

RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
March 9, 2023



Present: Johnny Brazil, Matt Gray, Greg Hines, Hank Huggins, Terry Thomas
Absent: No One
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy
Guests: None

Call to Order

Greg Hines called the meeting to order at noon.

Approval of Minutes

Hank Huggins made a motion to accept the minutes from the 8-11-22 commission meeting. Johnny Brazil seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Old Business-(None)

New Business

A. Ozark Tennis Academy-The Ozark Tennis Academy, based out of Northwest Arkansas, would like to begin offering tennis lessons for children at City Park courts one night per week. The program is currently offered in Rogers, Bentonville and Fayetteville. The future may include offering lessons for adults, as well as camps in the summer. All fees will go through the tennis academy, and the organization is willing to pay 10% of their profits to the department. Commissioner Huggins made a motion in favor of the proposal. Commissioner Brazil seconded the motion, and the motion passed. A program agreement will be signed by both parties listing all conditions and specifications.

B. James School Park Master Plan-A preliminary master plan for James Park was distributed to the commission. With the landowner's approval, eminent domain will be utilized to obtain two lots for the location of the Latimore House.

C. Commission Chairman Election-Johnny Brazil made a motion to elect Hank Huggins as the chairman of the parks commission for 2023. Greg Hines seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

D. Recommendations for Commissioners-The parks department is still seeking nominations to fill the positions on the parks commission vacated by Dallis Clark and Bryan Fisher. Commissioners were asked to submit recommendations to the Mayor.

Updates

A. M.J. Hickey Pool-Construction continues at M.J. Hickey Pool. Installation of the vinyl liner is halfway done, and the concrete work is seventy percent finished. The total project is sixty percent complete.

B. City Park Splash Pad-Opening day of the new splash pad at City Park will be the weekend prior to Memorial Day weekend. Concrete work and sod work will complete the project.

C. All-Inclusive Playground-The all-inclusive playground has been delivered. Installation should begin soon and should take approximately six to eight weeks.

D. Pine Knob Bike Park-Work at Pine Knob Bike Park at Confederate Mothers Memorial Park continues, and the commissioners were encouraged to visit the park. The pavilion is on order and will be positioned at the top of the hill.

E. A.D.A. Fishing Piers-The Arkansas Game & Fish Commission granted the City of Russellville an A.D.A. fishing pier project. The total cost of the project is \$89,000, and the city's portion is \$18,000. The piers will be placed on the community fishing pond at Pleasant View Park. The project will include floating piers, A.D.A. access, a pavilion and A.D.A. parking spaces.

F. Tournaments/Events-The Russellville Aquatic Center was the host site for the 5A State Swim and Dive Meet. A large crowd of spectators was on hand to cheer on their favorite swimmer and/or team. Sixteen softball tournaments and six baseball tournaments have been booked for the upcoming season.

G. Monthly Report-The commissioners received a copy of the department's monthly report.

H. Upcoming Events-A schedule of upcoming events was given to the commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.