

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 8, 2010
6:30 P.M.

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Converse Met for a Regular Meeting in the City Hall Conference Room Located at 405 S. Seguin to Discuss the Following Agenda Items:

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Chairwoman Dopierala called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Introduction of New Members.

New members, Mr. Everet Taylor, Ms. Janie Olds, and Mr. Leon Stubbs were all introduced. All of the members, new and old, then spoke briefly regarding their motivations for joining the Commission.

3. Roll Call.

Ms. Renee Dopierala, Chairwoman	Mr. Sam Perez, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jeff Beehler, Member	Ms. Tulita Harris, Member
Mr. Leon Stubbs, Member	Mr. Everet Taylor, Member
Ms. Janie Olds, Member	Councilman John Shadron, Liaison
Mr. John Quintanilla, Interim City Manager	Ms. Leigh Ann Rogers, Secretary

Visitors were Councilman Grant Lopez, Mr. James Karshis, and Mr. Brian Paschal.

4. Citizens to be Heard. This Time is Provided for Citizens to Address Parks and Recreation Commission on Any Issues and Concerns. No Parks and Recreation Commission Discussion or Action Can Be Taken if the Item is not on the Agenda. Please Limit Your Remarks to Three (3) Minutes and State Your Name and Address for the Record.

There were no citizens to be heard.

5. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Conducted October 11, 2010.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting conducted October 11, 2010 was made by Mr. Beehler. Seconded by Ms. Harris. Motion passed unanimously with three abstentions (Taylor, Stubbs, and Olds) who were not present or yet members at last month's meeting.

6. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Mr. Leon Stubb's Absence from the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Scheduled for October 11, 2010.

When asked why he was not present and did not contact anyone prior to the meeting regarding his absence, Mr. Stubbs responded that he was not yet familiar with the meeting practices. Mr. Beehler then made a motion to NOT excuse Mr. Stubbs' absence from the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting scheduled for October 11, 2010. Seconded by Ms. Harris. Motion passed unanimously with three abstentions (Stubbs, Taylor, and Olds).

7. Briefing conducted by Live Oak Disc Golf Alliance about the Disc Golf Sport.

Presentation from Mr. Brian Paschal and James Karshis followed by questions and answers.

8. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Conducted October 11, 2010.

* Note – this item was erroneously placed on the agenda twice (see agenda item # 5).
Chairwoman Dopierala requested to omit this agenda item.

9. Discussion and Action for Park and Shine, Car Show.

Following a brief discussion, Ms. Olds volunteered to assist Mr. Beehler with preparations for this event. A motion was then made to host the first Park and Shine on January 8, 2011 at 402 S. Seguin from 11 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with no admission fees by Ms. Harris. Seconded by Ms. Olds. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and Action to Appoint Parks and Recreation Commission Member to Develop a Bird Guide for Bird Watchers.

Chairwoman Dopierala began the discussion by pointing out that Mr. Stubbs had brought to her attention the San Antonio Audubon Society website lists Converse North Park as a birding site and distributed handouts with the information listed. Chairwoman Dopierala then suggested creating signage providing bird information to those interested to post throughout Converse North Park. With their acceptance, Ms. Olds nominated Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Taylor to manage this project. Ms. Olds then made the motion to task Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Taylor with development of this project. Seconded by Mr. Beehler. Motion passed unanimously.

* Note – skipped ahead to agenda item # 13 here.

11. Discussion and Action to Plan Two or More Park Activities for 2011.

Discussion included:

- Other park activities in the area.
- Possible partnership with the American Legion to host a haunted house/Halloween party. Chairwoman Dopierala volunteered to research this project.
- One activity already established, the Park and Shine.
- Easter Egg Hunt logistics. Ms. Harris and Ms. Olds appointed as coordinators.

Motion to approve hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at Converse North Park on April 16, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to noon with Ms. Harris and Ms. Olds as the event coordinators was made by Ms. Harris. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.

Interim City Manager, Mr. Quintanilla, departed the meeting at approximately 8:25 p.m.

12. Discussion and Action to Conduct Fundraiser at the City of Converse 50th Celebration.

Brief discussion included suggestions to set up a Parks and Recreation Commission tent with photos and literature and to coordinate a raffle.

Motion to have a raffle at the City of Converse 50th Celebration was made by Mr. Beehler. Seconded by Ms. Harris. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Discuss Park Survey Results.

Discussion included:

- Councilman Shadron reported statistics regarding how many surveys were mailed out, where they were sent, and how many came back.
- Commentary on walking trails, small investment with big return and promotes health and wellness.
- Suggestion to give park a facelift before consideration of walking trails, nothing to see while walking.
- Requests for maps and tour of park to discuss logistics for walking trails.
- Seek assistance from Boy Scouts or other civic groups for walking trail project.
- Additional lighting.

* Note – back to agenda item # 11.

14. Discussion to Identify Needs for Converse City Park and Converse North Park for Park Master Plan.

Discussion included:

- Previously identified a need for basketball courts at City Park and to finalize construction of new restroom at North Park along with suggestions for walking trails and additional lighting.
- Suggestions to utilize park maps and surveys to develop discussions for Master Plan.
- Ms. Harris volunteered to contact Mr. David Baezinger from UTSA to attempt to establish a point of contact for information on developing a master plan.
- Interim City Manager, Mr. Quintanilla, may attend a future meeting, possibly January, to brief and advise on grants and other possible methods of funding for park projects.

15. Briefing of Duties and Guidelines for the Parks and Recreation Commission Members.

Chairwoman Dopierala read aloud several excerpts from Ordinance 303 and asked all of the members of the Commission to stay focused and enthusiastic about their duties.

16. Update on Solar Lights for Parks.

Councilman Shadron reported meeting with Interim City Manager, Mr. Quintanilla, and Parks and Recreation Secretary, Ms. Rogers, to discuss the status of the grant which was supposedly approved to make monies available for solar lights for the parks. It was determined that a grant package was mailed to receive the funding for the solar lights. However, the individual who received the grant request is no longer employed with the organization and no action was ever taken with regard to the processing of the paperwork. Since this discovery was made, a new contract has since been written and is awaiting review and signatures. Further updates next meeting.

17. Briefing by City Council Liaison.

Councilman Shadron reported on the Oct 14th Town Hall meeting, several appointments to various City Commissions, an approved contract for the building of the North Park restroom, the passing of a no texting while driving ordinance in Converse, the appointment of a committee for next year's 50th anniversary celebration, attempts to form a local government corporation with several cities in the Metrocom for the purchase and transportation of additional water rights, and several awards and recognitions to include a contribution totaling \$600 to the Judson Education Foundation for the 2nd annual Thanksgiving feast.

18. Discussion of Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

- Pets in parks discussion.
- Park and Shine update.
- Bird guide update.
- Master plan discussion using aerial maps and additional park survey results.
- Solar lights update.

19. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting – December 13, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will take place on December 13, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. as regularly scheduled.

20. Adjournment.

Chairwoman Dopierala adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.