

- Fourteen (14) groups used the Hughes Center during January for a total of 271 hours. Events included a law enforcement appreciation event, the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, a memorial for Mitchell Ford, a River Valley Gun Club Christmas in January party and the Knights of Columbus free throw contest.
- The Parks Commission met on January 13. The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 10 at noon at the Hughes Center. (Minutes Attached)
- The AARP began training for the upcoming tax season. They offer tax assistance from February 2 until April 15. February operating hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Last year the volunteer group assisted more than 1800 citizens with their tax returns. This is a wonderful program and a big thank you to all the volunteers for their time.
- Quarterly safety inspections were conducted by the department. All fire extinguishers, emergency lights and exit lights were working properly. An unannounced fire drill was held in January and no problems were encountered. We continually strive to make sure we provide as safe a work and recreation environment as possible.
- The Fitz Girlz workout group, coordinated by Kim Head, continues to utilize the Hughes Center gym on Mondays from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. The workouts are free to all who wish to participate and offer an excellent chance to improve your fitness and well being. It's a great opportunity to get out and visit also.
- The Arkansas Valley Soccer Association held a meeting on January 8. Spring soccer registration is now open. Forms are available at Feltner's Athletes Corner or you can register online at www.arkansasvalleysoccer.com. The deadline for registering is February 21.
- The Department created much needed office space by moving the driver license testing to the large room. The small room was then converted to an office for the assistant director and athletic director. The next step is to purchase furniture.
- Shelly Mitchell hosted a law enforcement appreciation event at the Hughes Community Center on January 9. Shelly did a great job putting this event together in a short amount of time and it was well attended.
- The Knights of Columbus held a free throw contest on January 25 at the Hughes Community Center. The event had twenty-five participants. They will host the state competition on March 8.
- Construction began on the Orbit Lane trail at Shiloh Park. Fill material was brought in and set up in preparation for gravel on the eastern third of the trail. Gravel was brought in and set up on the existing abandoned roadway and made ready for asphalt. Some clearing and grubbing was continued and asphalt on part of the trail is scheduled. The trail will be one of the prettiest in the region. It follows the lake from Pleasant View Road to Orbit Lane where the lake is on both sides of the trail to the end of Orbit Lane where you will get a view of our future convention center. Citizens will have a great opportunity to view wild life in the area while getting their exercise.
- Work continues at Hickey Park with the installation of the new scoreboards, new side fences and the completion of the new dugouts. The fields will be a real asset to the City and the school will enjoy all the new additions while playing their home games. Thank you to all the volunteers and people who have contributed to make this project a success.

- Representatives from ETC Architects and Engineers met with Mack Hollis, Mayor Horton, Gary Knudsen and Chris Draggs about the new aquatic center. Several updates and changes were discussed and they will make those adjustments. They plan on making their presentation at the February City Council meeting.
- The maintenance department along with personnel from the street department took down and stored all of the Christmas wreaths and Winter Wonderland light displays. All the displays were color coded and stored in order to help simplify set up for next year. Anyone wishing to volunteer their time to assist next year would be appreciated. We hope to increase participation by businesses and individuals in lighting the downtown every year until Russellville is the state showcase for Christmas lights.
- Unfortunately vandalism, in the form of graffiti, has continued at the Russellville skate park. The new graffiti was recorded and then cleaned the following day after being discovered. We will continue to monitor the area and clean as needed. Hopefully we will eventually catch the perpetrators and slow down the costly vandalism.
- Work continues on signage and safety tagging for the nine and a half mile Ouita Coal Company Mountain Bike Trail. Thanks for all the help from Richard Setian, Jeff Davis and Doug Housley to make this as safe an area as possible.

RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
January 13, 2015

Present: Marvin Collier, Matt Gray, Andy Hatley, Theresa Herrick, Tommy Hindsman, Mack Hollis, Mayor Horton, Spence Roberts, J.W. Stratton, Terry Thomas
Absent: Bryan Fisher
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy
Guests: Jeanette Anderton-The Courier, Allen Kimball, Liz Kimball, Richard Payne, Whitney Snipes-RV Leader

J. W. Stratton called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Marvin Collier made a motion to accept the minutes from the December meeting. Andy Hatley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. Parks Turf Plan for Athletic Fields-The proposed turf management plan that was discussed in the December commission meeting was presented to the City Council. The plan, which covers Hickey Park, Pleasant View Park, Shiloh Park, and the Russellville Soccer Complex, was based on seven applications throughout the year, and cost was estimated at \$117,634.00 annually. No action was taken by the Council due to lack of funding. The department currently budgets to apply a post emergent in Mid-March and fertilizer in late April. County Extension Agent Phillip Sims said the department could get a non-commercial license to buy commercial sprays which would be better than products purchased over the counter. An in-house maintenance program could be implemented using commercial sprays which would be a more economical alternative. Estimated cost for chemicals would be \$1080.00 per application. A suggestion was made to charge user groups for use of the facilities to help offset the costs. The commissioners were in favor of the in-house plan which is expected to cost \$10,000 annually. The new option will be presented to the Council and request additional monies to implement the program. Three park maintenance employees will be sent in February to obtain their non-commercial license.

New Business

A. Chairman Election-Tommy Hindsman made a motion to reappoint Commissioner Stratton as the chairman of the parks commission for 2015. Andy Hatley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

B. Veterans Memorial Park

1. New Park at Lakefront Drive-A request has been sent to the Corps of Engineers to add the "Old Shorty" area of Bona Dea Trail to our existing lease. A map was shown of the proposed addition which does not include the parking lot, restrooms, or lighting. Official notice should be received from the Corps in February. The River Valley Veterans Coalition would like to convert the area to River Valley Veterans Memorial Park. Veterans Coalition representative Allen Kimball addressed the commission about their plans which include a pavilion and parking lot. They also plan to move the monument and flag from Veterans Park. Work will be funded through grants. He explained that the only cash outlay for the city would be for mowing and chemicals.

2. Old Veterans Park at Detroit-With the addition of River Valley Veterans Memorial Park, the park on Detroit Avenue, currently named Veterans Park, will need to be renamed. Permission has been granted by the State to change the name of the park. A suggestion was made to hold a public meeting to receive input regarding the movement of the monument and name change. Upon approval from the Corps of Engineers, a public hearing date will be set.

Updates

A. Fall Softball Financial Statement-The commissioners received a copy of the department's 2014 Adult Fall Softball Financial Statement. Thirty teams participated in the league, and the program recorded a profit of \$423.14.

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. Theresa Herrick invited everyone to attend the public meeting on February 3 from 5:30p – 7:00p at City Hall. The walkway/trail down "O" Street from Vista Place Apartments to Whattaburger will be discussed.

The commissioners were reminded to contact the parks department office if they would like to add an agenda item to the commission meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35pm.