

**City of Converse  
Fire and EMS Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
June 23, 2008  
7 PM**

Be it Known that the Converse Fire and EMS Commission met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, June 23, 2008 at the Converse City Hall Conference Room # 1, 405 S. Seguin Street to Discuss and Act on the Following Agenda:

**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dorian Jauregui at approximately 7:01 p.m. with the following present:

Ms. Dorian Jauregui, Chairman	Mr. Chris Bazany, Vice-Chair
Ms. Lori Simmang, Treasurer	Mr. Steve Brown, Member
Mr. Randy Pannell, Member	Mr. Gerry Rush, Member
Mr. Rene Rodriguez, Jr., City Council Liaison	Mr. Richard Wendt, Fire Chief
Ms. Leigh Ann Rogers, Secretary	

Alternate Member, Mr. Mark Mueller, was not present.

**2. Recognition of Visitors.**

Mayor Al Suarez was recognized.

**3. Citizens to be Heard.**

None present.

**4. Action to Approve Fire and EMS Commission Meeting Minutes of Meeting Conducted May 27, 2008.**

Ms. Lori Simmang requested a correction to page three, line three, "After all deductions and additions, the Commission has \$2268.46 to work with in the future." The line should read, "After all deductions and additions, the Commission has \$2132.80 to work with in the future."

Motion to approve minutes of Fire and EMS Commission meeting conducted May 27, 2008 with the above mentioned corrections was made by Mr. Randy Pannell. Seconded by Mr. Gerry Rush. Motion passed unanimously.

## **5. Master Plan Discussion and Action.**

Discussion included:

- Dates for annual fundraisers.
- Renovations to Station #1 including the kitchen, sleeping quarters, and living area deemed the priority on the Master Plan list.
- Exercise equipment secondary on the Master Plan list.
- Review of previous expenditures and profits from NIOC and Breakfast with Santa.
- Debate on whether or not to approach City Council with a request for start-up funds for fundraising in the amount of \$2500.
- \$3000 goal established for fundraising.
- Agreement to annually host NIOC hamburger booth, Breakfast with Santa, Fireman's Picnic, and other fundraisers as needed.
- Chairman Jauregui volunteering to draft up final copy of Master Plan to present to City Council upon approval from all members of Fire and EMS Commission.

Motion to table action on Master Plan until next meeting when a final, written draft is presented to all of the Commission members for approval by Chairman Jauregui was made by Mr. Randy Pannell. Seconded by Ms. Lori Simmang. Motion passed with five (Brown, Simmang, Jauregui, Rush, and Pannell) in favor of and one (Bazany) against.

## **6. Discussion and Action to Approve Dates for Annual Fundraising Events.**

Discussion included:

- Review of calendar to determine dates for events.
- Additional fundraising ideas suggested by Mr. Randy Pannell including painting addresses on curbs and a raffle during NIOC. Mr. Pannell reported that a San Antonio Fire Department member donated a 4 person, 6 hour boat trip that could be offered as a raffle item for NIOC.

A motion to operate the hamburger booth at NIOC during all four days of the event from October 2-5, 2008 was made by Vice-Chair Chris Bazany. Seconded by Mr. Steve Brown. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to host the Breakfast with Santa fundraiser on Saturday, December 6, 2008, between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. at Fire Station # 1 was made by Mr. Steve Brown. Seconded by Vice-Chair Chris Bazany. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to host the Fireman's Picnic on the first Saturday in April annually was made by Vice-Chair Bazany. Seconded by Mr. Steve Brown. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Action to Approve Purchase of Additional Knife Sets for Fireman of the Quarter Awards.**

Motion to approve spending approximately \$75 to purchase four additional knives was made by Vice-Chair Chris Bazany. Seconded by Mr. Randy Pannell. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Discussion and Action to Approve Selection of the Fireman of the Quarter April – June Recipient.**

Chief Wendt reported on his two suggestions for the recipient of the award, Ms. Nancy Baeza Garcia or Captain Joshua Everetts.

