



Recreation & Parks Department Report April 2012

- Ten (10) groups used the Hughes Center during March for a total of 275 hours. Events included the Friends of the Library book sale, the Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation Hamfest, a public hearing on park needs and two birthday parties. AARP has continued their assistance with tax preparation for area residence.
- The Parks Commission met on March 13. (Minutes attached.)
- The department had two incidents of vandalism in the month of March. The incidents included property damage at City Park and Washburn Park. We are also having a fisherman who thinks it is fine to clean his fish in the rest room sink at Washburn Park and throw his fish guts in our trash can. While technically this isn't vandalism, it is close.
- Over 1400 trees were planted in March. The majority of those were planted on March 10 by Jason Massey at Illinois Bayou Park. He planted 1300 trees in the area of the park that was destroyed by fire last year. This was his eagle project for Boy Scouts. Thanks go out to all those who volunteered their time and efforts to replant the area. Trees were also planted in City, Washburn, Pleasant View, Shiloh, Veterans, Soccer and Hickey Parks.
- Terry Thomas and Matt Gray completed the Aquatics Facility Operators course Held in Rogers on March 13 and March 14. The 16 hour course covers all aspects of operating a pool or aquatics facility. Both employees passed the course. The City will benefit greatly by having two more certified aquatic facility operators on staff.
- Mack Hollis and Terry Thomas attended the Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association State conference for training on March 14, 15 & 16. The conference was held in Rogers and covered several topics dealing with recreation and park issues.
- Due to a mild winter the parks are being used earlier than usual this year. The department has opened the restrooms for the season. Park use for the month has really increased as the public is getting out and enjoying their city parks.
- Mowing all the parks has begun for the season which has started early and grass has been cooperating by growing rather fast. We hope to get caught up and keep up throughout the season.
- Registration for the adult summer softball leagues was completed on March 23. We will have 22 coed teams and 11 men's teams this summer. League play begins April 10. The leagues will play on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at Pleasant View/Shiloh Park
- Work has begun on batting cages at Hickey Park. There will be five batting cages at the park. Two by Field 1, two between Fields 5 and 7 and one by Field 6. The cages are being built as a group effort with the Russellville Schools, R.Y.B.A. and the City Parks Department.
- Request for qualifications was advertised to engineering firms that specialize in aquatic facility development. We hope to select a firm to do a feasibility study, develop a design, create facility construction and operating cost of an aquatic center for the city of Russellville.
- Russellville Youth Baseball Association teams began practices for their summer league play at Hickey Park in March. The boys of summer are now in full swing.

RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
March 13, 2012

Present: Marvin Collier, Mayor Bill Eaton, Andy Hatley, Theresa Herrick, Mack Hollis, Mike Johnston, J.W. Stratton, Mark Tripp
Absent: Chloe Lieblong
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy
Guests: Chad Bartlett, Christie Graham, Gary Knudsen, Adam Sweeney-The Courier

The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm.

Marvin Collier made a motion to accept the minutes from the February meeting. Andy Hatley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

New Business

A. Aquatics Center/R.F.Q.-After the pool at Arkansas Tech University closed, discussions began about constructing an aquatic center in Russellville. Information about city owned/operated aquatic centers is being gathered from mayors and park directors around the state. A recommendation was made to seek architectural/engineering design services for design construction, cost estimation, and project administration. These services will be obtained by seeking a request for qualifications. Marvin Collier made a motion in favor of the recommendation. Mike Johnston seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

B. Capital Items-A public meeting was held on March 12 at the Hughes Center to receive input on recreational needs in Russellville. A list of items requested will be compiled and presented at the next commission meeting.

C. Firearm Policy in the Parks-An inquiry was made recently about the existence of a city ordinance that pertains to concealed weapons in city parks. Parks included in our Shiloh lease must follow the Corps of Engineers policy pertaining to firearms. Their policy states that all firearms are restricted in their parks. There is approximately 400 acres of our park land that must follow the Corps of Engineers policy. The land includes Washburn Park, Ouita Boat Launch & Island, Illinois Bayou Park, Pleasant View Park, Disc Golf Course, Shiloh Park, and the Water Ski Area. A brief discussion was held regarding the need for an ordinance in the parks not included in the Shiloh lease agreement. A recommendation was made to adopt the Corps of Engineers policy for all city parks to provide uniformity in our park system. All commissioners agreed.

D. Recalled Equipment at Veterans Park-Notification was received from Landscape Structures regarding a piece of playground equipment at Veterans Park that has been recalled. At the time of sale, the slalom glider was not considered a slide by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. However, it has now been determined to be a slide and should meet the requirements of a slide. Pictures of the playground structure were distributed to the commission. The glider could be replaced with a slide, pod, or spinner. Mike Johnston made a motion to order a slide to replace the recalled equipment. Marvin Collier seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

General Update

A. Illinois Bayou Park Trail-Clearing work is almost complete at Illinois Bayou Park, and culverts will be installed soon. Work is on hold due to rain.

B. Dike View Park-Eighty-three acres of Dike View Park is being mapped and will be added to our lease in April.

C. Sixteen Acre Tract on Highway 7-The 16 acre tract on Highway 7 should be added to our lease in April.

D. Monthly Report-The commissioners received a copy of the department's monthly report.

E. Upcoming Events-A schedule of upcoming events was given to the commissioners.

F. Future Agenda Items- Policy on Firearms in City Parks
Aquatics Center/RFQ
PowerPoint Presentation-Trails & Park Projects
Park Master Plan
Capital Items

The meeting adjourned at 12.50pm.