3 weeks. Solis said that Galt Youth Baseball did some work themselves saving \$5500, in order for more work to be done.

Recommendation: Recommend that the commission accept the report. Bitondo made a motion to accept the report. Parkin accepted the motion. There was no further discussion so a vote was called and the motion was passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Subject: Mandatory AB 1234 Ethics Training – Solis asked everyone to see the memorandum regarding this training and explained that it was mandatory to attend, either with the city or online.

Recommendation: Recommend that the commission accept the information. Parkin made a motion to accept the report. Keagy accepted the motion. There was no further discussion. A vote was called and the motion was passed 4-0.

Subject: CPRS Conference, March 10-13, 2015 – Solis explained about this conference and asked everyone to let Debbie know if they'd like to attend. Parkin asked when the deadline was and Solis said he thought it was the end of January and that he would check with Debbie. Solis said he would be attending some of the Aquatic conferences. Reuthinger commented that the board ones were very helpful.

Recommendation: Recommend that the commission accept the information. Parkin made a motion to accept the report. Bitondo accepted the motion. There was no further discussion. A vote was called and the motion was passed 4-0.

Subject: Strategic Planning Update

Solis said this was reviewed with staff at their quarterly training meeting last week. He went over the update and explained the 6 month strategy. He said they updated this monthly. They

used the city-wide survey and incorporated the information received from that to plan their projects. Solis went over each page of the update, including giving information about the PAL program run by Mike Singleton.

The next City Council meeting Solis will present a plan to expand the public use of some of the park fields, including Walker grass fields and Veterans. There have been problems with people jumping the fences to use the parks, and it's difficult to enforce their not being used when locked. Solis suggested the commissioners take the next month to talk to the public and try to get their views on this topic. He mentioned the Sports Complex and Community Park would probably not be included due to city equipment and the concession stand.

Bitondo asked if there were city signs at Walker fields that dogs were not allowed. Solis explained that a new city ordinance was just passed as there was some confusion regarding this. Once new signs are posted it will be enforced.

They are working together with Powers to bring more cultural activities for adults like painting, concerts etc. They will have a proposal by April 7.

They are looking at improvements for the skate park. The kids are concerned about outdated equipment. They will look at costs for improvements and will present this to Council for the next budget year. The cost to upgrade could be \$150,000 - \$225,000. The next phase is going to cement ramps. The question is whether to allocate funds for this or use it for the next stages at Walker Park.

They would like to finish Harvey Park by Sept. 1. This will be using the \$184,000 approved.

Parkin asked if they are looking to just expand the Skate Park or rebuild it. Solis said it depends on what's decided. They would want to expand and go fence to fence with new ramps, with a new design, incorporating the existing ramps to save money.

Parkin asked about Meadowview Park, if it's included for any improvements. And if it's open for the public to use. Solis said GYB has priority to use it. They've asked the local leagues to not use the parks on Sundays so the public has use of them.

Recommendation: Recommend that the commission accept the report. Parkin made a motion to accept the report. Bitondo accepted the motion. There was no further discussion. A vote was called and the motion was passed 4-0.

Subject: Annual Report to Council – We will need to report to the City Council what the Commission has accomplished this past year. This would be scheduled on February 2 to go over the 60 day agenda at the Council Meeting at 7 p.m. on February 2. Please contact Debbie to go over what we've done this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Bird Festival on February 7, 2015. He said they would like the commissioners to show up at events like this to talk to people and get feedback.

Tiny Smiles is scheduled the same day on February 7, 2015. Details were given on where the race is held. Reuthinger asked if this replaces the July 4th race. Solis said no, it was in addition to the July 4th, and that the Strawberry Festival has one also.

Solis thanked everyone for volunteering for the commission. He said many people don't know we have this commission. The public doesn't usually attend unless there is a 'hot' topic. He also advised members to consider both sides when hearing complaints. There may be a reason

things are done a certain way. A lot of policies and procedures are in place. Don't assume staff is wrong. Please call him if you have questions or concerns.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioners each gave their background and introduced themselves.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

At the next Parks and Recreation Commission they will go over opening up the parks more to the public. Discussion was made regarding this. Reuthinger asked if there would be an audience for this. Solis wasn't sure. It was an issue in the survey.

Bringing back definition of youth sports. Right now the majority have to live in the Galt community, but majority is not defined. There's been a problem with teams from other cities using the parks for their leagues and then limiting use for Galt leagues. They are looking to change the definition to 75 – 80% Galt residents. We don't want to displace Galt kids.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Sumner, Office Assistant