A motion to approve the selection of Captain Joshua Everetts for Fireman of the Quarter April-June and a special recognition award for Ms. Nancy Baeza Garcia was made by Vice-Chair Chris Bazany. Seconded by Mr. Gerry Rush. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. Discussion and Action to Approve “Change for Change” Campaign Locations and Collection Schedule.**

Discussion included:

- Vice-Chair Chris Bazany reported that he has the jars ready and asked for a volunteer to deliver the jars to the designated locations.
- Locations discussed were Cici’s Pizza, Wendy’s, Bush’s Chicken, and Simmang’s Automotive.
- Mr. Steve Brown asked Vice-Chair Bazany if the locations have been approved by the City Manager.
- Vice-Chair Bazany responded by stating, “No. They’ve been approved by Mark Luft.”
- Mr. Brown agreed to deliver the jars and to seek out other locations for the remaining five jars.
- Mr. Brown agreed to be responsible for collections and to deliver the collected change to the Treasurer, Ms. Lori Simmang.
- Further location suggestions to be approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

A motion to approve four locations (Cici’s Pizza, Wendy’s, Bush’s Chicken, and Simmang’s Automotive) with Mr. Steve Brown being the designated member to collect the change during the first week of each month was made by Vice-Chair Chris Bazany. Seconded by Mr. Randy Pannell. Motion passed unanimously.

**10. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting.**

Discussion included:

- Discussion and action to elect a vice-chairperson.
- Action to approve final Master Plan draft.
- Further discussion of curbside address stencil fundraiser.

- Discussion and action to approve raffle item for NIOC.
- Action to approve additional locations for “Change for Change” campaign.

## **11. Briefing by City Council Liaison.**

Councilman Rodriguez’s briefing included:

- There were three “citizens to be heard” at the June 17<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, Ms. Laura Beehler, Mr. Steve Brown, and Mr. Chris Bazany.
- Three variances were approved.
- Purchasing of two new 2008 trucks for the water department was approved.
- City Manager’s report included mention of an upcoming Public Hearing regarding Bridgehaven on July 1, 2008.
- Ordinance # 213 was approved.
- Fire Chief, Richard Wendt, reported on fireworks ban and advised residents to go to designated “safe areas” only.
- Negotiations with youth football league.
- Streets in the Meadows are being re-surfaced.
- 5% decrease in CDBG funding.
- Councilman Rodriguez then read aloud the following anonymous letter dated June 16, 2008:

*“Dear Converse Voter:*

*Thank you for voting in the Converse City May 2008 elections. By exercising your “right-to-vote” you are now among the few who carry the responsibility for the many who fail to exercise that right. You either know the candidate(s) of your choice personally or you encountered them during their walk through your neighborhood. You listened to their rhetoric, previewed their campaign personalities, experienced their seemingly sympathetic ear, and heard their campaign promises. Something about them made you put an X in their box at the polls.*

*As one person among about 800 voters, you now represent the remaining 10,000+ residents in our city since your candidate “thanks the residents of Converse” for their support when in fact not all age and resident eligible voters exercise their right to vote. Now that you represent so many you have become responsible for holding your candidate(s) accountable for their promises and performance on behalf of all residents. You can do this by (1) attending City Council Meetings the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7PM; (2) attend commission meetings, (3) volunteer to serve on a commission, (4) communicate your concerns and suggestions to your chosen candidate(s) and evaluate their responsiveness, (5) accessing the City of Converse website to access meeting agendas and review meeting minutes, (6) voice your opinions during the “citizens to be heard” portion of the council meeting, and most of all (7) encourage your Converse City family and neighbors to vote and get involved in the direction our city is taking.*

*It is hard for a city to move forward when elected people and selected commission members operate under the “buddy” system. Members of the City Council serve “at-large”. This means that every member is YOUR representative and does not represent a particular district or group*

*of people. You can call, email, or write any of them and expect a response. Your candidate(s) must conduct themselves honorably, legally, and morally. They cannot conduct city business outside of the “open meetings” act when that behavior impacts the direction of the city and its residents.*

*The future of Converse is in your hands. There are those who want Converse to stop moving forward, they are content with the town the way it “used to be” but still want enhanced services and protection. That takes money and growth provides revenue. Nothing in life remains the same. Life and living constantly evolves, how we do that together is what is important. Get involved, stay informed and control the self-serving cliques that undermine the well-being and progress we deserve as a growing city.*

*Respectfully,  
A fellow voter and caring resident”*

Mr. Randy Pannell then questioned Councilman Rodriguez on the reason behind reading this letter.

Councilman Rodriguez replied that he felt that this letter may be mentioned at the next City Council meeting and it was merely his intention to keep the Commission members informed.

Councilman Rodriguez then continued with his briefing with the following:

- Beautification and Environmental Commission recently had another clean-up day.
- A request for all Commission members to get involved and volunteer to assist the other Commissions.
- EDC board member position open.
- Parks and Recreation Commission is in need of volunteers and new members.

**12. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting – Monday, July 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.**

The next regularly scheduled meeting, Monday, July 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. will be held at City Hall Conference Room # 1.

**13. Adjournment.**

Chairman Jauregui adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:57 p.m.