

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
July 9, 2007
6:30 PM

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Converse met for a regular meeting at the City Hall Conference Room Located at 405 South Seguin, Monday July 9, 2007 at 6:30 P.M. The following members were present:

Chairman Joella Schindler
Ms. Angie Martinez
Mr. Rex Brien
Mr. Richard Schobinger
Ms. Sandy Laskowski
Mr. Glenn Laskowski

Vice-Chair Pam Kraemer
Ms. Tonya Drake
Ms. Jennifer White
Council Liaison Nancy Bazany
City Manager Mr. Sam Hughes
Secretary Ms. Jackie Gaines

Members not present: Mr. Jim Neeley and Mr. Sam Perez.

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Chairman Schindler called the meeting to order at approximately 6:32 PM

2. Recognition of Visitors.

Chairman Schindler welcomed the following visitors:
Police Chief Jamison, Ms. Linda Roberson, Mr. David Byers, Mr. Brandon Flores, Mr. Prudencio Ramos, Councilman Billy Schindler, and Ms. Debbie Fassett.

3. Action to Approve Minutes of Meeting Conducted June 11, 2007.

Ms. Drake made a motion to approve minutes of meeting conducted June 11, 2007. Mr. Brien asked for item 8G to reflect Mr. Perez presented the report. Chairman Schindler asked to correct item 9 stating the Time Warner commercials are 150 30-second commercials. Mr. Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed with five for, (Schindler, Martinez, Drake, Brien, and Kraemer) and three abstentions from G. Laskowski, S. Laskowski, and Schobinger for not being in attendance for the meeting.

* Ms. White was not present at the time of the vote.)

4. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Select Beer Vendor for Night In Ole Converse 2007.

Chairman Schindler reported BudCo is not making any proposals at this time due to the change of ownership. Halo can give us the same contract as last year with the exception

of the golf bag. Some of the details are \$2,000 cash, advertising on the Robo sign, 100 full color posters, advertising at various on and off premise independent accounts, three kegs of product for the VIP tent and volunteer area. In addition to the regular beer Halo would like P&R to sell a new beer with Halo providing the cups.

Ms. Roberson suggested changes in the calculations having both the beer and wine based margaritas under the same contract deleting the fee of \$250. Ms. Roberson said the city would save money and the Lions Club would have a lot less paper work. Ms. Roberson would like the contract to fall under their 501C3 business; Converse Lions Charity, Inc.

Mr. Hughes agreed with the proposed method but had a concern with the line item of P&R having to buy a keg of beer from the Lions Club.

Chairman Schindler asked to just approve the beer vendor and have the Lions Club contract on the agenda for the next meeting.

Ms. Laskowski made a motion to approve Halo as the NIOC 2007 beer vendor. Ms. Kraemer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve River City Wrestling Event.

Chairman Schindler suggesting having the wrestling event separate from NIOC.

Ms. Drake stated the Texas Wrestling Company will charge \$750 which includes the wrestling ring and chairs.

* Ms. White arrived at approximately 7:20 PM.

Mr. Brien will check on a rain out condition for the contract with River City Wrestling.

Chairman Schindler suggested voting only on the concept of the Wrestling event and vote on the logistics at a latter date.

Mr. Schobinger made a motion to approve the River City Wrestling event to be held at 3:00 PM on the date of either October 20th or 27th, 2007 at 3:00 PM at the City Park Pavilion. Mr. Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Parks and Recreation Members will meet on the Friday before the event at 10:30 A.M. to set up two 10X20 tents.

Chairman Schindler asked to move to Item 10.

10. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Waive Pavilion Fees at City Park for a Skate Board Park Fundraiser.

Ms. Swanson via e-mail along with supporters of the Converse Skaters for a Skate Park discussed having a fundraiser at the City Park Pavilion Saturday, August 11, 2007.

There is not a gate fee to the guests but the Converse Skaters for a Skate Park will ask for donations to help raise money to build a Skate Board Park.

Mr. Hughes stated if P&R does allow this event someone needs to supervise mandating proper gear be worn and to observe the conduct of the event. Mr. Hughes also asked if the Launch Pad would consider sponsoring the event and if they would be willing to be responsible.

Ms. Drake asked the supporters of the skate park if security will be provided and will someone have insurance?

Ms. Fassett volunteered to take care of the waiver for all the skaters.

Mr. Bazany said he will provide outside security for the event.

Mr. Schobinger made a motion to charge \$82.00 refundable fee. Ms. Tonya seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously allow the Converse Skaters for a Skate Park to hold an event under the pavilion provided they pay and \$82.00 refundable clean up fee.

