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**RUSSELLVILLE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes from Monthly Meeting**  
**August 8, 2024**

Present: Greg Hines, Hank Huggins, Nick Ouzts, Terry Thomas  
Absent: Johnny Brazil, Chris Olson  
Person Recording: Kelli Nealy  
Guests: None

**Call to Order**

Greg Hines called the meeting to order at noon.

**Approval of Minutes**

Hank Huggins made a motion to accept the minutes from the 3-14-24 commission meeting. Nick Ouzts seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Old Business**

**Park Vendor Permits**-During the March commission meeting, the Parks Director made a recommendation to disallow vendors in our parks with the exception of special events. Vendors are currently allowed to sell in all parks that don't have an operating concession as long as they have a current parks vendor permit. At this time, the permit fee is \$50.00 per year. The current application was distributed to the commissioners for input and review. If the commissioners want to continue allowing vendors in our parks, Terry Thomas suggested allowing only food vendors and limiting them to City Park. If a special event is being held in the park, the vendor must receive permission from the hosting organization before selling at the event. Due to the popularity of City Park, the Parks Director would like to move the vendors from the park's main parking lot to designated parking spaces in the lot by the Arts Center. Greg Hines suggested the application include a cleaning fee that will be charged if the vendor doesn't haul off their own trash. Hank Huggins made a motion in favor of changing the permit fee to \$50.00 per month. Commissioner Hines amended the motion to include a cleaning fee. Nick Ouzts seconded the motion, and the motion passed. This agenda item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**New Business**

**New Commissioner**-Commissioners were reminded of the vacancy on the parks commission. Resumes may be submitted to the Hughes Center or City Hall.

**Updates**

**Soccer Lights**-Construction began on the new LED lights on field eight at the Soccer Complex. Holes have been drilled on the poles, and underground wiring is finished.

**Pickleball Courts**-Bids for construction of pickleball courts at the Soccer Complex will be open on Thursday, August 15. Plans were shown to the commissioners. The project will be funded in part by the one cent sales tax.

**Pleasant View Pond Access Road**-Construction will begin on the Pleasant View pond access road and parking lot August 26. The project should take approximately two weeks to complete.

**Washburn Park Playground**-A new playground unit at Washburn Park is on order and should be delivered in October. The current unit is 26+ years old. The playground unit at James Park will be replaced in 2025.

**Tournaments**-We have had 17 softball and baseball tournaments in Russellville so far this year. Nine tournaments are scheduled for the fall.

**M. J. Hickey Pool/Aquatic Center**-Hickey Pool is nearing the end of its season. As long as weather permits, the pool will be used for kayak training 2x per month, RHS swim team practice and lap swim.

**Grant Applications**-The City is applying for a 50/50 matching grant thru the AR Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism's Outdoor Recreation Grant Program. Funds will be used to expand the Skate Park, as well as build restrooms at the park.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:55pm.