

Skateboarders without helmets- could face fines, commissioners say

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Watauga County Commissioners discussed a civil ordinance last night that would fine people found skateboarding in the skate park without a helmet.

The fines proposed with increase with repetition of the offense. One offense would cost \$50, two offenses \$75, three offenses \$100, and eventually, violators could be banned from the park. Appalachian Skate Park Council president Buzz Berry had concerns, however.

He said the park was created as a safe place for skateboarders to go.

Berry feared that skateboarders may go back to the sidewalks if faced with too many harsh penalties

While knee and elbow pads interfere with certain skateboarding moves, helmets should always be worn, he said. He just questioned the severity of the consequences. Commissioners will deliberate and discuss the matter at their next meeting in July.