

- Twelve (12) groups used the Hughes Center during December for a total of 200 hours. Events included a Trout Day seminar, a community band concert, Christmas parties for Knight Investments, ANO, Russellville Board of Realtors, Beacon Tire and Cogswell Motors and a Ducks Unlimited New Year's Eve party.
- The Parks Commission met December 8. Minutes are attached.
- Department employees attended a safety meeting on December 9. The topic was post vehicle safety policies. In other safety matters, fire extinguishers, offices and jobsites were inspected.
- The annual Christmas Parade was held downtown on December 3. Winners of this year's parade were Berky's Diner (Grand Prize), Beacon Tire (Santa's Choice), West Side Church of Christ, Bost, Inc., Fair Park Baptist Church (Non-Profit) and Cogswell Towing, Hodges Wrecker Service, Pet Solutions, LLC (Profit). The Department wishes to thank the Russellville Police Department, Russellville Animal Control, Pope County Sheriff Reserve, the Leadership Russellville group, the RHS student banner carriers from the FCCLA Club and the students of the ATU Cadet Program, Public Works and the Russellville Fire Department for all of their help. We could not do the parade without you.
- Our department along with the Caddis Fly Fishing Club and Arkansas Game and Fish hosted the annual Trout Day fishing event on December 5 at the Pleasant View Park pond. The Caddis Fly Fishing Club turned out in full force to help give local fishermen the opportunity to trout fish in the River Valley. This year 150 participants attended the event and fifty free rod and reels were distributed to kids. Special thanks the Russellville Police and Fire Departments and ATU volunteers for their help at the event. Jamie Jackson from Arkansas Game and Fish did a great job educating the public on trout fishing. The pond will be restocked periodically through the cold months for area residents to continue to catch trout.
- A new concrete pad for the rest room and two new sidewalks were poured at the Russellville ski area and disc golf course. With the addition of the Illinois Bayou north trail the area is experiencing much more use. We plan on doing some additional sprucing up of the area in the near future.
- One of the monuments at Confederate Mothers Memorial Park was restored after being hit by a truck. The masons did a great job matching it with the older column.
- The Department will celebrate 50 years of service to our citizens in 2016. We have already begun some preliminary work on several different ideas and projects. We look forward to visiting with everyone about our department and what they would like to see in the future of recreation and parks for Russellville.

RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
December 8, 2015

Present: Marvin Collier, Bryan Fisher, Andy Hatley, Mack Hollis, Mayor Randy Horton, J.W. Stratton, Terry Thomas
Absent: Theresa Herrick, Tommy Hindsman
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy
Guests: Sean Ingram-The Courier, Paul Kimbrough-AVSA

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

Bryan Fisher made a motion to accept the minutes from the September meeting. Marvin Collier seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

New Business

- A. 1. Presentation-**A commemorative clock was presented to J.W. Stratton in recognition of his commitment, service, and dedication to the parks department. Commissioner Stratton served on the commission for four years, and his term will expire at the end of the year.
- 2. Elect Chairman for 2016-**Marvin Collier made a motion to appoint Tommy Hindsman as the chairman of the parks commission for 2016. Bryan Fisher seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- B. 2016-Recreation and Parks-**The commissioners were informed that the department will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2016. The department was established on December 14, 1966. Events promoting the anniversary could begin in July which is National Recreation & Parks month. A suggestion was made to form a small committee, including at least one commissioner, to begin planning. Dan Nicholson is currently working on a 50th anniversary logo. This agenda item will be discussed again in January.

Updates

- A. Water-Soccer Fields-**City funds were used to pay for water at the Soccer Complex thru the summer. The department received information from Wayne VanBuren about an abandoned coal mine at the complex that could possibly provide an unlimited water supply for the fields. The City Council appropriated \$5,000 for exploratory drilling, and City Engineer Kurt Jones is working on determining the best way to tap the water source.
- B. Phoenix Avenue Trail-**Set-up work on the Phoenix Avenue trail is complete, and the trail is ready for asphalt. As soon as asphalt work is finished, bollards, fencing and striping will be done.
- C. Veterans Memorial Park-**Preliminary work has been done on the parking lot at Veterans Memorial Park. Several trees were removed, the sign and fence were taken down, and bushes around the sign were relocated to Washburn Park. City Engineer Kurt Jones is providing assistance on completion of the parking lot.
- D. Aquatic Center-**Design changes on the Russellville Aquatic Center are being considered in order to cut costs. Representatives from ETC Engineering & Architects will be giving a status report at the finance meeting at City Hall tonight (December 8) at 5:30pm. The commissioners were invited to attend.
- E. Athletic Fields Turf Program-**Spraying has been completed on all athletic fields. Sand and topsoil have been delivered for the spring, and there are enough chemicals remaining for next year. Funds for the program were included in the 2016 budget.
- F. Upcoming Events-**A schedule of upcoming events was given to the commissioners.
- G. Monthly Report-**The commissioners received a copy of the department's monthly report.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35pm.