Chairman Schindler asked to move to Item 9.

9. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Establish Regulations for North Park Lake to Include Amending Dirt Bike Rules as Necessary.

Ms. White made a motion not to have dirt bikes because they tear up the fields.

Chairman Schindler asked Chief Jamison to brief the Commission on the regulations for riding dirt bikes in North Park.

Chief Jamison stated in March of 2003 the City Council amended Ordinance 330 to allow dirt bikes, ATVs and go-carts in North Park with a permit due to the vacant land available. To date have issued 133 waivers; 70 waivers are Converse residents and 63 are non Converse residents. To obtain a waiver the rider has to see the Chief personally. Due to the expansion of the lake at North Park Chief Jamison is in agreement to rescind the waiver.

Chairman Schindler agreed about the dirt bikes interfering with people fishing in the new lake and said she did not have a qualm about finding other city property to let them ride on but just do not let them ride in the parks.

Ms. Bazany asked if the location where the riders were instructed to ride was undeveloped.

Chief Jamison replied the instructions the riders received from him was to drive behind the basketball court to offload the bikes and drive toward the location of the dry lake bed to ride.

Chairman Schindler asked Mr. Hughes if the city has any other areas/city property.

Mr. Hughes said the city has 110 acres called the Converse Lake, but was told that is not a good area for ATVs, go-carts, and dirt bikes because of the steep grassy contours. The other area we have is the flood zone strip that is situated between Randolph Valley and Lake Aire on one side and Copper Field and Autumn Run on the east side which is in excess of seventy acres. I would like to see you consider making accommodations at least one weekend a month to allow riders rather than just totally ban the idea.

Mr. Schobinger asked if the city could breakup a little area for the riders.

Mr. Hughes said he did not believe the city would need to make a trail for the riders because it is not a lot different than what North Park Lake was before the lake was filled with water. The dirt bikers would find a way to make their own trail.

Chairman Schindler asked if we decide to allow this, could we charge for their permits?

Mr. Hughes replied he supposed so.

Mr. Schobinger asked if it would be possible to allow the riders to use the that other area year round with a permit fee?

Mr. Hughes replied yes, but there are residents on both sides of the fence line, so do not expect that idea to be complaint free.

Chairman Schindler asked if other cities in the area allow dirt bikes and why do we have to be the city that does allow riders?

Mr. Schobinger expressed his beliefs in allowing the bikers to ride somewhere in Converse.

Chairman Schindler said she was asked by City Council to bring this issue up again.

Ms. White said I do not have a problem moving it. Like Mr. Hughes said, they will make their own track, then, let them make their own track. I just don't like it in North Park because we are trying to develop things out there.

Mr. Hughes said we are here to look at the new lake and figure out some rules for the new lake and figure out the consequences of having the lake and dirt bikes. But if you just slam the door and say throw them out, that will not work because these people are a group of citizens that are voters and have their influence too.

Ms. Drake asked Mr. Hughes if he has a recommendation for where they might be able to ride.

Mr. Hughes replied one is you can look at the 70 plus acres that is not being used for anything right now and say to stay at least 100 feet away from the fences then that may be an opportunity. There has been some riding with out complaints unofficially. But if you put a substantial amount of riders and start driving fast against privacy fences we will start to get complaints. I think two things. One, we might want to look at rules if we go into that area. The other is to have conflicting uses and we say fisherman, ball players, and whoever, you have this most of the time but we set aside some time that these vehicles are allowed. This will not make the riders happy to have the idea of not going anytime they want but it is not as severe as saying no you cannot do this anymore.

Chairman Schindler asked if you would like to table the whole thing, table the rules for the lake, or the dirt bike situation.

Mr. Schobinger said I think this goes hand-in-hand. I think I need to take a harder look at the lake and what goes on there.

Councilman Schindler said this is just a suggestion: Could you provide input on a basic ordinance covering dangerous items like swimming in the lake, whether you can use a boat or not and even address the dirt bike. Then the smaller things you have left off can always be amended.

Mr. Hughes said, I think so because basic regulations serve you better than none.

The members we coming up with ideas for the ordinance and Ms. Drake said we need to put in there no dirt bikes.

Mr. Schobinger asked, "No dirt bikes period?"

A member replied I think we should move them.

Ms. White said I made a motion to ban it from North Park and move it. I make a motion to ban dirt bikes in North Park and move them to the seventy acres by Autumn Run. ATV's, as well and to charge.

Chairman Schindler reiterated Ms. White made a motion to ban them from both parks and move them over there and charge a permit fee for \$25.00 a year.

