



Recreation & Parks Department Report March 2013

- Seven (7) groups used the Hughes Center during February for a total of 267 hours. Events included an Arkansas Center for Music Education Community Band Concert, Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours and the Arkansas Hospice Sweetheart Saturday.
- The Parks Commission met on February 12. (Minutes attached).
- The department held a staff and safety meeting on February 8. The safety topic was housekeeping. Slides of the parks were shown to the employees and the group discussed possible improvements for each slide. These slides will be revisited at our next staff meeting to see how the improvements are coming along.
- Employees received information on the City's new Wellness Works program. Better watch out for this department because we plan to compete hard for the prized traveling trophy!
- The annual Arkansas Hospice's Sweetheart Saturday was held at the Hughes Center in February. The event was a big success for the group. If you haven't attended this event, you are missing out.
- A meeting was held to discuss the development of an aquatic center in Russellville. Perry Carr of ETC, Engineers and Architects, the Mayor, Aldermen Roberts, Tripp and Horton and Parks Commissioner Andy Hatley attended to listen to ideas and concerns. Everyone was updated and several recommendations were given to the engineers for consideration.
- Kirsten Bartlow and James Rogers from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission met with Mack at the Wildlife Observation Trail at Illinois Bayou Park. They were pleased with the progress of the trail and updated on the final construction phase. Weather permitting, the trail will be completed and opened to the public this summer.
- Citizens have begun booking pavilions for March. Several egg hunts are planned for March 30. We are anticipating another busy year for our pavilion reservations. City Park and Washburn Park pavilions continue to be our most popular.
- The Historic Tree Park and trail work continued with clearing of underbrush and low tree limbs. We removed several dead trees, pruned low limbs, filled holes and leveled grounds. The trail bark will be rejuvenated later. This additional loop will create the prettiest part of the trail which will follow closest to the edge of the lakeshore. It will create a one mile loop.
- A window was installed at the Hickey Park Field 6 concession stand at the request of the R.H.S. Booster Club so they can watch the games while working the concession.
- Bollards were installed at the dumpster area of the bullpen at Pleasant View Park. Decorative fence slats were also placed in the fence to try and conceal the dumpster and bullpen area from view of the public visiting the park.
- A meeting was held with members of the Russellville School Board, School District and the Russellville City Council to discuss the location of the proposed aquatics center in Russellville. Mack was asked to meet with the engineer at ETC and see if the suggested site at Hickey Park would be a viable option.
- The Department recorded two incidents of vandalism in February. A gate at the Pleasant View Park fishing area was vandalized and someone dumped couches and household trash at Orbit Lane. The vandalism was repaired in the parks as soon as it was noticed. Measures are being taken to curb the continued vandalism.
- Mack met with members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans about cleaning and developing Confederate Mothers Memorial Park. They have already set the first clean up day for March 9 at 8:00am. All interested citizens are welcome to come up and participate.
- The department sprayed the soccer fields and the Pleasant View Park fields for winter weeds. The soccer fields were also painted for the adult soccer league which began play on February 24.

Russellville Recreation and Parks Upcoming Events

Date: March 4, 2013

Date	Person/Event	Rooms	Comments
2-4 to 4-10	AARP Tax Assistance	large room & board room	8:00am to 4:00pm
3-4	RRPD Softball Organizational Meeting	large room	6:30pm
3-7	Home Show	gym	setup 8:00am to 4:00pm
3-8			event 9:00am to 6:00pm
3-9			event 9:00am to 4:00pm
3-9	White Birthday Party	large room	1:00pm to 4:00pm
3-12	Parks Commission	large room	12:00pm
3-12	Progressive Men's Club	kitchen	6:00pm to 8:00pm
3-16	Acosta Baby Shower	large room	11:00am to 3:00pm
3-25	RRPD Softball Divisional Meeting	large room	6:30pm
3-28	Amber Haven's ATU Class	gym	6:00pm to 8:00pm
4-2	AR State Land Sale	large room	11:30am to 2:30pm
4-4	Chamber of Commerce Industry Appreciation Dinner	gym	setup 9:00am to 5:00pm event 6:00pm to 9:00pm
4-9	Parks Commission	large room	12:00pm
4-27	pARTy in the Park	entire building	8:00am to 3:00pm

Park Events

Date	Park	Person/Event	Comments
	City Park	Arts Center Artist Receptions	first Sunday of month 1 - 3pm
2-25 to 5-18	Hickey Park	RHS Cyclone Baseball Season	First home game on 2-25
2-25 to 5-9	Hickey Park	RHS Cyclone Softball Season	First home game on 2-25
3-4 to 4-27	Soccer Complex	AVSA League	practices begin on 2-25
3-9	Disc Golf Course	ATU RP Club	10am to 5pm 20 expected
3-15	Hickey Park	RSD 3 rd Grade Kickball Tournament	8:00am to 2:00pm
3-16	Pleasant View	March Bash USSSA Tournament	
3-23 & 24	Pleasant View & Shiloh	USSSA Triple Crown	
3-30	Disc Golf Course	Disc Golf Club	
3-30	Pleasant View	Battle on the Bayou	
4-1 to ?	Hickey Park	RYBA Season	
4-6	Hickey Park	RHS Softball Jamboree	Field 6, (Field 7, if possible for warm-ups)
4-12 13 & 14	Pleasant View & Shiloh	Rumble on the River USSSA Youth (60 teams expected)	
4-17	Pleasant View	Greek Week Kickball Games	
4-20 & 21	Pleasant View & Shiloh	USSSA Youth Triple Crown	
4-27	pARTy in the Park	City Park/Hughes Center	
4-27	Pleasant View	Boys & Girls Club Pre-Season	
5-4 & 5	Pleasant View & Shiloh	USSSA Youth Triple Diamond	
5-11	RHS Track	Hershey Track Meet	
5-11 & 12	Soccer Complex	AVSA Spring Classic	Fields 1 through 8

