

RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
March 10, 2022



Present: Johnny Brazil, Bryan Fisher, Greg Hines, Terry Thomas
Absent: Dallis Clark, Chris Olson
Person Recording: Pam Faulkner
Guests: Blake Slater, Melissa Beatty

Call to Order

Greg Hines called the meeting to order at 12:01pm.

Approval of Minutes

Bryan Fisher made a motion to accept the minutes from the 1-13-22 commission meeting. Johnny Brazil seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Old Business-None

New Business

A. Aquatic Center Learn To Swim Sponsorship

The Aquatic Center co-manager, Melissa Beatty, presented the commissioners with an informational brochure on a learn to swim sponsorship program. The program will offer civic groups, individuals or businesses the opportunity to sponsor the program in exchange for advertisements at the aquatic center and on social media. The goal is to fund 100 level 1 swim lessons for children. Terry Thomas challenged the commissioners to get the word out to their civic groups and anyone that might be interested in becoming a sponsor.

B. Bike Skills Course – Blake Slater of the River Valley Ozark Off Road Cyclists gave a presentation on a mountain bike park the club would like to develop at Confederate Mothers Memorial Park. The development would include multi-use trails for hiking and mountain biking, a gathering place and parking lot improvements. The location, terrain, size and trees make the park an ideal location. The build plan includes four phases that include beginner, intermediate and advanced trails, features, lower trails with community connection and a gazebo/pavilion. Conceptual ideas include berms, rock gardens, tabletop jumps, small rock jumps, drops, wooden balance beams and seesaws. The group will use volunteers and funds from grants and donations to complete the project. Because the park is on the National Register of Historic Sites, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program was contacted to discuss the development. They approved unless the monuments were moved. Johnny Brazil made a motion to pursue the development. Bryan Fisher seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Updates

A. Aquatic Center – The installation of an epoxy coating on the lobby and bathroom floors is scheduled for May 2 - 7. The center will be closed during that time.

B. James School Park – Fencing has been installed and the painting of the courts will begin when the weather warms.

C. All Inclusive Playground – The Department has received notice to proceed on the project. A meeting has been scheduled with the citizen's group that helped design the playground. The City Park bathrooms will be renovated at the same time.

D. M.J. Hickey Pool – The pool bids were opened on March 1. The low bid was \$920,479.00. If the bid is approved by City Council, the project will start with a projected completion date of April 2023. The project should add 10-15 years of service life to the pool. The pool house will be renovated by the department at the same time.

E. Arkansas Game and Fish – Fishing Piers - The Arkansas Game & Fish Commission had an \$80,000 surplus that they would like to use to build handicapped accessible fishing piers on the pond at Pleasant View Park. They will build the piers and the project should be completed by June 14. The Department will pave the road to them and add a few new parking spaces.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:46pm.