

- Seven (7) groups used the Hughes Center during March for a total of 208 hours. Events included Ham Fest, AARP tax assistance, Fitz Girls workouts and various meetings.
- The Parks Commission met on March 11. The topic discussed was the location of the new aquatics center. The meeting was well attended. The minutes are attached.
- Henry Hankins attended a certified pool operator course in Roland, Oklahoma. He is now a certified pool operator for the State of Arkansas for five years. Having another certified pool operator in the department is a real asset to the City.
- Mack Hollis attended the Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association State Conference held in Fort Smith on March 12, 13 & 14. The training conference is a wonderful place to network, get fresh ideas for our park system and learn what's new in parks and recreation.
- The Department held registration from March 4 to March 14 for our summer softball league. Registration fees were \$425.00 per team with thirty-four teams registering for our summer program. League play begins on Wednesday, April 9 with games being played on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.
- Work hours were adjusted for the maintenance crew to better accommodate the citizens of Russellville. This allows more time to clean pavilions between rentals and prepare for evening events.
- The circular slide on the composite play structure at James School Park was replaced after our playground inspection indicated it to be unsafe. The inspection also found two bridges at the park and one bridge at Hickey Park were unsafe. All bridges were repaired. Park inspections are done annually following Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) guidelines. We also do a monthly walk through of our parks. We would encourage all park patrons to contact us with any safety concerns they may see in our parks.
- The basketball lights on the north courts of James School Park were replaced. The fixtures on the south court will be replaced with new metal halide 1500 watt fixtures at a later time. The fascia boards on the pavilion were also replaced and painted.
- Fuses, light bulbs, capacitors, switching gear, contactors and ballast were replaced at Shiloh Park ball fields due to lightning strikes during the off season. The work was done by Thomas Electric of Russellville and our parks maintenance staff.
- Clearing, cleaning of brush, excavation, grass planted and ditch work were completed on the new area on the west side of Hickey Park. The area will be easier to maintain, the water in the creek should flow better and the area looks much more inviting.
- Due to more winter weather in March, we again had tree limbs and trees down that needed cleared and hauled away. Approximately 35 to 40 yards of brush were hauled to the yard waste facility at Animal Control.
- The USSSA March Bash and the first leg of the USSSA Triple Diamond softball tournaments were held at Pleasant View Park and Shiloh Park. Each tournament had 24 teams participating.
- The Boys and Girls Club youth softball teams began practicing at Pleasant View Park preparing for their upcoming youth softball season. The teams practice on Monday and Tuesday nights on all four fields at Pleasant View.
- The sports fields at Pleasant View Park, Hickey Park and the Soccer Complex were treated with weed control. Fertilizer will be applied at a later date on all city maintained sports fields.
- Eight picnic sites on the east side of Washburn Park were rejuvenated.

RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
March 11, 2014

Present: Marvin Collier, Mayor Bill Eaton, Andy Hatley, Theresa Herrick, Mack Hollis, Chloe Lieblong, Spence Roberts, J.W. Stratton, Terry Thomas
Absent: Mike Johnston
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy
Guests: Perry Carr & Mizan Rahman-ETC Engineers & Architects, Dave Brown-River Valley Leader, Whitney Snipes-The Courier, Glen Bishop, Bob Burris, Tina Chronister, Bucky Croom, Bert Fleck, Freddie Harris, Gary Knudsen, Jim Lynch, Dan Nicholson, Carol Shoptaw, Nancy Smith, Richard Smith, Chad Weisler, Wesley Zulfer

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.

Old Business

A. Aquatics Center (ETC)-During the January commission meeting, the list of potential sites for the Russellville Aquatic Center was narrowed to three. The three sites selected were Vick Field, the Boys & Girls Club property on 19th Street, and North Phoenix Avenue. ETC Project Manager Mizan Rahman distributed copies of a detailed qualitative analysis on the three sites. Each site was analyzed and scored based on 23 parameters such as accessibility/parking, visibility, land cost, flooding potential, and property size/future expansion. The maximum score for each location was 230 points. Vick Field received a score of 186, the property on Phoenix Avenue scored 184, and the Boys & Girls property scored 139. The land would have to be purchased on 19th Street which contributed to the lower score for that site. Mayor Eaton said Bert Fleck gave him a price of \$100,000 for the land owned by the Boys & Girls Club. The city already owns the property for the other two proposed locations. Ease and cost of construction was one of the reasons Vick Field scored higher. Connecting water and sewer services to the North Phoenix property would cost approximately \$80,000. There are 4.5 acres above the flood plain on North Phoenix, Vick Field is 3 acres, and between 11 and 12 acres are available from the Boys & Girls Club. Commissioners appeared skeptical of the Vick Field location because of space limitations. Alderman Spence Roberts said it would be easy to put the facility at Vick Field, but it's not the answer. ETC Vice President Perry Carr told the commissioners that ETC is ultimately a pool designer, and the location of the Aquatic Center would be decided by the city. He said not to let expansion be the determining factor in choosing a site. He cited examples of other cities that have expanded their aquatic facilities by building in a different location. He explained that a new outdoor facility would not necessarily have to be built at the same site as the indoor facility. Boys & Girls Club Board Member Bert Fleck stated that 150 children attend their club daily and would benefit from the facility. Marvin Collier made a motion to select the North Phoenix property as the site for the aquatic facility. There was no second, therefore the motion died. Commissioner Lieblong likes the property on Phoenix Avenue and 19th Street; but she is concerned because the property on 19th Street would have to be purchased. Boys & Girls Club Board Member Chad Weisler said they are eager to present a firm quote for their property once the amount of acreage is determined. Mr. Rahman explained that the ability to expand the facility at the North Phoenix site would depend on the size of the expansion. Gary Knudsen said he prefers the Phoenix Avenue site because of its proximity to the interstate and Russellville Junior High School. He explained that he has a problem purchasing land when the city owns property that is available. Commissioner Hatley suggested that the commissioners meet with select groups to obtain information that is needed to make a decision. He said there are too many questions that need to be answered before a decision can be made. Chloe Lieblong made a motion to schedule a special commission meeting to obtain additional information. Andy Hatley seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 27 at 6:00pm at the Hughes Center.

Updates

- A. Monthly Report**-The commissioners received a copy of the department's monthly report.
B. Upcoming Events-A schedule of upcoming events was given to the commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.