

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
August 20, 2007
6:30 PM

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Converse will Met for a Special Meeting at the Economic Development Corporation Building Located at 601 South Seguin, Monday August 20, 2007 at 6:30 PM. The following members were present:

Chairman Joella Schindler
Ms. Tonya Drake
Mr. Rex Brien
Mr. Richard Schobinger
Ms. Sandy Laskowski
Mr. Glenn Laskowski

Ms. Angie Martinez
Mr. Sam Perez
Ms. Jennifer White
Council Liaison Nancy Bazany
City Manager Mr. Sam Hughes
Secretary Ms. Penny Hieronymus

Members not present:
Ms. Pam Kraemer and Mr. Jim Neeley.

1. Call Meeting to Order.

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

2. Recognition of Visitors.

Chairman Schindler welcomed all visitors.

3. Discussion of City Park Redevelopment.

Mr. Hughes provided a chart depicting 110 acres known as Converse Lake Area. We have a developer that is interested in the location and one of the issues is accessibility. Currently to get to the lake area you have to go through Mesquite Street which is the only way in and out of the property. There is an 80' right-of-way that can take you out to Gibbs Sprawl. We are working with Bexar County and the City of San Antonio to get the extension of Crestway so you can go either under or over the railroad and come out to the Wal-Mart location. The developers would like to also have a road that comes out to FM 78.

Basically, the proposal is for the road to come through the park, moving the park to another location. The proposed park will include a four baseball field complex, two football fields, parking and basketball courts. We need to talk about what we want and the priorities.

* Councilwoman Nancy Bazany arrived at approximately 6:38 PM.

The City of San Antonio was not to enthusiastic giving up their walking trail but they would allow a road and grant access. We also discussed building a park that would replace both facilities of our park and San Antonio's park allowing both cities to use the park.

Mr. Schobinger shared his concern with the proposal radically affecting NIOC.

* Ms. Martinez arrived at approximately 6:42 PM.

Mr. Hughes replied we have a couple of options for NIOC. In North Park we have a lake and a much more open area. The City Park is twenty seven acres and North Park is just less than forty two acres. We have to agree what is acceptable. First of all, the developer would like the park land. There are two entities that would have to agree to move the assets in the park to some other location; first one being the Parks and Recreation Commission and the second is the Lions Club which has donated much of the land that is here at City Park. The deed from the Lions Club stipulates once the land stops use as a park then the deed reverts back to the Lions Club. They would need to concur to this plan in order for us to release this to make a trade of that nature.

What is being offered by the developers in turn of usable land space will be giving us more usable park space than what Converse and San Antonio has combined.

Chairman Schindler suggested having the developers use Crestway or move this completely somewhere else because she did not think we should have a park right by a busy road.

Mr. Schobinger asked how the City Council feels about this proposal.

Mr. Hughes said City Council has been briefed on this entirely and have a lot of questions to get answered for instance; can we get Crestway extended across? We have been to coordinate with Bexar County and San Antonio. We have agreed to run this through the Tack Committees and get that on the MPO Project table for November's decision. Hopefully we can get the Board to support putting the Crestway extension on the project list for this region. We have been to SA Parks and were not sure they could give up or trade land but did not see a problem with granting us right-of-way that we would need to get a road that exit FM 78 and went back to the lake area. At one point the City Council agreed with the previous prospective developer of granting a road through the park and taking out ball fields 1 and 2. My belief is probably eighteen months for getting things moved for the first phase. We can find out where we would like to hold

Night In Ole Converse. We will have to come up with our request to include the things we want in priority, and then we take that back showing what we are asking for. Tonight was an introduction to the idea to see if this is something you would be interested in and then we work out the details. At this point we do not have enough information for you to make a decision. Mr. Hughes suggested holding a workshop if you pursue this to let the developer know what you would like to see.

Each member gave their opinion:

Schobinger, Brien, Martinez, White, G. Laskowski, and Drake are in favor for the proposal on the development.

Schindler expressed her concern for a park to be near the railroad and a five lane road.

