

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
September 12, 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	Ms. Tulita Harris, Member
Ms. Janie Olds, Member	Mr. Steve Bissell, Member
Councilwoman Kathy Richel, Liaison	Ms. Shawna Dowell, City Manager
Mr. Karl Hoppes, Director of Facilities	Ms. Leigh Ann Rogers, Secretary

Vice-Chairman Sam Perez and Alternate Member John Shadron reported their absences prior to this meeting.

One visitor, Mr. Rex Brien, representing JYSF.

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 August 8, 2011.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting conducted August 8, 2011 was made by Ms. Olds. Seconded by Mr. Beehler. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve a Contract Between the Judson Youth Sports Foundation (JYSF) and the City of Converse.

Mr. Rex Brien was present to speak on behalf of JYSF. Mr. Brien asked several questions including:

- Possibility of usage of City Park fields #3 & #4 for the week following NIOC. Answer, no. North Park fields are, however, available. Also mentioned, City staff will do everything possible to ensure fields have been cleared of debris following NIOC.
- Possibility of getting fill dirt placed in cracks on field for safety? Answer, yes. Unfortunately, over 162,000 gallons of water have been placed on fields since August, but that just hasn't been enough to prevent the cracks. The City will provide fill dirt for the cracks.
- Can additional road base be placed nearby football field at City Park for improved wheelchair/handicap accessibility? Answer, yes.
- JYSF has several grant writers in their organization. Can they apply for grants to improve the playing fields and surrounding areas? Answer, yes, but with a reminder that any improvements to assets become property of the City.

Recommended changes for the contract were:

- # 7 JYSF will not use other park facilities or electrical outlets without prior coordination and specific approval by the City Manager or **his** designated representative.
(His will be changed to his/her.)
- # 11 Verbiage added to reflect closure of the backstop window behind ball field # 1 during games and practices.

Ms. Olds also requested verbiage regarding liability insurance to be added.

Motion to approve a contract between the Judson Youth Sports Foundation (JYSF) and the City of Converse with the above mentioned changes was made by Ms. Olds. Seconded by Mr. Beehler. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Briefing by Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman and Following Discussion.

Chairman Stubbs reported lack of funds has prevented many of the Commission's ideas from coming to fruition. Chairman Stubbs suggested either changing their vision or finding a way to generate funds.

A discussion regarding a raffle at NIOC followed. The raffle discussion included taking an inventory of items to be raffled and forwarding list to Commission Secretary, Ms. Rogers. Other raffle discussion included selling tickets for \$5 and Ms. Harris would be responsible for the ticket sales at NIOC.

Also discussed, City Manager, Ms. Dowell, reported money in future budget earmarked for the Commission should be approved by next City Council meeting. Questions regarding the money from the trees at the new CVS were asked. City Manager, Ms. Dowell, will follow up.

Chairman Stubbs ended the discussion by stating he would seek the assistance of Alternate Member, Mr. John Shadron, in reaching out to the community.

7. 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)

Chairman Stubbs reported lack of response from Mr. Howard Banks regarding assistance on this project. City Manager, Ms. Dowell, suggested there may be a need for a professional land planner to develop a park master plan at some point in the future.

8. Update Discussion to Review New Development on the Plan to Name the Lakes of Converse Parks.

Councilwoman Richel reported she has made the Council members aware of this request. A letter will need to be mailed to the owner of North Lake to notify him/her of the Commission's intent. And, the Commission will need to submit a letter to the City Manager finalizing their request prior to the next available City Council meeting.

Councilwoman Richel departed the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

9. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve Involvement in 2nd Saturday Activities. (Mr. Bissell)

Discussion began with Mr. Bissell reporting the 2nd Saturday activities will not survive without someone stepping in to assist. Ms. Olds volunteered to contact Ms. Dungan of Aura's and Rocco's to determine what can be done to help.

Motion to table this agenda item to allow more time for research was made by Ms. Harris. Seconded by Mr. Beehler. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve a Plan to Raise Funds for a Walking Trail at Converse North Park by Selling Bricks/Pavers Displaying Donators' Information.

Ms. Olds reported this agenda item is not exactly what she envisioned and she feels that it has gone in the wrong direction. Further discussion brought forth a collective decision to drop the

idea of selling bricks/pavers to raise funds for a walking trail, but, to continue on with a plan to raise funds. Also discussed, plans will need to go before City Council for final approval and a suggestion to put this information in the City newsletter was made.

Motion to approve a plan to raise funds for a walking trail at Converse North Park was made by Ms. Harris. Seconded by Mr. Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Update Discussions for Parks and Recreation Commission Scheduled Events for 2011.

A. Park and Shine. (Mr. Beehler)

Mr. Beehler suggested doing away with this event altogether citing the extreme weather as the deciding factor.

B. 9/11/11 Ceremony. (Follow Up)

Mr. Beehler reported a great turn-out at this event. Several members of the Commission were present. Recognition of appreciation to the Commission from the American Legion. A victim of the 9/11 tragedy was present. Very moving.

C. Scary Movie in the Park, October 29, 2011. (Vice-Chair Perez and Ms. Harris)

City Manager, Ms. Dowell, reported approval for funds for this event should be finalized at the next City Council meeting, September 20, 2011. Ms. Dowell also pointed out that this event is scheduled to take place on the same day as the City auction and unfortunately, City staff will be not be able to provide much assistance. Small discussion followed suggesting this event doesn't have to happen on October 29th and it does not have to be a scary movie.

12. Park Improvement Report from Director of Facilities, Mr. Karl Hoppes.

Mr. Hoppes reported:

- Recently purchased 30 bags to keep trees alive at parks.
- Participation in the set-up and tear-down of the 9/11/11 ceremony.
- 162,000 gallons of water have been distributed throughout the parks.
- All barbecue pits have been temporarily concealed at City Park due to extreme drought and fire hazard potential.
- Screened portable restrooms at North Park.
- Received a quote to replace windows at meeting room at City Park.

13. Briefing by City Council Liaison.

Councilwoman Richel had to depart the meeting early, but, reported her information during agenda item # 8.

14. Discussion of Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

- Bring back agenda items #8, #9, #10, #11C.
- Lockers at City Park pool house.
- Bird watchers discussion can now be placed on agenda on a quarterly basis.

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

Next meeting will be October 10, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., as regularly scheduled.

16. Adjournment.

Chairman Stubbs adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.