

MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MARCH 14, 2011  
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.**

Chairman Stubbs called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call and Recognition of Visitors.**

Mr. Leon Stubbs, Chairman  
Mr. Jeff Beehler, Member  
Mr. Everet Taylor, Member  
Mr. Steve Bissell, Member  
Ms. Leigh Ann Rogers, Secretary

Mr. Sam Perez, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Tulita Harris, Member  
Ms. Janie Olds, Member  
Councilman John Shadron, Liaison

Visitors:

Mr. John Woolery and Mr. Andy Selko representing the Converse Fire Academy Citizens Alumni Association, Ms. Joanne Jordan, Ms. Priscilla Banks, and Ms. Laura Beehler.

**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.**

Ms. Joanne Jordan and Ms. Priscilla Banks, members of the Baha'i faith, expressed interest in planting a tree at an undetermined City location on Arbor Day. Their contact information was obtained and provided to Chairman Stubbs for follow-up on their request.

**4. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Conducted February 16, 2011.**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting conducted February 16, 2011 was made by Mr. Beehler. Seconded by Ms. Olds. Motion passed unanimously with two abstentions, Vice-Chairman Perez and Ms. Harris, who were not present for the meeting.

**5. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve a Joint Easter Egg Hunt with the Converse Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Association.**

Mr. Woolery and Mr. Selko presented their plan to host an Easter Egg Hunt at Converse North Park on April 16, 2011 which included plans to sell food items as a fundraiser. In addition, they requested the assistance of the Park and Recreation Commission members to conduct the activity and provide financial support. Monies raised would be used to facilitate building projects and support items for the Converse Fire Department.

Chairman Stubbs requested Ms. Olds to act as the point of contact for the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding this event. Ms. Olds accepted.

A motion to approve participation in an Easter Egg Hunt on April 16, 2011 at Converse North Park with the Converse Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Association and a donation of, up to but not to exceed, \$150 towards the event was made by Mr. Beehler. Seconded by Mr. Bissell. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Host and/or Participate in a 09/11/11 Ceremony.**

Discussion included:

- American Legion to spear-head this event.
- Park has been reserved by Councilman Shadron.
- Need to find bagpipe player.
- Breakfast currently being made available at American Legion after ceremony. Inquire about possibility of bringing breakfast out to the event.
- Designate Parks and Recreation member to attend American Legion meetings and act as liaison.

Motion to approve participation in a 9/11/11 ceremony with Mr. Beehler acting as the Parks and Recreation Commission liaison was made by Ms. Harris. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Host a Halloween Event in 2011. (Ms. Harris)**

Discussion included:

- Haunted hayride suggested.
- Hayride would require tractor and trailer. Liability may be problematic.
- Scary movie in the park suggested. No fee charged for entry.
- Need to obtain big screen for movie viewing. Contact Time Warner Cable.

- Popcorn sales and costume contest suggested.
- Ms. Harris and Vice-Chairman Perez designated coordinators.
- Starting time to be determined at a later date.
- Ms. Harris will be out of town on the actual day of the event, but, will assist in event planning leading up to the date.

Motion to approve hosting a “Scary Movie in the Park” at Converse North Park on Saturday, October 29, 2011 with Ms. Harris and Vice-Chairman Perez as the designated coordinators was made by Ms. Olds. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Update Discussions for Parks and Recreation Commission Scheduled Events for 2011.**

**A. Park and Shine. (Mr. Beehler and Ms. Olds)**

Mr. Beehler suggested bringing back the Park and Shine in May now that the weather is better. Second Saturday in May is May 14<sup>th</sup>. Elections will be taking place on that date as well, but, will continue planning for the event for May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Easter Egg Hunt Participation with Other Organizations. (Ms. Olds)**

As previously established during agenda item # 5, Parks and Recreation Commission will assist the Converse Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Association with an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16, 2011.

**C. Joint Halloween Event with American Legion.**

The Parks and Recreation Commission will host their own fundraiser for Halloween, “Scary Movie in the Park” on Saturday, October 29, 2011. Joint event with the American Legion will be removed from future agendas.

**D. City of Converse 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Raffle – April 9, 2011.**

Vice-Chairman Perez reported obtaining a horse-shoe set to add to the raffle items. Ms. Harris offered to provide a hand-made ice-chest to add to the raffle items. Ms. Olds and Vice-Chairman Perez reported they would be unable to provide much assistance at the raffle booth due to their other obligations at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Chairman Stubbs reported he would be present and available to assist at the raffle booth.

**9. Update Discussion on the Development of a Bird Guide for Bird Watchers and Butterfly Garden at Converse North Park. (Chairman Stubbs, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Bissell)**

No report.

**10. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve the Creation of a Dog Run/Dog Park at a Specified Converse Park Location. (Mr. Taylor)**

Costs and acreage needed were discussed. Mr. Taylor reported he was not suggesting a project of great expense, but rather, simply creating a pet-friendly environment by providing park users the means to clean up after their pets. It was determined that this concept has already been discussed in previous meetings and approved for addition into the next FY budget request.

Motion to disapprove the creation of a dog run/dog park at this time was made by Ms. Olds. Seconded by Ms. Harris. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Councilman Shadron reported on the strategic planning process currently in progress. Chairman Stubbs reported his acceptance for participation and requested Ms. Harris to also participate. Vice-Chairman Perez and Mr. Taylor also expressed a desire to participate. Chairman Stubbs reported that Vice-Chairman Perez and Mr. Taylor could be designated alternates for the strategic planning process.

The members then collectively agreed to focus solely on the Parks Master Plan/Budget Process at the next regular meeting scheduled for April 11, 2011. Director of Facilities, Mr. Karl Hoppes, will be invited to attend the meeting to assist in cost analysis for park projects.

**12. Briefing by City Council Liaison.**

Councilman Shadron reported on the new City Manager's background and start date, a public hearing for the City of Converse to issue certificates of obligation for improving the infrastructure of our water supply, an operational and finance report was presented by Mr. Darrell Harris for the Cardinals, a briefing regarding placement of video screens in Council chambers, several contracts for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration were approved, briefing on the new City website, and the closing date for filing for the May 14<sup>th</sup> election (March 14<sup>th</sup>) and those that filed.

**13. Discussion of Agenda Items for Next Meeting.**

- Parks Master Plan/Budget Discussion.

**14. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting – April 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.**

Next meeting will take place on April 11, 2011 as regularly scheduled.

**15. Adjournment.**

Chairman Stubbs adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.