

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
DECEMBER 13, 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 6:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Recognition of Visitors.

Ms. Renee Dopierala, Chairwoman	Mr. Jeff Beehler, Member
Ms. Tulita Harris, Member	Mr. Leon Stubbs, Member
Ms. Janie Olds, Member	Councilman John Shadron, Liaison
Mr. John Quintanilla, Interim City Manager	Mr. Karl Hoppes, Director of Facilities
Ms. Leigh Ann Rogers, Secretary	

Vice-Chairman, Mr. Sam Perez, contacted Chairwoman Dopierala earlier in the day to report his inability to attend this meeting due to illness.

Recognized visitors were Ms. Kathy Selko and Councilman Steve Brown.

3. 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.

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

Motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting conducted November 8, 2010 was made by Mr. Jeff Beehler. Seconded by Ms. Janie Olds. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Briefing on Progress of Converse North Park Restrooms Project and Update on Solar Lights for Parks. (Karl Hoppes, Director of Facilities and John Quintanilla, Interim City Manager)

Briefing from Mr. Hoppes and Mr. Quintanilla followed by questions and answers.

*Note – Mr. Everet Taylor, Member, arrived shortly after the briefing began at approximately 6:38 p.m.

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

Discussion included:

- Councilwoman Dopierala reported research on several grant opportunities from the Texas Parks and Wildlife but requests along with a master plan need to be submitted several months in advance.
- Ms. Harris reported several unsuccessful attempts to contact Mr. Baezinger from UTSA regarding assistance for preparation of a master plan. Ms. Harris then stated she would seek other avenues for this information in the future.
- Mr. Quintanilla reported several surrounding cities have their parks master plans available to view online and suggested using them as guide. Mr. Quintanilla also mentioned most of these master plans were probably created by hired consultants.
- Suggestions to enlist the use of urban planning students from local colleges who may be willing to create a master plan as part of their studies. Ms. Harris volunteered to follow up with this task.

*Note - Mr. Quintanilla departed the meeting at approximately 7:35 p.m.

7. Update Discussion for Park and Shine Scheduled for January 8, 2011. (Mr. Beehler and Ms. Olds)

Discussion included:

- Ms. Olds reported discussing with Ms. Sandra Dungan the Commission's desire to participate in the 2nd Saturday festivities.
- Flyer created.
- Several contacts have been made and should attend.
- Utilization of the City marquee sign, the water bills, and the Herald newspaper free calendar for advertising.
- Change time of function from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. to 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

- Anyone wishing to assist can arrive as early as 9:30 a.m. and anytime thereafter all throughout the day.

8. Update Discussion on the Development of a Bird Guide for Bird Watchers at Converse North Park. (Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Taylor)

Discussion included:

- Mr. Taylor reported several unsuccessful attempts at making contact with someone from the Audubon Society.
- Mr. Stubbs managed to make contact with Ms. Sheridan Coffey of the Audubon Society just this day and stated Ms. Coffey is anxious to meet with the Commission.

9. Update Discussion on Easter Egg Hunt Event Scheduled for April 16, 2011. (Ms. Harris and Ms. Olds)

Discussion included:

- No report yet.
- Suggestion for pictures with the Easter Bunny.
- Possible relocation of function if improvements to North Park facilities are in progress at that time.

10. Update Discussion on Potential 2011 Halloween Event with the American Legion. (Chairwoman Dopierala)

Chairwoman Dopierala reported discussions with the Post Commander and Service Officer with positive feedback regarding a joint event. More to come.

11. Discussion and Action on Addressing the Problem of Pet Owners Not Cleaning Up Their Pet's Waste in Converse City Parks.

Discussion included:

- Discussions from previous meetings resulted in signage being placed around the parks.
- Suggestion for designated areas for pets in the parks.
- Costs for commercial-type equipment would need to be added into the budget.
- Suggestions for more basic implementations such as placing plastic shopping bags and labeled waste receptacle stations around the parks.
- More research needed.

Motion to table this agenda item by Ms. Harris. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and Action to Determine a Parks and Recreation Commission Logo.

A brief discussion led to a mutual agreement that more research is needed before a decision can be made. Motion to table this agenda item by Ms. Olds. Seconded by Ms. Harris. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Briefing by City Council Liaison.

Councilman Shadron reported on three recent public hearings. Two were regarding rezoning and the other was a Special Use Permit for an automated ice machine. One of the zoning requests was tabled, the other was disapproved, and the SPU was approved. Approved changes to Ordinances #620 and #619. Approval to purchase a new digital marquee sign. A briefing from Chief Wendt on firefighting apparatus. Council approval to form a corporation with several cities in the Metrocom for the purpose of making additional water supplies available in the future. Approved a City newsletter. In process of selecting a new City Manager. Employee recognitions included Sgt Jeff Shook for more than fifteen years of service and Jay Tavernier for more than five years of service. Recognition of A to Z Rentals, Wal-Mart, and Converse Fire/EMS Department for their support of the Blue Santa Program.

14. Discussion of Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

- Bring back agenda items # 11 and # 12.
- Update reports on 2011 events.
- Update report on research for assistance with master plan.
- Briefing from Interim City Manager on funding possibilities and research on footbridge for North Park.

15. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting – January 10, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will take place on January 10, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. as regularly scheduled.

16. Adjournment.

Chairwoman Dopierala adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.