

**CITY OF GALT**

**MINUTES**

**GALT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive, Galt, California  
Wednesday, August 3, 2011**

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

Staff members present: Special Projects Administrator Solis, and Administrative Assistant Porteous-Toste.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** – Meeting of July 13, 2011.

**ACTION:** Smith moved to accept the minutes of the meeting of July 13, 2011; Guerrero seconded. Vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Youth Sports Athletic Field Lights Fees, and Player User Fees** - Solis began the meeting by noting that at the July 20, 2011, 5 out of the 7 organization came out to participate and give input. The Commissioners were very happy with the turn out.

Solis began the discussion by reviewing the Commission agenda report detailing the City Staff's recommendation to City Council which incorporated the input from the organizations represented at the meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Solis stated that this special meeting was called to ensure that the City's recommendation to City Council scheduled to go to City Council on August 16, 2011 was an accurate reflection of the organizations' input from that meeting. At this point Solis asked for any discussion from the Commissioners.

Guerrero began the discussion with concerns about a multiple sport participant (i.e. an individual playing on 3 soccer leagues and a baseball league – In this scenario the annual fee to this participant is \$40.00) and the undue financial hardship to the participant just because he is an outgoing youth and wants to be active in sports. Additionally he felt since the fee was a City imposed fee that the City should be responsible to collect that fee from the participant.

Guerrero commented that the Walker Park field was already being utilized as unauthorized players are already on the field. Solis responded that he has been made aware of the problem and has been working with staff to remedy this issue but that it comes down to enforcement. Solis believes that should not be a problem once the Park is officially online and Fall Sports usage has begun.

Guerrero raised concern with adding the \$10.00 fee for all athletic fields because originally he understood that the fee would be only for Walker Park and would be earmarked for the replacement of the Walker Park Artificial turf field in the future. His concerns included; 1) how the fees would be distributed (percentage %), 2) would the City during times of economic duress and budget cuts defer the fees collected to the general Park maintenance budget; and 3) what would happen to the future of Walker Park if in 10 years (with only a percentage of the \$10.00 player fee being set aside to Walker Park as is being presented) there was not enough money collected to replace the Walker Park field.

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After much discussion about previously reported revenue estimates and the anticipated revenue estimates to replace Walker Park, Solis told the Commissioners that he would go back over the information that had been presented to the Commissioners in previous meetings, and reports to get clarification. Solis assured them that whatever percentage of the fee collected for Walker Park replacement will have its own "identifiable" fund that would be set aside for Walker Park. Solis advised the Commissioners that a revenue report generated at anytime by the City with the identifiable account (Walker Park) activity would be available to them.

Solis also pointed out that in the recommendation that there will now be a regular semi-annual meeting between staff and Galt youth sports organization to identify where the money will be spent.

Guerrero and Steele raised concerns with the \$10.00 per player fee paid by the organization to the City beginning Fall 2011. The registration fees for the Fall 2011 season has already been collected by the organizations. To require the fee beginning Fall 2011 would cause an undue hardship to the organizations in that they would have to go to each of the registered participants and collect the additional fee. The Commissioners requested that the City consider starting collecting the fee beginning Winter 2012 (January 2012). At which time Steele asked how the City was going to handle the Jr. Warrior Program as they too have already paid there registration fees and begin Fall 2011. Solis responded that he did not believe in the current proposal the City programs were not subject to the \$10.00 per player Athletic Field usage fee but he would check.

All present Commissioners objected to the exclusion of the City youth program participants the fee. Their understanding had always been all youth sports participants. At which time other programs i.e. swim team, basketball etc. were brought up because they did not use the fields and should they be subject to the fee.

Solis assured the Commission that if it was their desire they can bring forth their own recommendation on this issue which Solis will include in the staff report presented to City Council on August 16<sup>th</sup> (date has since been change).

Guerrero moved to accept Staff's recommendations with an amendment to specify that all Galt Parks and Recreation youth sports programs also be included and charged the \$10.00 per player fee and that money be designated to the "identifiable" account for athletic field maintenance and the replacement of Walker Park's artificial turf. Steele seconded. A vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

Solis did let the Commissions know that he would be meeting with the City Manager the next day to discuss:

- 1) Start Date of the Field Usage per player fee to be paid to the City.
- 2) Whether or not the City Programs were included in the \$10.00 per player field usage fee.

Discussion and Recommendation to change time and meeting date (i.e. Bi-Monthly or quarterly)

Solis asked if the Commission wanted to continue to meet monthly or change the meetings to for examples bi-monthly or quarterly meeting. The Commission has to agree to any changes and then present them to City Council for approval as the meeting dates and times are set by ordinance in the City of Galt Municipal Code

Solis asked if there was any discussion from the Commissioners

Gamez was concerned that too much time between meetings may make him feel out of the loop or relaxed on possible issues that are going on and need attention.

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Solis assured them that a “Special” meeting could be called if there was anything that the Commission felt needed immediate attention before a regularly scheduled meeting.

Guerrero wanted to keep meeting monthly as he stated his activism for the City and the youth would be better represented for if he was on top of what was going on and the decision making. He was concerned about decisions made prior to his involvement and feels he may have been able to help in making better decisions for the City.

Smith suggested and motioned that in the absence of Commissioner Moore this item be tabled until the Wednesday, September 14, 2011 regularly scheduled meeting.

Guerrero seconded. A vote was called for and the motion carried unanimously.

Walker Park Opening Day – Solis noted the correct time for the ribbon cutting is at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 6, 2011.

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

Commissioner Gamez is looking forward to the Grand Opening of Walker Park on Saturday, August 6, 2011.

Commissioner Smith had none.

Commissioner Guerrero stated he hoped to be at the Ribbon Cutting at Walker Park on Saturday, August 6, 2011.

Commissioner Moore was absent.

Commissioner Steele had none.

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Gamez at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Porteous-Toste, Administrative Assistant