

**RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes from Monthly Meeting**  
**March 11, 2021**

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

**Call to Order**

Bryan Fisher called the meeting to order at noon.

**Approval of Minutes**

Greg Hines made a motion to accept the minutes from the 1-14-21 commission meeting. Jamey Ellis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Old Business-None**

**New Business**

**A. Election of Commission Chairman**-Jamey Ellis made a motion to elect Greg Hines as the chairman of the parks commission for 2021. Bryan Fisher seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**B. Grant Opportunities**-Parks Director Terry Thomas gave an update on three grants.

AR Dept. of Health-The department has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Arkansas Department of Health. Funds will be used for new basketball goals at James Park, and any funds remaining will be used for fencing at the park.

AR Dept. of Transportation-The department will apply for an 80/20 ArDOT grant in the amount of \$500,000. Grant funds will be used for Phase II of the trail system. A video call is scheduled for April 1 to discuss grant specifics.

AR Tourism Grant-A brief discussion was held regarding a 50/50 matching grant opportunity through the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism. A recommendation was made to submit an application with funds to be used for an inclusive playground at City Park. Greg Hines made a motion in favor of the recommendation. Jamey Ellis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**C. River Valley Ozark Off-Road Cyclists Skills Bike Park**-A request was submitted by the River Valley Ozark Off-Road Cyclists to construct a mountain bike skills course at Illinois Bayou Park. Their proposal was distributed to the commissioners. The group would like to pursue grant opportunities to fund the project, and sales tax monies could be used if needed. The city leases the property from the Corps of Engineers, therefore approval will have to be obtained from them before we can proceed. Commissioner Ellis made a motion in favor of the skills course. Commissioner Hines seconded the motion, and the motion passed. A brief discussion was held regarding maintenance of the course. The Parks Director will discuss upkeep and maintenance with the group and develop a maintenance agreement between both parties.

After a recommendation from Terry Thomas, Commissioner Hines made a motion to add a late item to the agenda. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**D. Late Agenda Item: Park Needs**

- Shade for picnic tables at Waco Basin Park
- New floats at the Russellville Ski Area boat dock
- New double-sided sign at Hickey Park similar to the sign at Sequoyah Park

A motion was made by Jamey Ellis to get cost estimates for the projects presented. Greg Hines seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Updates**

**A. M.J. Hickey Backstops & Score Booths**-Construction of new backstops and score booths at Hickey Park fields 2, 3, and 4 should be finished next week.

**B. Aquatic Center**-Classes offered at the Aquatic Center still remain at a limited capacity due to COVID-19. The facility is at 50% occupancy. A meeting has been scheduled with the managers to discuss the spring/summer schedule.

**C. James School Park Bathrooms**-Dusty Road Builders received the bid for construction of new restrooms and installation of a new pavilion at James Park, and the project should begin soon. Basketball courts at the park are scheduled to be replaced in the near future.

**D. M. J. Hickey Pool**-Terry Thomas informed the commission that he will begin obtaining prices for a chemical feeder and a computer system to run the feeder for Hickey Pool. At the conclusion of the 2021 season, a decision will be made regarding the pool.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.