



## *Recreation & Parks Department Report April 2013*

- Ten (10) groups used the Hughes Center during March for a total of 256 hours. Events included Hamfest on April 1 & 2, the Home Show on April 8 & 9, the White birthday party and a baby shower for the Acosta family.
- The Parks Commission met on March 12. (Minutes attached).
- The department had 12 pavilion reservations, one smoker grill and 24 practice field reservations in March.
- Tournaments included two disc golf tournaments and a softball tournament at Pleasant View Park. The softball tournament was a youth tournament with 32 teams participating. A youth tournament and an adult tournament which were scheduled in March were cancelled due to the weather.
- The Progressive Men's Club utilized the Hughes Center kitchen to prepare for a fundraiser for their scholarship program.
- Concrete was poured around the dugouts, bleachers and spectator areas of Fields 2, 3 & 4 at Hickey Park. The new concrete was a joint venture between the City and the A& P commission which funded the majority of the project. The project creates a larger area for seating, makes it easier to keep clean, is more attractive and creates a barrier free entry to the dugouts on the three fields.
- The restrooms at Illinois Bayou Park were opened. We plan on the concrete work being finished in the near future.
- The soccer leagues were in full kick in the month of March with the adult and youth leagues beginning play. The adult leagues play on Sundays and the AVSA youth leagues play on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- Mack attended training in Fort Smith at the Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association annual conference on March 15, 16 and 17. He brought back several new ideas that will be looked at to be implemented in the future.
- The spoils bin at Pleasant View Park was completed and readied for field material storage. The new bin will help us keep our field material in a neater, safer place with less waste. The bin is also more attractive.
- Decorative fence slats were added to the bullpen fence at Hickey Park. This is part of our efforts in our park beautification projects for Hickey Park.
- Piles of illegally dumped trash and furniture were cleaned up on Orbit Lane and hauled into the county shop. This has become a continuous problem and we are now considering moving the Orbit Lane gate closer to Pleasant View Road. The area would still remain walk-in access to the general public and drive in access for the radio control clubs.
- Volunteers from the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the City's Clean & Green committee and city employees helped clean and clear brush and pick up litter at Confederate Mothers Memorial Park. We hauled eleven full trailers to the animal shelter. Entergy has repaired the three street lights and Magee Monument Company cleaned the monument. In the future, we are looking at developing the park with benches, flowers, a pavilion and trails.

- Registration was held for adult summer softball league from March 11 to March 27. We had 27 teams sign up, 15 coed teams and 12 men's teams. League play will begin on April 10.
- The handicapped portable toilet was placed back at the ski area/disc golf course for the 2013 season.
- The walls of the spoils bin at Hickey Park were completed by R.Y.B.A. through donations of the concrete barricades. The bin will be used to store field material and will help us with a beautification project for the park.
- The restrooms at Shiloh Park were open for the season in preparation for the upcoming tournaments and the season opening in April.
- The Russellville School District held their annual third grade kickball tournament on April 15 at Hickey Park.
- The batting cage nets were hung in March and the cages made ready for use for baseball and softball practices. There are six batting cages at Hickey Park for use by the public.
- Work continues on the last part of the Wildlife Observation Trail that will be asphalted. We plan on adding benches and signs pointing out historical events, certain plants, trees and wildlife in the area. We also hope to connect to the trail with the next phase going into Dike View Park and connecting to Orbit Lane in years to come. This is a part of our Russellville Connected trail system.

**RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes from Monthly Meeting**  
**March 12, 2013**

Present: Marvin Collier, Andy Hatley, Theresa Herrick, Mack Hollis, Mike Johnston, Chloe Lieblong, Spence Roberts, J.W. Stratton, Terry Thomas  
Absent: None  
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy  
Guests: Christie Graham, Susan Lynch, Whitney Snipes-The Courier

The meeting was called to order at noon.

A comment was made during the 2-12-13 meeting regarding the tennis courts at Old Post Park no longer being maintained unless it's a safety issue. After the meeting, Mack contacted the Corps of Engineers and was told that their courts are maintained.

Mike Johnston would like the minutes to reflect that his comments at the 2-12-13 meeting regarding the need for lights at the soccer complex were the result of a misunderstanding at the January meeting. The four commissioners present at the meeting understood that lights were not wanted or needed by AVSA. This misunderstanding affected the ranking of the capital projects. Mack clarified that his statement in the January meeting was that the adult soccer program said they didn't need or want lights, not AVSA.

Marvin Collier made a motion to accept the minutes from the February meeting. Andy Hatley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Old Business**

**A. Capital Projects List-**After a lengthy discussion, the commissioners agreed that their top four capital project requests are: Soccer Complex Field Lights, Trails, Shiloh Park Restrooms, and Backstops at Hickey Park. The commissioners were asked to submit their rankings of the complete list of projects prior to the April meeting in order to be compiled. J.W. Stratton requested that Mack rank all the park fence projects and email it to the commission to assist them in ranking the projects. In addition, Mike Johnston asked that Christie Graham and/or Marvin Collier rank the various projects at Hickey Park.

**B. Aquatic Center-**The Russellville City Council formed a committee to study the location for the Russellville Aquatic Facility. ETC Engineers & Architects is doing an overlay of Hickey Park. J.W. Stratton expressed his concern if the facility was located at Vick Field. There would be a limited number of parking spaces at the facility causing overflow parking to be at the Hughes Center. This would be a safety issue for individuals attempting to cross Parkway Drive. Commissioner Stratton also said there is no room for growth or expansion at this location.

**New Business**

**A. Confederate Mothers Memorial Park-**A request was made by the Sons of the Confederate Veterans to begin a development plan of Confederate Mothers Memorial Park. The project will include clearing, cleaning, trails, paving the parking lot, and placement of benches, pavilion, and picnic sites. According to the group, funding options may be available. The group also plans to adopt the park. A recommendation was made to proceed with the plans. Designs will be presented at a later date.

**B. Commission Chairman 2013-**According to Ordinance 630, the parks commission should elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary for one year terms. The chairman would be responsible for calling the commission meetings to order and conducting the meetings. Meeting minutes should be recorded by the secretary. Ordinance 1190 amends Ordinance 630, and states that the commission should consist of six members including a representative of the Russellville Junior Auxiliary serving a one year term. Currently, Commissioner Lieblong is the Junior Auxiliary representative as well as serving as a commission member. A recommendation was made to seek legal advice from the city attorney to clarify the ordinance.

**C. Requested Use of the Hughes Center for Early Childhood Education Classes-**Arkansas ECEP Trainer Susan Lynch has requested permission to use the large room at the Hughes Center to conduct weekly early childhood education classes. The training is provided to anyone in the community that currently is or plans to be a child care provider. The training is provided at no cost, therefore Ms. Lynch requests that rental fees be waived. Sessions are offered in the fall and spring on Tuesday evenings from 5:00p to 8:00p for ten weeks. Trainings were previously conducted at Gardner Junior High, however due to water damage this location is unavailable. Andy Hatley made a motion in favor of the request. Mike Johnston seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**D. Water Trail at Shiloh Park-**This agenda item was tabled until April.

**Updates**

**A. 2013 Tournament Schedule-**Fourteen large softball tournaments are scheduled at Pleasant View Park and Shiloh Park beginning March 16. Terry Thomas has done an outstanding job bringing this record number of tournaments to Russellville.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.