


RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes from Monthly Meeting
August 13, 2020

Present: Dallis Clark, Bryan Fisher, Jamey Ellis, Mayor Richard Harris, Alderman Chris Olson,
Terry Thomas
Absent: Johnny Brazil, Greg Hines 
Person Recording: Pam Faulkner
Guests: Hannah Butler - The Courier

Call to Order

Bryan Fisher called the meeting to order at noon.

Approval of Minutes

Dallis Clark made a motion to accept the minutes from the 7-9-20 commission meeting. Jamey Ellis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Old Business

A. Park Master Plan - Halff Associates has completed the park master plan. The final draft was presented at the City Council agenda prep meeting on August 11 and placed on the August City Council agenda for adoption.

B. M. J. Hickey Pool - Arkansas Aquatics will be in Russellville on Tuesday, August 18 to inspect M.J. Hickey Pool. They will give their recommendations based on what they find during the inspection. They suggested contacting a company to inspect for suspected leaks as the first step. Commercial splash pad designer RJR Enterprises will submit drawings and costs of various splash pad types soon. Pictures and construction costs of several outdoor pools and splash pads were distributed to the commission. Alderman Olson asked for the Director's recommendation. Director Thomas responded that he would like to see a splash pad on the same side of town as M.J. Hickey Pool and an outdoor pool/splash pad adjacent to the aquatic center. Benefits include trained staff and pool operator already on sight, parking and bathrooms are available and dual memberships could be purchased. Currently, M.J. Hickey Pool and the aquatic center operate on separate budgets making dual memberships not possible. Alderman Olson would like a checklist of what is needed at a new pool. Mayor Harris would like the commission to put something together before the next meeting. Items to address should include cost of renovating the existing pool or demolition cost if not feasible, construction cost of a splash pad and/or a new pool at different locations, operating costs, and develop a plan for what is needed.

New Business

A. Tournament Fees – Discussion was held on what other towns charge for tournaments and the current fees charged here. Concerns were expressed that tournament hosts were not cleaning up after their tournaments. The results are that city manpower that is needed elsewhere is picking up the trash. One advantage of lower fees is that it attracts tournaments to Russellville. The commission agreed that large tournaments are a benefit to the city. Dallis Clark made a motion that beginning next year the cleaning deposit increase to \$200 for tournaments that have less than 25 teams unless waived with the approval of the parks director. Jamey Ellis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Updates

A. Aquatic Center- Swim team practices are scheduled to begin at the center soon. The doors for the office area has been approved and ordered. Van Horn Construction recommended installing automatic sliding doors for the bathroom area. Questions remain if a larger HVAC will be needed when the doors are installed.

B. James School Park Bathrooms/Pavilion – The design phase will be on the August City Council agenda for approval. If approved, architectural designs will begin. The bathroom design will be similar to the Sequoyah Park bathrooms.

C. Fishing Derby/KidsFest – The annual children's fishing derby has been canceled this year. KidsFest is under consideration due the Arkansas Health Department's Covid-19 directives.

D. Veterans Memorial Park – Phase III is nearing completion. When completed the veterans group will turn it over to the Parks Department. They will continue to raise funds for the park.

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 12:56pm.