



Recreation & Parks Department Report May 2012

- Fourteen (14) groups used the Hughes Center during April for a total of 228 hours. Events included a tax delinquent land sale, the annual Home Expo and a banquet and registration for the Arkansas Masters Crappie Tournament.
- The Parks Commission met on April 10. (Minutes attached.)
- The department had five incidents of vandalism in the month of April. The incidents included property damage at Hickey Park, Sequoyah Park and the Hughes Center and graffiti at City Park and Washburn Park.
- Conagra Foods, Inc. has become our fourth area group to adopt a park. They have adopted Washburn Park and on their first outing a group of 40 volunteers picked up eight bags of trash. We are glad to have them take an interest in our parks system.
- The Clean and Green Committee for the City of Russellville picked up litter at Washburn Park and the Ouita boat launch area on April 6. The park looked great just in time for all of the Easter egg hunts.
- Firestone employees picked up litter at the disc golf/water ski area and Pleasant View Road on April 27.
- Park employees attended a safety/staff meeting on April 25. The safety topic was "Driving Safely". In other safety matters, a fire drill was conducted at the Hughes Center, quarterly vehicle inspections were performed and all fire extinguishers, exit and emergency lights, grinders and weather radios were inspected.
- The department held the annual Battle on the Bayou adult softball tournament on April 7 at Pleasant View Park and Shiloh Park. Thirty teams participated in this year's tournament.
- Rumble on the River softball tournament was held on April 20, 21 and 22 at Pleasant View and Shiloh Parks. The youth fast pitch tournament is one of the largest in the area and all of the participants enjoyed a beautiful weekend in Russellville.
- Two 55' by 14' batting cages were installed at Hickey Park between Fields 5 & 7. This was a joint venture between the City and the Russellville Youth Baseball Association. The cages will be a real asset to the park and will be enjoyed by local residence and visitors coming to tournaments.
- With assistance from Russellville High School and the Russellville High School Baseball Boosters Club, we installed two 74' by 13' batting cages between Fields 1 & 4 at Hickey Park. These cages are a wonderful addition to the park and will be enjoyed by area ball player for many years to come.
- The frame was installed for an additional batting cage at Field 6 at Hickey Park. Netting will be installed in the future by the Russellville High School softball booster club.
- M. J. Hickey Pool was drained and cleaned in preparation for the 2012 swim season. The pool should be ready for its opening on Saturday, May 26 at 12:30. Season passes are available for purchase at the Hughes Center, Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 5:00pm.
- pARTy in the Park was held on April 28 at City Park and the Hughes Center. This is a co-operative event with the Arts Center and the Parks Department and is well attended every year by the public. The event features food, games, entertainment, arts and crafts and several other activities for kids.
- The eight foot fence between the backstop and dugouts on Field 2 at Hickey Park were replaced. The original fence from 1976 has held up nicely but has begun to curl at the bottom and come apart creating a safety hazard.
- A new fifty by fifty foot bull pen was installed at Pleasant View Park. This much needed addition to the park will allow us to secure our tractors, trailers, fence and supplies safely and away from park patrons.

- The new pickup truck arrived and was put into service as a replacement for the 1998 Chevrolet. The replaced vehicle has several problems that were cost prohibitive to repair. We will place that vehicle on sale at a later date.
- Clearing of dead trees and underbrush was done at the historic tree trail in Pleasant View Park. Work will continue to the trail which follows the lake near the historic tree area of the park. This part of the trail makes a one mile loop around the park for walkers and bicycles. We hope to update the trail with signs in the upcoming months.

RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
April 10, 2012

Present: Marvin Collier, Mayor Bill Eaton, Andy Hatley, Theresa Herrick, Mack Hollis, Mike Johnston, Terry Thomas
Absent: Chloe Lieblong, J.W. Stratton, Mark Tripp
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy
Guests: Kelley Davis-AR RV Tennis Assoc., Christie Graham, Shelia Jackson-AR RV Tennis Assoc., Gary Knudsen, Catherine Wilkins-RV Leader

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

Marvin Collier made a motion to accept the minutes from the March meeting. Mike Johnston seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. Firearm Policy in the Parks-The commissioners received a copy of a proposed ordinance prohibiting the possession of handguns or firearms in city parks. As discussed in the meeting last month, parks included in our Shiloh lease agreement must follow the Corps of Engineers policy pertaining to firearms; however an ordinance doesn't exist for park property not included in the Corps lease. Marvin Collier made a motion in favor of the proposed ordinance. Mike Johnston seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The ordinance will be presented to the city council at the April meeting.

B. Community Fireworks Display-The department has received one donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to help offset the cost of our 2012 Community Fireworks Display. In addition, The Journey has decided not to participate in this year's event. A brief discussion followed regarding moving the event to Old Post Park if available and asking spectators for a per car donation. The department will continue soliciting donations, and plans will be finalized at the May meeting.

New Business

A. M.J. Hickey Pool

1. Pool Fees-Information was obtained from area community pools regarding their fee schedule for pool parties and season passes. Fees at M.J. Hickey Pool have not been adjusted since 2005. A fee schedule was distributed to the commission showing prices for last year as well as proposed prices for 2012. In the past, individual and family passes were available. Prices for a family pass were based on the size of the family. A recommendation was made to eliminate family passes, and sell individual passes for \$75.00 each. In addition, a recommendation was made to increase pool rental fees for private parties from \$30.00 per hour to \$50.00 per hour. The charge for lifeguards at a party would remain at \$12.50 per hour per guard with a minimum of two guards. The proposed price adjustments will set the prices in line with area pools. Andy Hatley made a motion in favor of the proposed fees. Marvin Collier seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
2. Pool Hours-Due to an increase in pool usage, the pool schedule had to be adjusted to accommodate the various user groups. A proposed schedule was distributed to the commission. Lap swim and water aerobics have been added. Marvin Collier made a motion to adopt the new schedule. Andy Hatley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

B. Swim Lessons-As a result of Red Cross no longer offering swim lessons in Russellville, a proposal was submitted to the commission that details the requirements for the parks department to take over the program beginning this year. The proposal includes staffing, expenses, session dates, and projected revenue. Registration would be done through the parks department office, and Gary Knudsen has agreed to be the program manager. Mike Johnston made a motion in favor of the department signing an authorized provider agreement with Red Cross. Marvin Collier seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

C. Grant Opportunities

1. LWCF Grant-Notice was received from AR Parks & Tourism about a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant opportunity. The 50/50 matching grant has an application deadline of August 31, 2012, and the maximum amount is \$250,000. The city would fund 100% of the project and would then be reimbursed 50%. The commissioners were asked to bring recommendations for grant projects to the May meeting for discussion.
2. AR Legislative Grant-A 100% funded grant is available through AR Department of Parks and Tourism and must be used for youth golf or youth baseball. The maximum amount is \$15,000. A recommendation was made to use the grant funds for a materials bin at Hickey Park or to cover the bullpen at Hickey Park. Marvin Collier made a motion in favor of the recommendation. Andy Hatley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

D. Capital Projects List-A list was distributed to the commissioners outlining various capital projects that have been requested during public hearings, by citizens, and city council members. The commission was asked to rank the list after getting input from the public.

General Update

- A. Dike View and North Arkansas Property-**Dike View Park and Convention Center Park have been added to the park inventory list.
- B. Adult Softball Summer League 2012-**Thirty-three teams will participate in the department's adult summer softball league. There will be 22 coed teams and 11 men's teams.
- C. Aquatics Facility-**The Mayor and Parks Director visited the aquatic facility in Bryant. In addition, a request for qualifications was advertised to engineering firms that specialize in aquatic facility development. The request deadline is April 18. A committee will then be formed to select the firm.
- 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-**
 - Community Fireworks Display
 - LWCF Grant
 - Capital Projects List

The meeting adjourned at 12.45pm.