S. Laskowski is concerned with high traffic and parking.

Members are concerned with the new park entrance just built.

Mr. Perez asked to see another plan. Ms. Martinez agreed with Mr. Perez.

{Tape 1, Side B}

The Commission agreed to meet at the Basketball Court at North Park Sunday, September 1st 2:00 PM. to discuss future development of North Park.

Mr. Hughes added that we are looking for a civic center for the town and park of this development on the lake property we are looking at a parcel that doesn't change ownership and use that for a civic center and parking. The location is right now undetermined.

4. Action to Approve Minutes of Meeting Conducted July 9, 2007.

Ms. Schindler asked for a correction on item 3, the vote, change from 'opposition' to read 'abstention'.

Ms. Drake said there was no mention or approval on the ATV's going to the East Park in the minutes.

Chairman Schindler replied the Commission did not approve that because at the time that was not East Park and the Agenda Item was only to ban the ATV's from North Park. It was not an Action Item.

Ms. Drake said what was reported at Council was Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously voted to move the ATV's to East Park.

Chairman Schindler asked for a change to Item 4 to reflect ‘a Robo sign’ not a ‘Rodeo sign’.

{Tape 2, Side A}

Ms. Drake made a motion to clarify minutes and bring back to next meeting. Mr. Laskowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve Converse Lions Charity, Inc.’s Proposed Method of Contract.

Chairman Schindler said the only change was the kegs in the amount of \$74.00 for the auction. We want to use one of the VIP kegs for the auction and remove the fee of \$74.00.

The Lions Club would like to combine the fee for the margaritas and the beer, not having it listed as two separate fees.

Ms. Drake made a motion to approve the Converse Lions Charity, Inc.’s proposed method of contract. Mr. Laskowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Postpone the Wrestling Event until 2008.

Mr. Brien said he thought it would be a good idea to cancel the event and postpone until 2008.

Mr. Brien made a motion to postpone the wrestling event until 2008. Ms. Laskowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve Parade Route Signs.

Ms. Schindler reported that she is trying to get the signs donated but if she is unable, would Parks and Recreation like to purchase fifteen signs having the cost under \$100.

Mr. Perez made the motion to purchase parade route signs. Mr. Laskowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion of Night In Ole Converse Shirt Order.

Chairman Schindler reminded the commission of the order process of the P&R shirt order for NIOC. The P&R member has to be on commission for a full year before the City will pay for the shirt. All members will receive a shirt from the city with the exception of Mr. Perez and Ms. Drake. Mr. Perez and Ms. Drake agreed to purchase their shirt.

9. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve using \$2,000 of Sponsorship Money to Purchase Auction Items.

Chairman Schindler explained the reasoning for the request since Mr. Neeley was not present and asked if the Commission would rather wait to hear from Mr. Neeley before voting.

Ms. White made a motion to approve using \$2,000 of sponsorship money to purchase auction items. Ms. Laskowski seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight for, (Schindler, Brien, Schobinger, S. Laskowski, G. Laskowski, Martinez, Perez, and White), and one opposition from Ms. Drake.

10. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Approve Purchasing a \$50 Gift Card for Auctioneer Tex Farnsworth.

Chairman Schindler said Mr. Farnsworth has been the auctioneer for NIOC for a couple of years free of charge. Ms. Laskowski made a motion to approve the purchase of a \$50 gift card for Tex Farnsworth. Ms. White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion of Night In Ole Converse 2007:

A) Advertising

Ms. White spoke with KJ 97. KJ 97 is interviewing for a co-host and will let us know who will announce the parade with Randy Carroll. I am working on the approval of advertising with the Spurs Foundation for the Coyote. The owner of the company where I work is allowing advertising on an electrical sign two weeks prior to the event and asked for suggestions on the wording and color of the sign. Chairman Schindler asked Ms. White to choose the color of the signage.

Ms. White also reported she is trying to get in contact with a television company to get free advertising.

Ms. White reported she has asked the Commission what her position should be on the Commission due to having class Monday evenings starting next Monday and suggested being an alternate member. She can be at meeting after 8:00 PM and can continue helping with the advertising and give reports via e-mails or phone calls and help during NIOC.

