



Recreation & Parks Department Report January 2013

- Seven (7) groups used the Hughes Center during December for a total of 135 hours. Events included the Junior Cyclone Peewee Football Banquet, the ANO Christmas Party and the River Valley Ducks Unlimited Banquet.
- The Parks Commission met on December 11. The minutes are attached.
- The department had two incidents of vandalism for the month of December. The incidents included a toilet paper dispenser being destroyed at City Park and illegal dumping of couches and yard waste on Orbit Lane in Shiloh Park.
- Trout Day was held on December 1 at Pleasant View Park. This annual event gives area anglers an opportunity to try out their trout fishing skills or be tutored by a member of the Caddis Fly Fishing Club. This event is always well attended and continues to grow each year. A statewide contest with prizes was added this year to encourage family fishing.
- The Russellville Christmas Parade was held downtown on December 6. This year's parade participants shone brightly as they made their way down the parade route. The parade is organized by the Parks Department and receives great volunteer support from all city departments. A special thanks to Kelli Nealy and all the volunteers that make this a great event each year.
- The department solicited bids in December for the operation of the park concessions. The bids were opened on December 11 at City Hall. J & J Food Services was awarded the bid and will continue to operate the concessions at Shiloh Park and Pleasant View Park.
- Mark Lawrence, Arkansas Department of Labor Safety and Health Specialist conducted a safety meeting on December 18 for park employees. The meeting was an annual review of the hazard communication standard. As usual, Mark did an excellent job in his presentation.
- We had a winter storm on December 19 with high winds that caused damage to the Winter Wonderland light display and downed limbs in some of the parks.
- Concrete pads to be used for material storage bins were poured at Hickey Park and Pleasant View Park. The youth baseball association will get the side wall concrete barriers donated for Hickey Park. Both projects were financed through a grant from the Advertising and Promotion Commission.
- Christmas decorations were put up at the Hughes Center and Washburn Park. We utilize the banners and Christmas trees, we refurbished, that were the old downtown decorations.
- Work continued on both the Illinois Bayou Wildlife Observation Trail and the ski area trail at Shiloh Park. Both trails will be open in the spring.
- Mack presented the department report to the City Council in December. That report will be on our website at www.russellvillearkansas.org for future viewing.
- The historic tree park trail at Pleasant View Park was cleared and cleaned of underbrush. We plan to resurface the wood chip trail as soon as the area is dry.

RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
December 11, 2012

Present: Marvin Collier, Mayor Bill Eaton, Theresa Herrick, Mack Hollis, Chloe Lieblong, J.W. Stratton
Absent: Andy Hatley, Mike Johnston, Mark Tripp
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy
Guests: Robert Barnett, Bryan Ivy

The meeting was called to order at noon.

Marvin Collier made a motion to accept the minutes from the October meeting. J.W. Stratton seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Old Business

- A. Fees & Charges**-This agenda item was tabled until January.
- B. Aquatic Facility**-Vick Field is being considered as a possible site for the development of the Russellville Aquatic Center. A footprint of the facility at this location was completed by ETC Engineering and was shown to the commissioners. ETC Engineering will submit revenue and expenditure projections when plans are finalized.

New Business

- A. Capital Projects List**-An updated list of capital project requests was distributed to the commission. The commissioners were asked to prioritize the projects after receiving public input. Project rankings will be discussed in January.
- B. Splash Pad-Spring Grand Opening**-A picture was shown of the Splash Pad at City Park. The project is nearing completion, and a grand opening will be held in May 2013.
- C. R.H.S. Request to Enlarge Dugouts on Field 6**-Russellville High School has requested permission to enlarge both dugouts on Hickey Park field 6. The project would be paid entirely by R.H.S. All work will match the existing material and style. Plans for the addition were shown to the commission. Marvin Collier made a motion to allow the request. Chloe Lieblong seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- D. Pleasant View Park**-According to Christie Graham, the insurance policy covering the equipment at Winter Wonderland requires the gates at Pleasant View Park remain locked as long as the equipment is set up in the park. Currently, park gates are only unlocked when the display is open to the public which has presented a problem for area fishermen. Due to a trout fishing contest running thru December 15, many fishermen are eager to fish and claim their prize. Bryan Ivy and Robert Barnett addressed the commission. Even though there is walk-in access, Mr. Ivy said he is unable to walk the distance to the pond. Mr. Barnett said locking the gate denies people the opportunity to fish. Changes must be made by next year due to ADA guidelines. A schedule will be developed and posted at the park which allows fishermen an opportunity to fish several hours each day until the park reopens this year. J.W. Stratton said they can get insurance on the display that allows the park to remain open.

Updates

- A. Illinois Bayou Park Trail**-Slides were shown of work completed on the trail at Illinois Bayou Park.
- B. Illinois Bayou Park Restrooms**-A picture was shown of the restrooms at Illinois Bayou Park which will open when the concrete work is completed by D.A.R.T.
- C. M.J. Hickey Park Improvements**-Slides were shown of work completed at Hickey Park including ditch work and a new roof on the umpire room.
- 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.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.