

CITY OF GALT

MINUTES

GALT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive, Galt, California
Wednesday, October 10, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Gamez. Roll call was taken. Gamez, Moore, and Buchanan were in attendance.

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

CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA - None

PUBLIC COMMENT – 3 Speakers presented speaker sheets to address the Commission on issues at the Monterey Dog Park.

Speaker Nancy Hart voiced her concerns about both the fertilizer and the watering at the park. She showed pictures of her dog's paws that are raw and irritated as she states is only present when the dog visits at our park. She is asking the City to consider dog friendly fertilizer. She also commented on the watering and the areas that are flooded and mushy while other areas are almost dead and dry.

Speaker Greg Hanks lives 4 houses from the park and is there almost daily. He reiterated the watering problem and has concerns about how maintenance is handling the watering. He believes it is being overwatered which also leads to his concerns about mosquitoes around the standing water.

Speaker Jim Sawyer who lives on Bateman way says the park is a Community Gathering Place and voiced the same sentiments as the previous speakers. He believes the Park watering is inconsistent and noted the valve boxes are lower than the landscape which allows for standing water which certain dogs love to dig in. This then makes the problem worse.

Selby responded that after they were made aware of the problems watering was cut back and finally turned off on Thursday. He explained that there has not been any fertilizer applied to the park since June of this year.

Mr. Sawyer believes with the soil being clay that the fertilizer is still prominent and the sulfate based fertilizer is salty and feels that the dogs may attempt to eat or lick it and get sick.

Selby said he and his staff are staying on top of the problem and will look into the Dog Friendly Fertilizer as requested when they are getting ready to fertilize again. He asked if any volunteers in the audience would be available to meet him and staff at the park at 8:00 a.m. Thursday morning to go over the park and look at the areas of concern. Both Jim Sawyer and Nancy Hart volunteered.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- a. Meeting of September 12, 2012.

ACTION: Gamez moved to accept the minutes of September 10, 2012 and the motion was seconded by Steele. Vote was called for and acceptance of the minutes passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Subject:** West Side Horseshoe Pits - Selby

Selby updated the Commissioners stating he was still gathering the information and will report back at the next meeting. Steele asked if he had met with Mr. Grace regarding the donations of materials and man power. Selby explained he had been out of town in training for a week and had not been able to meet with him yet.

- b. **Subject:** Lighting of the Night Parade – Solis

Solis reported that the Commission recommendation for the compromised 2011 parade route would be included in the November 6, 2012 staff report to the City Council. He also informed them that the Shop Local Committee had withdrawn their parade route request for the shortened route.

- c. **Subject:** Parks and Recreation report to C.A.S.T. regarding the Youth Master Plan – Gamez and Moore

Gamez reported that he and Commissioner Moore had presented the ideas of the Adult Soccer and the Health Fair to the group. The group was very supportive and along with that suggested that the Health Fair may be held in conjunction with when the student athlete physicals are being required.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Subject:** Harassment Training – Solis
(Informational)

Solis let Commissioner know that the Harassment Training was required by all the Commissioners. Gamez would not be required unless he chose to submit to Council a request for and was reappointed to the Commission. The City has two on site trainings being held and Solis asked the Commissioners to let Debbie know when they can attend. If they could not attend either of the scheduled trainings, we would get them information for an online training.

- b. **Subject:** Market Winter Fees – Solis
(Recommendation to Council)

Solis is asking the Commission for a recommendation for the temporary reduction of rates to the Market vendors for the months of January and February 2013 which are typically the “slow” months for the market. Solis said that the City has implemented the lower fees since 2009 and it has been very helpful for the vendors and keeping the spaces sold. If recommended this cut has been anticipated and included in the current budget revenue projections.

ACTION: Steele moved to recommend to City Council the Market Winter Fees and the motion was seconded by Buchanan Vote was called for and acceptance of the minutes passed unanimously.

UPCOMING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Library Lease – October 16th
Solis reported that the City would be extending the lease for 5 years at the same rate which is approximately \$31,000 annually with a 3% increase annually. This money is basically for the cost to maintain the Library.
- b. Lighting of the Night Event – November 6th – Solis reported the Shop Local event will be held at the Littleton Center with a stage for performances. After the performances (High School, City Tots, etc) the City tree will be lit at the corner of C and Civic and the parade will pass through town on the 2011 compromised route.
- c. Winter Market Fees – November 6th – Will present the Commission’s recommendation to City Council at the upcoming meeting.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

- a. Chairperson Steele – Steele asked if there were irrigation issues at Greer – Selby responded yes and that staff is working to locate the problem and fix it.
- b. Vice- Chairperson Smith - absent
- c. Commissioner Buchanan – GYB and the maintenance of the Parks that they utilize. Whose responsibility is it for the park maintenance? Solis explained that as a “Park” the maintenance provided by our maintenance staff is satisfactory for a park but is not sufficient for a playing field for organized baseball. Solis pointed out that the City has no programs offered or played on at the Harvey, Meadowview, or Community Park. So the park in the off season and with no games the fields are not pristine as they are during the season but are well maintained. When the baseball season begins it is when you see the volunteers out in force to make the park fields, bleachers, dugouts, etc. to their higher expectations and specifications.
- Another concern is the Department’s Mens’ Softball League. He has concerns about the different divisions and how there is an inequity amongst the teams. He also would like to see the bats used provided by the Department to eliminate the illegal bats that are being used by league players. Solis explained he is aware of the problems with the number of teams and having 5 levels of play 5 (A, B, C, D, and Rec) . This season there is reduction to three levels of play, Upper, Lower and Rec in hopes to remedy some of the inequity in the teams. Also, the umpires are GSSA umpires and it is their responsibility to check the bats and eject players using illegal bats. GSSA has bat checkers that they bring out on occasion to check bats. The Department is looking into purchasing one for the department use to have at the Complex at all times for bat inspections, so as to eliminate the usage of the illegal bats.
- d. Commissioner Gamez – none
- e. Commissioner Moore – absent

UPCOMING EVENTS

- a. Lighting of the Night Event – December 1, 2012
- b. LRHS Homecoming Parade – October 5, 2012 (over)
- c. GHS Homecoming Parade – November 2, 2012

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Porteous-Toste, Administrative Assistant