

CITY OF GALT

MINUTES

GALT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive, Galt, California
Wednesday, September 14, 2011

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

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

CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA - None.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Al Baldwin, Concern Citizen and a part time employee at the Greer Middle School came to voice his concerns about the Greer Basin. He would like to take the students out into the Basin to play but has found that the grounds to be muddy and over watered. He stated the water goes off every night for hours and many of the sprinklers are broken. With the extremely wet ground there are now concerns of the infestation of mosquitoes. He has spoken to Armando and was directed to the Commission to voice his concerns.

Mr. Baldwin has tried to speak to the landscapers to no avail due to a language barrier. He noted not only is the majority of the Basin overly wet but on the Southwest side of the park by the basketball courts the sprinklers are broken and is completely dry and dead.

Armando advised Mr. Baldwin and the Commission that Staff would be completing a Work Order (internal form) to inform Park Maintenance to look into the problem.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – Meeting of August 3, 2011.

ACTION: Steele moved to accept the minutes of the meeting of August 3, 2011, 2nd by Smith. Vote was called for and the motion carried 4 – 1 (Moore abstained due to his absence).

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Youth Sports Athletic Field Lights Fees, and Player User Fees – City Council Meeting, September 6, 2011.

Solis gave an overview of the approved staff report and fees approve by the City Council. Fee, identified account, and reduction of the fee for light usage for the youth sports organizations to \$15/hr and all others \$35/hr.

Guerrero voiced his concerns that Staff went to City Council without bringing the item back to the Commission first. Armando reiterated that the recommendation put forth by the Commission at the August 3rd Special Meeting was included as well as Staff's recommendation in the Staff report for City Council's consideration. Guerrero is still concerned about procedure and when an item is brought to the Commission for input before going to City Council.

Steele requested to have documentation of the new fees available . Solis stated the Department would be updating the Fee Schedule on the website as soon as the minutes of the August 16th Council Meeting had been approved by City Council.

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NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Future Agenda Items
(Informational)

Solis brought to the Commission the procedure for agendizing items for the next meeting. He advised the Commission that any items to be discussed at the next Commission meeting needed to be agendized at this meeting under item #9 or during the Commissioners Reports. Guerrero asked about items that may arise between meetings that may need to be addressed. Solis reiterated the procedure as he was instructed. Smith noted that if the Commission or Staff felt an item necessary of a Special Meeting one could be called to address such an item.

- b. Online Program Registration
(Informational)

Solis reported that all contracts have been signed and software purchased. Active (Software company) is doing off sight work on the server and plans to come in September 27th to train staff with hopes to be online October 1st. Solis noted that the current basketball registration program would not be implemented this year but programs such at the City Tots preschool program as well as the upcoming T-ball/Softball and Jr. Warriors' programs in January would be available for online registration.

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

Moore was appreciative that the Commission chose to wait to include him on this item. After a short discussion the Commission was in agreement to leave them as they are as this Commission wants to stay involved, informed and on top of issues. Moore move to continue the monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Steele. Motion passes unanimously.

- d. Walker Park – Guerrero

Solis turned the discussion over to Guerrero's agenda item questions/concerns.

- i. Usage fees for the Remainder of the Year

User fees charged to the youth organizations will begin January 2012. Questions arose from Guerrero and Steele regarding usage of Walker Park before January 2012 and those agencies that are not in "the loop or plugged in" at the present and how to make sure they can use the fields and they would go about doing so. Solis responded that as with all of our facilities, organization, individuals, etc. need to contact the Parks and Recreation Department. At which time the Department will implement its usage policies for usage of the requested facility including Walker Park.

- ii. Who is authorized to use the field – any organization

Again contact must come to the Parks and Recreation Department. Solis reiterated that for Walker Park (all organizations that wish to utilize the field) the president/designee will make requests monthly and requests for October are due September 26th.

Along with Guerrero's concerns about getting the information out to those not in the program, Steele and Moore would like to see more outreach with regards to utilization and the upcoming player usage fee so organizations can plan for it. Steele suggested to not only use the Department and the City's website, but to additionally utilize the Galt Herald (Parks and Recreation Digest), signage, etc. to let the Community

and others know about our new park and how to go about using the facility. Solis responded that there is

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a Kiosk at the Park that has the schedule and information on the Parks usage.

iii. Are there permits issued

Solis reported that Consultant to the City, Barry Weiss is drafting a permit. Currently we are scheduling practices monthly and all games schedules have been scheduled.

iv. Will there be information about the field online.

The Department along with Parks, Planning, IT is working on this. At the present time there is a fee schedule on the website that includes all of the approved Walker Park fees.

e. Walker Park Restroom Availability – Guerrero

The restrooms at Walker are open when the park is open. Guerrero stated there were times when he and others were at McCaffrey and the restrooms were not open. Solis reiterated that on all of the Departments' facilities unless removed by vandalism have a sign with a phone number to call for that purpose.