Mr. Schobinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Jamison told the commission if this action item is approved to ban riders from North Park he will notify the permit holders by mailing a letter.

Ms. White asked is this amended motion is including the dirt bikes?

Chairman Schindler replied that we already voted on the dirt bikes.

Ms. White said that I have to include this with my dirt bike motion.

Ms. White amended her motion to the following North Park Rules:

No swimming at any time, boats must be registered and operated in accordance with Texas law, boats must have adult supervision, (18 years or older), no motors permitted on boat, no camping without a permit, \$25.00 permit fee nightly per vehicle, camping fee may be waived for civic organizations or youth groups, no generators permitted at any time, fishing from boat, pier or bank in accordance with Texas law, dirt bikes, ATV's, and go-carts in North Park.

Ms. Drake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. North Park Lake Ceremony Update.

Chairman Schindler reported the date and time of the event is Friday, July 13, 2007 at 1:00 PM. The Parks and Wildlife will release fish as part of the ceremony.

7. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve Logistics of Game Night for the Smaller Children.

Ms. Drake passed out an in-depth draft of activities for the smaller children including the number of volunteers needed for each event. Ms. Drake is waiting on a return call from the Carnival Operator for approval of the games and activities.

Ms. White approved the logistics of Game Night for the smaller children. Mr. Schobinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion of Night In Ole Converse 2007:

A) Advertising

Chairman Schindler asked if anyone with NIOC pictures to please let her know.

B) Arts & Crafts

Ms. Kraemer reported having five vendors under contract.

C) Entertainment

Chairman Schindler passed out articles from the Current and the SA Express News and discussed other entertainment options.

D) Food Vendors

Ms. Laskowski reported having three vendors waiting to sign a contract bring the food vendors contracts to eleven.

E) Live Auction

Mr. Neeley was not present to give an update.

F) Sponsorship

O’Reileys Auto Parts gave a \$1,500 sponsorship. Mc Donald’s is willing to give a sponsorship as well.

G) Parade

Mr. Perez was not present to give an update.

H) Talent Show

Chairman Schindler reported Mr. Neeley is going to get some one to work the sound board for the talent show.

I) Extreme Night

Chairman Schindler asked on behalf of Ms. Swanson if the money raised for Extreme Night could go towards the fundraising of the Skateboard Park. Ms. Drake and Ms. Martinez referred to the approved NIOC 2007 Master Plan funding ball field lights.

Mr. Laskowski also asked for Ms. Swanson if the Converse Skaters for a Skate Park could hold a bike show on Extreme Night. The Commission discussed the idea but did not come to a decision.

J) Kids Corner

(Discussed in Item 7)

Ms. White asked if P&R is willing to pay an additional \$750 to air a prescheduled spot on Great Day SA or drop the \$750 fee and let the TV show decide on the date to promote NIOC. The members were not willing to pay the \$750 additional fee.

11. Briefing by City Council Liaison.

Council Liaison Bazany reported on the following:

- June 19 City Council holding a Public Hearing on proposed annexation of approximately 110 acres along FM 1516 which is part of the site JISD would like to build a new Converse Elementary School.
- Councilwoman Benbrook is working with the City Manager on an ordinance establishing a beautification and environmental commission which would address beautification as well as code compliance issues to help clean up the city. At the time of establishing that commission, we would be looking for volunteers to fill those positions.
- On July 3rd TXDOT gave a presentation to City Council on the 1604 improvements which include widening of 1604. FM 78 to Lower Seguin Rd will be improved from a 2 lane to a four lane divided highway and will work on coordinating access to RAFB from Converse. The projected beginning date is March 2008 lasting two years.

- Mr. Luft gave a briefing on the expansion and redirection of Toepperwein Road having EDC acquiring sixteen of the fifty nine parcels of land. The fulfillment of acquiring the parcels should be complete by 2009.
- Some people have approached me concerning the Parks and Recreation Commission with the following issues:
 - Commission members voting on issues that pertain on their outside interests such as sports leagues.
 - Commission members being a vendor for NIOC.
 - Married couples serving on the same Commission.

We will have to address these items in the near future to come up with the best solution that is positive for the commission and that does not give it an appearance of impropriety.

12. Discussion of Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

- Converse Lions Charity, Inc. proposed method of contract
- Logistics for the Wrestling Event.
- NIOC

13. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting – August 13, 2007, 6:30 PM to Meet at the City Hall Conference Room.

Next meeting is set for August 13, 2007.

14. Adjournment.

Chairman Schindler adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:42 P.M.