Ms. Drake replied she would not be able to help out with marketing at this time due to other commitments with the Kids Corner.

Ms. Martinez reported she will check with Kitty Round Up for volunteers.

Ms. White reported on the advertising web-page on MySpace.

B) Arts & Crafts

Chairman Schindler requested Time Warner receiving a booth free of charge in exchange for advertising for NIOC.

Ms. White suggested having an action item for next meeting requiring P&R members to order same color of shirt for easier identification at NIOC.

{Tape 2, Side B}

Chairman Schindler replied the next meeting is September 10th and was not sure that would give us enough time to place the shirt order.

C) Entertainment

Chairman Schindler reported Small Town Habit will open for Billy Mata. Hogg Shedd and String Theory are on the stage by the swimming pool. We have the Swindles opening for Two Tons of Steel. The other two bands are Proto Type and Bliss for the Second stage. We also have The Sound Man.

D) Food Vendors

Ms. Laskowski reported having fifteen food vendor contracts and has room for five more booths.

E) Live Auction

Ms. Martinez has nothing to report at this time.

F) Sponsorship

Chairman Schindler reported Jim Neeley has been out due to illness. Councilman Schindler and Mr. Neeley will go out to the business owners.

Ms. Martinez said she is waiting on the list from Mr. Neeley on the businesses he has already contacted.

Ms. Laskowski will contact IHOP. Chairman and Councilman Schindler contacted Sams Club.

G) Parade

Mr. Perez has 21 committed. The parade will be the same as last year.

H) Talent Show

Chairman Schindler reported it is too soon to report on the Talent Show but reported Mr. Neeley is trying to work on getting someone to work the sound board.

Ms. Swanson volunteered Mitch and Ms. Drake volunteered Chris to work the sound board if needed.

I) Extreme Night

Ms. Swanson reported everything is coming along great. The BMX show may be in the outfield where by the Arts and Crafts Vendors. We will have a guitar Hero Tournament. Have two bands lined up. Possible Paint Ball Extreme Demos and Girls Roller Derby as well.

J) Kids Corner.

Ms. Drake suggested charging \$1.00 admission. The event will take place Saturday, Noon to 6:00 PM and Sunday, Noon to 4:00 PM. The age group is for 0-6 years of age and must be accompanied by an adult. Suggestion of games are chalk art, face painting, (will confirm with Pam Kraemer), oil painting, marker poster, play dough, puppet show, tug of war, scavenger hunt, obstacle course, Simon says, musical chairs, 15 minute cartoon, Retired Fire Fighter's event to music, and a Gymboree. I am working on getting in contact with the carnival. I am also working on the logistics for a white picket fence for the location.

Chairman Schindler discussed ideas for games for adults.

{Tape 3, Side A}

Ms. Drake asked if any member has time to come over to help they are welcome to.

12. Briefing by City Council Liaison.

Council Liaison Bazany reported the following:

- Second readings on three different properties.
- Second reading to establish a new commission, Beautification and Environmental Commission. Councilwoman Benbrook is the Liaison
- Second Reading on Ordinance on 330 on rules and regulations for the parks.
- Ordinance on regulating speed signs with new school zones.
- Approved the final plat for the Converse Elementary School that will be located on FM 1516.
- Discussion on Ad-Valorem tax rate.
- Approved the schedule for the 2007-2008 Budget and Tax Rate.
- Special CC Meeting on August 28th
- The camping fee was changed to \$10.00.

13. Discussion of Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

- Name for East Park.
- Showcase NIOC at the first of every year by having a Coin Contest.
- Set meeting date and time for Vendor meeting.

14. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting – September 10, 2007, 6:30 PM to Meet at the City Hall Conference Room.

September 10 at 6:30 PM, September 17th at 6:30 PM, September 24th at 6:30 PM, and October 1st at 6:30 PM.

15. Adjournment.

Ms. Drake made a motion to adjourn at approximately 9:47 PM. Mr. Perez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.