



Recreation & Parks Department Report June 2013

- Fourteen (14) groups used the Hughes Center during May for a total of 208 hours. Events included a New Life Church service, Chamber After Hours, the Friends of NRA Banquet and registration for the National Players Challenge disc golf tournament.
- The Parks Commission met on May 14. Minutes attached.
- The department had 33 pavilion reservations for the month of May. Rentals increased for the City Park pavilion since the grand opening of the splash pad on May 14.
- Two youth softball tournaments were held at Pleasant View Park and Shiloh Park in May. The tournaments brought 56 teams to the Russellville area. Many team members were observed shopping at Walmart during the weekends of play.
- The department held the grand opening of the City Park splash pad on May 14. The pad experienced electrical problems during the first week but is fully functional now. The pad is heavily used by the area children and as noted above has increased pavilion rentals at the park. Special thanks to Amy Tarpley and all of the Jr. Auxiliary members who helped with bringing the splash pad to City Park.
- The local Hershey track and field meet was presented by the department on May 11 at the Russellville High School track. This year's event had 30 participants who qualified for the Arkansas State Hershey meet which will be held on June 15 at Jacksonville. The department wishes all the participants best of luck for the state meet. Special thanks to volunteers Tracey Cline-Pew, Jerry Thompson and Katherine Gaines. Your help each year is greatly appreciated.
- Registration for the Learn to Swim Program is underway by the department. Three sessions are planned for this summer with the first beginning on June 10. Places are still available for all three sessions. We encourage everyone to learn how to swim this summer.
- New floor tile was installed in the men and women restrooms at the Hughes Center. The tile was a much needed improvement for the restrooms as the tile replaced was the original tiles from 1967.
- Bids were advertised and received for two new HVAC units for the Hughes Center. The bid opening was held on May 23. The two units to be replaced are 15 ton units and are located on the west end of the gymnasium.
- M.J. Hickey Pool opened for the season on May 25. The pool is opened everyday from 12:30pm to 6:30pm. Dan Boroughs has returned for his third year as the pool manager. Dan does a great job each year. Dan and his pool staff of Craig Gunter, Anthony Williams, Ryan Matejek, Kelsey Self, Kaitlyn Fulton, Payton Hernandez, Morgan Burris, Nathan Ray and Jordan Harris would like to invite you to come out and enjoy the pool this summer.
- The final loop of the Wildlife Observation Trail was asphalted. The trail is funded by a grant from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.
- The composite roof shingles at the Russellville Soccer Complex concession/rest rooms were replaced with a metal roof system. This follows our scheduled roof replacement plan for park facilities that includes updating all roofs to metal when being replaced.
- Setup work continued on the final part of the first section of the Illinois Bayou North Trail located at the Russellville competition ski and disc golf areas. Plans to open this trail to the public should be announced soon.
- Russellville High School hosted the Arkansas State 6A softball tournament at Hickey Park on May 9th, 10th and 11th. Congratulation go out to the Lady Cyclones and coach Sisson for winning the tournament and the championship game the following week in Fayetteville.
- Wind from storms on May 20 blew a tree down at the Ouita boatLaunch area and took out our power lines. The tree was cleaned up and power lines repaired. Several limbs were blown out of trees in other parks and had to be cleaned up.
- The restrooms at Shiloh Park received extensive damage in a hit and run accident. Porta potties will be placed at the park until a permanent solution is found. Four of our biggest tournaments are still to be held at the park this year.

RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
June 11, 2013

Present: Marvin Collier, Theresa Herrick, Mack Hollis, Mike Johnston, Chloe Lieblong, Spence Roberts, J.W. Stratton, Terry Thomas
Absent: Andy Hatley
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy
Guests: Whitney Snipes-The Courier

The meeting was called to order at noon.

Chloe Lieblong made a motion to accept the minutes from the May meeting. Marvin Collier seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. Ordinance on Commission Makeup-Ordinance 1190 states that the parks commission will consist of six members including a representative of the Russellville Junior Auxiliary that will serve a one year term. Commissioner Lieblong currently serves as both a commissioner as well as the JA representative. According to the city attorney, Commissioner Lieblong cannot serve in both capacities. The commissioners agreed that the JA representative should be an active member. The appointment will be recommended by the mayor and presented to the city council.

New Business

A. Leadership Russellville Request-Washburn Sign-Leadership Russellville requests permission to place a Russellville sign at Washburn Park just like the sign at exit 84. The sign would be placed at the corner of Lakefront Drive and Parkway facing the causeway. Drawings and pictures of the proposed sign were distributed to the commissioners. The sign will not affect Hospice Point, and Hospice representative Glenda Luter is fine with the location. Leadership Russellville will pay the cost of construction, as well as any set-up expenses. Monthly utility cost will be paid by the parks department. Mike Johnston made a motion in favor of the request. Chloe Lieblong seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The project is pending approval from the Corps of Engineers.

B. 2013 Christmas Parade Theme-Christmas around the World, Songs of Christmas, Christmas Memories, and Visions of Christmas were considered as the theme for the 2013 Russellville Christmas Parade. Marvin Collier made a motion to select Songs of Christmas as the theme for this year. J.W. Stratton seconded the motion, and the motion passed. A recommendation was made to consider the remaining choices for next year.

C. Splash Pad

1. Rules & Regulations-The commissioners were given copies of proposed rules for the Splash Pad at City Park. Due to the current problem with park patrons smoking around the Splash Pad, a suggestion was made to add to the proposed rules that smoking is prohibited. Marvin Collier made a motion in favor of the proposed rules with the addition of the rule regarding smoking. Chloe Lieblong seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

2. Equipment-The umbrella has been broken and will be replaced with a rain stick or fan spray. In addition, the flower shower has a small hairline crack in it.

Updates

A. City Park/Splash Pad-Maintenance at City Park has increased from six hours per week to eighteen per week. Park usage has increased tremendously due in part to the addition of the Splash Pad.

B. Program Agreements Review-Program agreements are entered into annually with all user groups. Their programs take priority, however groups cannot be granted exclusive use of a park or facility. The area is open to the general public when not being used for a scheduled activity. Changes to program agreements are always presented to the commission for review and approval.

C. Aquatic Center-A meeting was held on May 23 with various user groups to attempt to create a footprint of a typical day, as well as a yearly schedule for the Aquatic Center. The groups will assist with the marketing campaign. A skeletal drawing was done by the engineering firm and was shown to the commission. Mike Johnston is in favor of the Aquatic Center if it doesn't take all the money and eliminate other capital projects.

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 1:10pm.