

**RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes from Monthly Meeting**  
**February 14, 2019** *N*

Present: Johnny Brazil, Dallis Clark, Jamey Ellis, Alderman Chris Olson, Terry Thomas  
Absent: Bryan Fisher  
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy  
Guests: Pickleball Players-Cathy Briscoe, Greg Hines, David Laseter  
ATU Recreation Financing Students-Andrew McNair, Brandon Trammell, Judah Wiggins

Terry Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:05p.

Dallis Clark made a motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting. Jamey Ellis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Old Business**

**A. Master Plan Interviews**-Three companies were selected to be interviewed for development of the Parks Master Plan. Presentations will be held on March 6 with a one hour time frame allotted for each company. Plan cost is estimated at \$50,000 for a city the size of Russellville.

**New Business**

**A. Request by Greg Hines for Exclusive Use of the Gymnasium for Pickleball**-Pickleball player Greg Hines submitted a proposal to the department regarding exclusive use of the Hughes Center gym for senior pickleball players. The group would like the gym reserved for pickleball play on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9a-noon. Mr. Hines addressed the commission and explained that sharing the gym with basketball players presents a safety hazard because loose balls become trip hazards. Currently the gym is used on a first come, first serve basis, and he said setting aside the requested times would allow the schedule to be posted on the U.S. Pickleball Association website. Dept. Director Terry Thomas stated that there are only problems when school is not in session. Alderman Olson stated his concern is with the amount of time the group is requesting per week. The commissioners were concerned that if pickleball players reserve a time that other user groups will want to do the same. The tennis courts at Shiloh Park and City Park are lined for pickleball, however Mr. Hines said that senior citizens prefer to play indoors. No action was taken.

**B. Grant Applications**-The following grant opportunities will be available in March. The projects have yet to be determined.

**1. Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant**-This is a 50/50 matching grant, and the application deadline will be in August.

**2. ARDOT Grant**-This is an 80/20 grant.

Commissioner Brazil addressed the commission about another potential grant opportunity thru Quality Bicycle Products.

**Updates**

**A. Aquatic Center**-The 5A State High School Swim Meet will be held at the Aquatic Center on February 22 and 23. Preparations for the event include cleaning the windows, increasing the Wi-Fi speed, and putting gravel on the north side of the building for overflow parking.

**B. Dog Park**-A meeting was recently held to discuss the development of a 1.5 acre dog park at Pleasant View Park. Plans include applying for a \$25,000 grant in May to fund the fencing and sidewalk. Leadership Russellville has shown interest in funding the park amenities.

**C. Disc Golf**-Jamey Ellis addressed the commission about the improvements being made to the disc golf course at Pleasant View Park. Alternate pads were installed allowing the course to be set up in different configurations and challenge levels allowing the park to host larger tournaments.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:50pm.