

RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
July 8, 2021

Present: Bryan Fisher, Mayor Richard Harris, Greg Hines, Dallis Clark, Terry Thomas
Absent: Jamey Ellis, Johnny Brazil
Person Recording: Pam Faulkner
Guests: None

Call to Order

Greg Hines called the meeting to order at 12:06pm.

Approval of Minutes

Bryan Fisher made a motion to accept the minutes from the 3-11-21 commission meeting. Dallis Clark seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Old Business-None

New Business

A. Indoor Sports Complex Discussion – Mayor Harris would like an indoor sports complex for the citizens of Russellville. Information on building types and costs was presented to the commissioners. The possibility of locating it at Vick Field was discussed. The Mayor would like the commissioners to consider this as a future project. Dallis Clark agreed that one is needed. Business expos, concerts, and volleyball tournaments could utilize the building and generate revenue. Commissioners were asked to think about it and bring back their ideas for discussion at a future meeting.

B. Inclusive Playground Discussion - Terry Thomas gave an update on the L.W.C.F. grant application that the Department is submitting for an inclusive playground at City Park. He has conducted public meetings to discuss the design and needs for the playground. Ideas presented were to use poured in place surface instead of turf, add more swings and sensory places. A site visit has been conducted by the grant project officer and no problems were found. The grant application is due at the end of August. Pictures of a similar playground and the grant site plan were distributed to the commissioners.

Updates

A. Aquatic Center/Hughes Center - Both buildings have returned to normal operations. The aquatic center has been very busy and has numerous swim lesson classes scheduled.

B. James School Park - The bathroom is up but the roof material has been placed on back order until August. The electrical work is in progress now. The park is being well used with the Juneteenth event, a block party and the celebration of the Fourth of July. Work on the basketball courts will begin next week and is projected to be completed in September. Mayor Harris and Terry Thomas are diligently working on making many improvements to the park. The Latimore House committee is considering moving the house to a purchased lot that faces the park.

C. M. J. Hickey Pool - The pool is in operation and is especially busy on the days that the Boys and Girls Club attend. The leak detection company recommended the city wait until the pool closes for the season to look for leaks. To conduct their test, the pool would have to be closed for several days. Greg Hines asked if the pool was losing water and Terry answered yes, every day. The company that is working on drawings will attend the August City Council agenda prep meeting to present options for remodeling the pool.

D. M.J. Hickey Backstops - The backstops project has been completed. The park was the host site for the 9AA state baseball tournament recently and several participants complimented the park improvements.

E. Schoolhouse Trail - The notice to proceed has been sent out and construction on Phase I should start soon. Phase I will run from S. Muskogee Avenue to the disc golf course at the school and on to W. 4th Street.

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 12:41pm.