

CITY OF GALT

MINUTES

GALT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive, Galt, California
Wednesday, May 18, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chairperson. Commissioners present: Guerrero, Moore, Smith, Steele and Gamez.

Staff members present: Assistant City Manager Weiss and Commission Secretary Cory.

CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA - None.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – Regular meeting of April 13, 2011.

ACTION: Smith moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 13, 2011; Steele seconded. The motion unanimously carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposed FY 2011-2012 Parks and Recreation Budget - Weiss stated that City General Fund would have a deficit of \$465,660 in the upcoming fiscal year. He then reviewed the parks and recreation budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Weiss explained the reorganization of the department including the departure of Parks and Recreation Director Jeffries and the freezing of that position. He indicated that parks maintenance would be managed through the public works department under the supervision of the streets superintendent, Adin Selby. Selby would receive 5% out of class salary increase. Armando Solis would oversee the Galt Market and recreation programs with Troy Bonnet, parks superintendent, reporting to Selby. He also reviewed other staffing changes, all of which created saving to the upcoming budget. Weiss reported that the revenue for the current fiscal year would be up \$98,780 with a \$15,000 increase in the next fiscal year. Weiss then reviewed expenditures including the purchase of new equipment as well as replacement computers, trucks and Market equipment. On-line registration software with necessary training and equipment was planned for the new fiscal year at a cost of approximately \$60,000. Overall expenditures would decrease by approximate \$500,000. Guerrero asked about the shortening of aquatic facility schedule. Steele expressed concerns about the public perception regarding the departure of Jeffries as a saving and the purchase of all the new equipment and vehicles. Gamez and Steele expressed concerns about the reduction in weekend staff in regard to the parks restrooms being open. Moore asked if there was a weekend phone number the citizens could use in regard to park issues. Guerrero also expressed concerns about the restrooms. Weiss indicated that there had been times that practices were held without notification being given to the City so the restrooms were not open. Smith informed the Commission that the police department could be contacted after-hours and on weekends and they would contact parks and recreation staff. There were no public comments on this item.

Walker Park Fees - Artificial Turf Field - Weiss reviewed the staff report with one amendment to the charge for use of the field by Galt youth groups for tournaments or clinics. The charge would be \$100 per hours rather than \$50. Weiss emphasized the need to establish a restricted fund for replacement of the turf in the future. Moore asked about the joint use agreement with the high school and would there be changes needed. Weiss said the agreement was being renegotiated. Guerrero had concerns about the annual organization usage fee. He pointed out that some organizations have many participants and others a lot less so that the impact to the small groups would be a greater per participant. Weiss said he would look at the situation and present his analyze to Council at their meeting. Steele asked if security cameras

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would be installed and Weiss said they were included in the plans. Steele also asked about the replacement cost shown in the staff report. He understood it was \$1M. Weiss said the current cost for replacement was \$325,000 and that the reduced amount may be due to the current economy.

Chris Stiehr, county resident, commented that Stockton park was currently being handled by an outside company. The city was not running it. He expressed concerns about the \$1,500 annual usage fee and asked about limitation on usage and policy about bumping.

Weiss said he was going to do research on usage and assured Stiehr that no organization would be bumped if they were on the schedule for use of the field. Steele was very concerned about the \$1,500 fee and suggested \$1,200. Guerrero thought it was too much also. Moore suggested the possibility of a tiered fee based on size of an organization. There was concern that smaller groups would choose not to use the field. Moore asked if they had discussed more programs sponsored by the City that would utilize the field. Guerrero suggested an additional category on the fee chart, "Galt youth non-profits organization", such as Boy Scouts, etc.

ACTION: Moore moved to recommended to Council approval of the Walker Park artificial turf field and picnic site usage fees with the amendment that staff would analyze the organization fee for equity purposes and add the additional category of Galt based non-profit youth organizations; seconded by Guerrero. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Gamez said the "Community Gathering" event was a great idea.

Commissioner Smith asked if the website could contain an e-mail address for the Commission.

Commissioner Guerrero said he found the "Community Gathering" event informative. He mentioned that it was pointed out to him that there were very few activities in the city for middle-aged residents. He felt, based on questions from the public about baseball and softball at Walker Park, that there was very little information available on the status and plans for Walker Park. He suggested a news item or informational page on the website. Guerrero said he had received a positive comment on one of the parks and recreation staff, Armando Moralez, who had located a lost uniform for Boy Scout. Weiss said middle-aged programs/activities were planned for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Moore said he had enjoyed the "Community Gathering" event. He said he had invited high school staff to this Commission meeting.

Commissioner Steele suggested a fitness program in the park for the middle-aged group. He suggested a community gathering on weekends so that more of the citizens could participate.

Armando Solis invited the Commissioners to attend the championship baseball tournament at the sports complex the following Saturday.

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Gamez at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Cory, Commission Secretary