

**MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
February 11, 2008
6:30 PM**

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Converse Met for a Regular Meeting at the City Hall Conference Room #1, Located at 405 South Seguin Street, Monday, February 11, 2008 at 6:30 PM and Discussed the Following Agenda Items:

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tonya Drake at approximately 6:32 pm. The following members were present:

Ms. Tonya Drake, Chairman	Ms. Pam Kraemer, Vice-Chair
Ms. Sandy Laskowski, Member	Mr. Jim Neeley, Member
Mr. Jeff Beehler, Member	Mr. Glenn Laskowski, Member
Ms. Brenda Swanson, Alternate Member	Ms. Diana Pannell, Alternate Member
Ms. Nancy Bazany, Council Liaison	Mr. Sam Hughes, City Manager
Ms. Leigh Ann Rogers, Secretary	

Members, Mr. Richard Schobinger, Ms. Jennifer White, Mr. Sam Perez, Jr., Mr. Rex Brien, and Ms. Angie Martinez and Alternate Members, Mr. Jorge Topete and Mr. Lance Byrd were not present.

2. Recognition of Visitors.

Councilman Chris Drake and Mr. Chris Bazany were recognized.

3. Action to Approve Minutes of Meeting Conducted January 14, 2008.

Vice-Chair Pam Kraemer requested corrections to the minutes. Corrections are as follows:

- Page 1, Agenda Item 1. Call Meeting to Order – “Ms. Pam Kraemer, Member “

Vice-Chair Kraemer pointed out that she was still Vice-Chair at that meeting and should have been mentioned as such.

Motion to approve minutes of meeting conducted January 14, 2008 with the above mentioned corrections was made by Vice-Chair Pam Kraemer. Seconded by Mr. Glenn Laskowski. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Action to Elect a Vice-Chairperson for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Motion to nominate Ms. Sandy Laskowski for the Vice-Chairperson for the Parks and Recreation Commission was made by Mr. Jim Neeley. Seconded by Ms. Diana Pannell. Motion passed by a majority vote with Jim Neeley, Pam Kraemer, Diana Pannell, Glenn Laskowski, and Sandy Laskowski voting in favor of electing Sandy Laskowski for Vice-Chairperson.

5. Discussion and Appropriate Action for Hosting 2008 Christmas Decorating Contest.

Discussion included:

- Vice-Chair Sandy Laskowski suggested discontinuation of the Christmas Decorating Contest.
- Ms. Pam Kraemer mentioned approval of the previously-mentioned idea of decorating the City rather than hosting the Decorating Contest.
- Mr. Jeff Beehler agreed with the discontinuation.
- Chairman Drake expounded on the Christmas Decorating Contest for the new Alternate Member, Ms. Diana Pannell, who was not present for previous discussions regarding the subject.
- Mr. Jim Neeley pointed out that commercial-type Christmas decorations are very expensive.
- Chairman Drake inquired about whether or not the money spent on the 2007 Decorating Contest was budgeted in and would that money be available again for decorations for the City in 2008.
- City Manager, Sam Hughes replied that the money spent in 2007 was not budgeted for and if the Commission would like money budgeted into the 2008 budget, although it is not guaranteed to be approved, the Parks and Recreation Commission would need to have a well-defined request prepared prior to May 2008.
- Future discussions for alternative ideas for a substitute event or plan to replace the Christmas Decorating Contest.

Motion to **DISCONTINUE** the Christmas Decorating Contest was made by Vice-Chair Sandy Laskowski. Seconded by Mr. Jeff Beehler. Those in favor were Vice-Chair Laskowski, Mr. Beehler, Chairman Drake, Ms. Pannell, Ms. Kraemer, Mr. Laskowski, and Ms. Swanson. One opposed, Mr. Jim Neeley. Motion **PASSED**.

6. Discussion and Appropriate Action for Hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park.

Following discussion, a motion to **POSTPONE** plans to host an Easter Egg Hunt until next year was made by Mr. Jeff Beehler. Seconded by Mr. Jim Neeley. Motion **PASSED** unanimously.

7. Discuss Theme Ideas and Job Assignments for Night in Ole Converse 2008.

Discussion included:

- Ms. Pam Kraemer made a suggestion to use a laminated identifier badge for the vendors to wear upon entry into the park that can be handed out at the vendor meeting that takes place the week prior to the event. Ms. Kraemer also suggested that the keys to the ATV carts should be more accessible to all of the P&R members.
- Additional job assignments included Chairman Drake will work Entertainment, Extreme Night, and Parade. Mr. Glenn Laskowski offered to assist Ms. Kraemer with Arts & Crafts. Ms. Kraemer and Mr. Laskowski offered to assist with the parade. Ms. Diana Pannell will assist with the Dunking Booth/Cake Walk.
- Vice-Chair Laskowski pointed out that the Dunking Booth/Cake Walk can really generate funds and should be focused on more this year. She also suggested using the community service workers to assist with the cake walk and dunking booth activities. Mr. Jim Neeley offered to make the announcements over the loud speakers. Suggestions from several members to use local school staff, police, and City Council members for the dunking booth.
- Ms. Brenda Swanson asked for permission to contact the carnival owner, Mr. Todd Merriam, regarding the possibility of having carnival-style games for small children in the Kid's Korner. Ms. Swanson also suggested making contact with Girl/Boy Scouts, American Legion, and church groups and offering them the opportunity to set up booths.
- A suggestion was made to ask the Parade Coordinator to contact the Shriner's about whether or not they will perform in the parade if candy is thrown.
- A suggestion to relocate the band in the parade anywhere other than behind the horses.

There were no theme suggestions mentioned.

8. Discussion and Appropriate Action for Planting Additionally Donated Trees at North Park.

Discussion included:

- The trees being donated are Chinese Pistache and some research will need to be done as none of the participants of the meeting knew anything about this particular type of tree.
- If it is determined that the trees cannot be placed in North Park, the City Manager asked the Commission members if there would be a problem with planting the trees at other various City locations.

Motion to accept the 30 Chinese Pistache trees if they are conducive to the plans of the Parks and Recreation Commission was made by Mr. Jeff Beehler. Seconded by Ms. Sandy Laskowski. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Briefing by City Council Liaison.

See attached report.

10. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

Items discussed for next meeting as follows:

- Fire/EMS will request use of North Park for Fireman's Picnic in conjunction with a ribbon-cutting or dedication ceremony for the Red Schumann Pavilion by Parks and Recreation Commission
- East Park Review
- Discuss Night in Ole Converse 2008
- Meeting non-attendance

11. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting – March 10, 2008, at 6:30 pm in the City Hall Conference Room.

10. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:07 pm by Chairman Drake.