Guerrero also noted the difference in the flushing button at Walker versus Veterans. Assuming the difference is that Walker is newer, larger and easier still had issue with the difficulty in using the flushing button at the Veterans restroom. He was concerned that it may not be ADA compliant as children and disabled people would not be able to push the button. Smith also brought up some of the restroom in the Northeast area have flush levers that are too high and difficult to reach for those individuals that maybe wheelchair bound or disabled. Solis said he would address this with the Parks Superintendent.

f. Keys to various Parks and Recreation fields and who is authorized to open fields – Guerrero

Guerrero commented that on occasion he would arrive at Walker Park and the gate appeared closed but upon pushing on it discovered it was opened. Solis responded that the park is being opened by staff ½ hour before scheduled usage.

Guerrero indicated that individuals other than Parks and Recreation Staff had keys to facilities (specifically the Sports Complex). Solis responded that the head coach at LRHS boys' baseball has a key to the Community Park field and the head coach from GHS girls' softball too has a key to the Sports Complex. The Girls softball head coach is also a coach for the Galt Illusion which are currently practicing at the Sports Complex.

g. Adult Soccer League – Guerrero

Staff has received one inquiry for Adult Soccer and is looking into having an Adult Soccer League. The Department wants to first make sure before beginning such a league that it does not conflict with the Youth leagues' requests first. We are looking to schedule the league later, i.e. January since there is no need to close due to inclement weather.

h. Access to Parks and Recreation with limited staff or furlough days – Guerrero

Staff is asking organizations not to schedule practices on Fridays due to the Department's closures and furloughs. Staff however will consider Friday requests especially for games. Guerrero again brought up the idea of issuing keys to others due to our closures. Solis stated that the Park Superintendent is very reluctant to give keys to non City personnel.

Guerrero added that Labor Day weekend Walker Park was officially closed but many were using it

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illegally by jumping the fencing/gate. Solis responded that once the signs are in place that let individuals know that they will be trespassing then the Police will respond. Additionally, the Police Department is being provided a copy of the Walker Park schedule and officers will be responsible for dealing with those issues.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner Gamez had none

Commissioner Smith asked if Troy Bonnet, Parks Superintendent would be attending the Commission meetings. Solis responded no but that staff would bring back any questions or issues to him and bring information/response back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Commissioner Guerrero wanted to know if the six LRHS games scheduled at Walker Park would affect the other organizations requests. Once again Solis reiterated that we have a facility use agreement with the School District and he is taking all of the organizations' requests monthly and has been able facilitate the organizations' requests.

Requested to be informed on upcoming Staff Reports the Department will be taking to City Council and when does the Commission have input into the Staff Report to City Council.

- September 20th – Lighting of the Night Parade (decision between two routes presented) with the Inaugural Hospice Tree of Lights in conjunction with the parade. (Commission Steele wanted to know if the Commission would have input in that decision, Solis let them know that this issue needed to be decided in time to be put in the City's newsletter for the Community).
- September 20th – Waiver of fees for the use of the Littleton Center for the Thanksgiving Baskets Distribution to the Communities needy – St. Christopher's Church
- September 20th – Request from the Historical Society for Equipment Usage
- Upcoming:
 - Winter Rental Market Fees – will bring to the Commission for recommendation
 - Community Signs – Part of the Strategic Plan Update

Guerrero would like to know who is doing the landscaping at Greer, City or contract landscapers.

Commissioner Moore referred Staff to look at the Ceres Adult Soccer league which is quite large and successful. Solis reported that the Department has inquired and received information on approximately 10 different leagues, cities etc. to get information from regarding fees, structure, etc.

Asked if any of the City information will be provided in Spanish? Solis said no only English.

Concerned about the traffic condition at Sargent and Orr, Moore inquired if any changes were going to take place at that intersection. Also he wanted to know if we were aware of any safety issues or accidents reported. Co-Chair Smith responded that they have gotten calls from the few surrounding homes about people parking on the Westside shoulder. Wants the information on the Traffic and any possible improvements planned for future phases "AGENDIZED"

Moore would also like to AGENDIZE the Joint Use Agreement as it is 10 years old and was told it was being revisited. Quote from his notes from Barry Weiss "Walker Park was triggering(?) the contract to be renegotiated and that currently the entire joint use agreement is being reviewed for renewal"

Commissioner Steele had questions about the status of the Railroad Property. Solis stated that it is moving forward but did not have a time frame.

Steele revisited the bike path problem brought forward at Deadman's Gulch by Commissioner Guerrero

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to find out what if anything had been done about the flooded area of concern. Solis believes that a flashing crosswalk has been constructed over the problem area.

Steele also has issues with the Facility Use Agreement and its usage limits and recalls also that it was to be renegotiated. Steele feels that the agreement needs to be renegotiated. He would also like the Commission to be involved in the negotiations and meet with the district.

Steele would like to have more signage than just the Kiosk at the Walker Park for the Community to see what's going on at the Park. Solis did advise the Commission that the corner of Sargent and Orr is one of the locations that is being proposed for the new Community Signs.

Steele asked about the new overpass and if they would they have bike lanes. He also hoped that the lanes would eventually connect to Carillion Blvd. Solis reported that the A Street overpass to be completed December 2011 and believes that the bike lanes to Carillion Blvd is in the plan.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) Traffic – Sargent and Orr (EIR) – Have current and future traffic issues been addressed.
- 2) Schools Joint Use Agreement

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Gamez at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Porteous-Toste, Administrative Assistant