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NEWS

Galion pool pass wording more inclusive

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GALION – After much discussion and debate, the Galion City Council’s parks and recreation committee came to a decision Thursday evening on new wording for an ordinance addressing family pool passes.

The three-person committee has decided the wording will be a group pass that includes up to two adults and an unlimited number of children, age 18 and younger, who are related to at least one of the two adults.

The original wording for a family pool pass includes a mother, father and three children.

“In today’s world, the old way doesn’t work anymore. You have grandparents raising children, aunts and uncles, same sex couples and single parents. We want to make the pool affordable to as many people as we can,” said committee chairman Shirley Clark.

The issue came to the forefront two weeks ago when Melody Mohn tried to get a pass for her family, which includes her four children and her same-sex partner, Hela Young.

Mohn said for her children to go to the pool without a family pass was too expensive for her to afford.

“It’s \$16 each time they go, and they like to go as much as possible throughout the summer,” Mohn has said.

The price of a family pass was \$105 for the season, which will be the same rate as the new group pass if council as a whole approves the amended ordinance at the next city council meeting Tuesday.

Galion resident Bob Cerar argued that the council is attempting to change the definition of family.

“By law, a family has to be people who are related by blood, marriage or adoption,” Cerar said.

City Law Director David Keller said that is not the case.

“From a legal standpoint, what is being proposed now does not conflict with our constitution of what marriage or a family is. We’re simply going with a totally different arrangement for people to get a pool pass that will include adults and children,” Keller said.

Mohn said the amount of media coverage on the issue has been overwhelming.

“As is all of the support that people have shown, not just in our community but nationally. As for the negative comments, we choose to take the good with the bad. Thankfully, the support outweighs anything negative that some people may say,” Mohn said.

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