



Recreation & Parks Department Report June 2012

- Ten (10) groups used the Hughes Center during May for a total of 160 hours. Events included the Neito birthday party, the National Players Challenge disc golf tournament registration, and meetings for AVSA, Public Works and the RRPD pool employees.
- The Parks Commission met on May 8. (Minutes attached.)
- The department had two incidents of vandalism in the month of May. The incidents included carving the plastic off the picnic table at City Park and cutting a hole in the rubber fall cushioning at Shiloh Park.
- There were two softball tournaments held at Pleasant View Park and Shiloh Park. The first was the adult World Super Series NIT on May 19 with 30 teams participating. The second was a youth fast pitch tournament held on May 26 & 27 with 39 teams participating. The teams were guaranteed five games and to play on both days which created a problem for some teams finding motel rooms in the area.
- The department hosted the local Hershey Track and Field meet on May 5 at the Russellville High School track. This year there were 52 participants. Special thanks to Don Carnahan, Coach Thompson, Tracey Cline-Pew, Katherine Gaines and all of our volunteers for their help. Participants that finished in first or second place qualified to compete in the state meet at Jacksonville High School on June 16.
- Registration for swim lessons began on May 1. Red Cross is no longer giving swim lessons in the area and the parks department has taken over in an attempt to continue the program. Participation is very strong with more than 80 registered already. The department also began reserving private pool parties and selling pool passes on that date.
- A pool employee staff/safety meeting was held on May 14. Dan Borroughs is returning as the pool manager and Zach Whitworth as the assistant manager. This year's lifeguards are Anthony Williams, Craig Gunter, Ryan Matejek, Emily Gower, Kelsey Self, Dillon Abernathy and Ali Rye.
- The City of Russellville solicited request for qualifications for an aquatic center in Russellville. Thirteen companies responded and five were chosen to give presentations to the aquatic center committee. The committee members are Mayor Bill Eaton, Parks Director Mack Hollis, City Planner David Harris, City Engineer Michael Oakes and Russellville School District Athletic Director Jim Dickerson. The presentations were on May 23 and the committee made a recommendation to the Mayor.
- M. J. Hickey Pool was patched, painted and filled for the 2012 season. The furniture, decks and facilities were cleaned and repaired. All repair work was done in-house by the parks maintenance staff.
- Lightning hit at Hickey Park Field 7 and blew out the contactor for one of the light poles, ballast and the sprinkler control panel. All were replaced and play was interrupted for only one night.
- M.J. Hickey Pool opened for the season on Saturday, May 26. A lap swim time was added this year for individuals who are interested. It will run from June 4 to August 3 and will be from 6:00am to 7:00am, Monday through Friday. The swim team will practice from 7:00am to 9:00am, and swim lessons will be from 9:00am to 11:30am and 6:45pm to 7:25pm, Monday - Thursday. The pool will be opened everyday from 12:30pm to 6:30pm for public swim. Pool party reservations are from 8:00pm to 10:00pm, Monday – Thursday and 7:00pm to 10:00pm on the weekends.

- The National Players Disc Golf Challenge was held on the May 26, 27 and 28 at the disc golf course. Work on the course was completed the week prior to the event and included pruning trees, excavation work and dirt work around the tee boxes and cages. The players had nothing but good comments about the course and all want to return to play in Russellville.
- The umpires building at Hickey Park was cleaned and painted. Next for the building will be a new roof. The building is used by R.Y.B.A. officials to dress for games and take breaks between games. The building is also used by the high school for their officials.
- Leadership Russellville donated seven bicycle racks to the parks department. These were made possible through community sponsorships. The racks will be placed at the Hughes Center, M.J. Hickey Park, M.J. Hickey Pool, Sequoyah Park, Veterans Park and James School Park.

RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
May 8, 2012

Present: Marvin Collier, Andy Hatley, Mack Hollis, Mike Johnston, J.W. Stratton, Mark Tripp
Absent: Theresa Herrick, Chloe Lieblong
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy
Guests: Kelley Davis-AR RV Tennis Assoc., Shelia Jackson-AR RV Tennis Assoc., Emily Langford-RV Leader, Heather Sprinkle-The Courier

The meeting was called to order at noon.

Mike Johnston made a motion to accept the minutes from the April meeting. Andy Hatley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Old Business

- A. Community Fireworks Display-**Donation commitments to date total \$7,000 for our 2012 Community Fireworks Display. A recommendation was made to move the event to Old Post Park to allow the department to seek per car donations. Moving the display from Pleasant View Park to Old Post Park will eliminate the ground display. A suggestion was made to control the traffic light at Lock & Dam Road and Highway 7 at the end of the event to speed traffic flow. The commissioners were in favor of changing the event site to Old Post Park.
- B. Capital Outlay-**The commissioners were given a list of capital projects at the April meeting and were asked to rank the list after receiving public input. The commissioners agreed that another month was needed before completing their list. This agenda item will be discussed in June.
- C. Splash Pad-**An updated list of equipment, including costs, was received from Rain Deck for the splash pad at City Park. Engineer drawings are being completed by Rain Deck, and upon receipt, will be submitted to the Arkansas Health Department for approval. Tentative start date for the project is September 2012.

New Business

- A. Red Cross Disaster Shelter Agreement-**This agenda item was tabled until June.
- B. L.W.C.F. Grant-**In the April meeting, commissioners were made aware of a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant opportunity from AR Parks & Tourism. The 50/50 matching grant has an application deadline of August 31, 2012, and the maximum amount is \$250,000. After a brief discussion, the general consensus was to use the original capital outlay list, and complete the grant application for lights at the soccer complex. Mike Johnston made a motion in favor of applying for the grant for field lighting at soccer. Marvin Collier seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The recommendation will be presented to the City Council Finance Committee.
- C. River Valley Tennis Association, Tennis Facilities, Shelia Jackson-**Arkansas River Valley Tennis Association representative Shelia Jackson addressed the commission about the need for additional tennis courts in Russellville. There are currently over 300 tennis players in the River Valley area. The group currently uses the eight tennis courts at Arkansas Tech University, but Ms. Jackson is unsure how long the facilities will be available to them. The existing capital outlay list includes doubling the number of courts at City Park, however Ms. Jackson felt four courts wouldn't be sufficient. The commission would like to research the possibility of building six courts at Vick Field.

General Update

- A. Aquatic Center-**The number of engineering firms has been narrowed to five. The selected firms will make presentations to the committee on May 23.
- B. Monthly Report-**The commissioners received a copy of the department's monthly report.
- C. Upcoming Events-**A schedule of upcoming events was given to the commissioners.
- D. Future Agenda Items-** Capital Outlay
Red Cross Disaster Shelter Agreement
Aquatic Center

The meeting adjourned at 12.45pm.