Park Events

Date	Park	Person/Event	Comments
5-18	Pleasant View & Shiloh	NIT Adult Worth Super Series	
5-24, 25 & 26	Pleasant View & Shiloh	USSSA NIT Youth Combat	
6-1	Pleasant View	Hospice Benefit Tournament	
6-1	James Park	James Park Reunion (not renting pavilion)	100 – 150 expected
6-14, 15 & 16	Pleasant View & Shiloh	ASA Youth District Tournament	
6-14, 15 & 16	Hickey Park	RYBA Tournament	
6-21, 22 & 23	Pleasant View & Shiloh	ASA Youth State Tournament	
6-28, 29 & 30	Hickey Park	State 12AA Tournament	
6-29	Pleasant View	BJ Burton Benefit Tournament	
7-5, 6 & 7	Pleasant View & Shiloh	USSSA State Tournament	

Pavilion Rentals

Date	Park	Time	Person	Event	Comments
3-9	Sequoyah	3pm to 5pm	Turnipseed	birthday party	20 expected
3-30	Shiloh	8am to 10pm	Calvary Temple AOG	egg hunt	40 expected
3-30	Washburn	8am to 3pm	Fellowship Bible Church	egg hunt	30 expected
3-30	Washburn	3pm to 10pm	RCC	egg hunt	100 expected
5-5	Washburn	11am to 7pm	Hankins	grad party	50 expected

RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
February 12, 2013

Present: Marvin Collier, Mayor Bill Eaton, Andy Hatley, Mack Hollis, Mike Johnston, J.W. Stratton, Terry Thomas
Absent: Theresa Herrick, Chloe Lieblong
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy
Guests: Abby Davis-AR RV Tennis Association, Christie Graham, Ron Knost, Joshua Mashon-The Courier, Howard West-The Courier

The meeting was called to order at noon.

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

Old Business

A. Capital Projects List-The commissioners were asked at the January meeting to prioritize a list of capital project requests after receiving public input. Four commissioners submitted their project priorities to be tallied prior to the meeting. Mike Johnston addressed the commission about the need for field lights at the soccer complex. He said in his opinion there was some confusion about the amount of time lights would be used at the facility by AVSA. Commissioner Johnston stated that the soccer complex is a wonderful facility, but can't be utilized to its fullest without lights. He requested permission to present data in support of field lights to the commission, and then asks that the projects be re-ranked. J.W. Stratton made a recommendation to discuss the rankings in March after receiving information about soccer complex lighting. All commissioners present agreed. In addition, a suggestion was made to require all athletic groups/associations to present their needs and/or requests in person to the commission to provide clarity and eliminate any confusion.

B. Aquatic Center-A drawing and preliminary cost estimate for the Russellville Aquatic Facility was distributed to the commission. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 19 at 6:00pm at the Hughes Center for public input and discussion. Representatives from ETC Engineers & Architects will be present to answer questions. The commissioners were encouraged to attend.

New Business

A. Community Fireworks Display-The commissioners were informed that the department's 2013 Community Fireworks Display will be held at Old Post Park. Pleasant View Park is not available for the event due to a large state softball tournament being held at the park on July 5, 6, and 7.

B. River Valley Tennis Association Request-RV Tennis Association Instructor Abby Davis addressed the commission about the need to use the courts at City Park and Shiloh Park once weekly for lessons. The younger age division will continue using the courts at ATU because portable nets are used as well as temporary lines on the courts. Ms. Davis is aware of the department's reservation system and fees for reserving tennis courts. A brief discussion followed regarding the increase in popularity of tennis which results in a need for more courts in the area. The Corps of Engineers no longer maintains the tennis courts at Old Post Park unless it's a safety issue. A suggestion was made by the mayor to speak with the Corps about possibly assuming the maintenance responsibilities of their courts.

C. AVSA Requests-

1. Additional Fields at the Soccer Complex-A request was submitted by AVSA to add an additional field at the soccer complex for games and practices. The location of the field was shown to the commission. Marvin Collier made a motion in favor of the request. Mike Johnston seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

2. Develop Practice Fields at Sheppard Drive-In addition, AVSA requested permission to develop the ball fields on Sheppard Drive for soccer practices. Mike Johnston made a motion in favor of the request. J.W. Stratton seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

D. Park Entry Signs-Commissioners were given pictures of the current park entry signs, as well as recommended design changes which will provide a uniform appearance. Mike Johnston made a motion in favor of the new design. Marvin Collier seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The signs will be replaced on an as needed basis.

Updates

A. Trails-Slides were shown of sections of the trail system that have been completed around the city.

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.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ron Knost addressed the commission and advised that he has resigned as Project Coordinator for the Wildlife Observation Trail at Illinois Bayou Park.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.