

**Director's Report
For December 10, 2014**

**Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Play. Everyday.**

The mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation is to preserve our parks and open spaces and provide essential recreational programs and cultural services in a safe, professional and friendly manner.

Projects

1. **LC Fountain**

- a. Closed for season.

2. **Parks Paving Projects for 2014**

- a. Graceland Cemetery Road Replacements – site engineering has been completed. Spring 2015 project. (No Change)

3. **Miscellaneous Projects**

- a. Bleacher Replacement: Bids are in. Vendor will be presented for Finance Committee and Common Council approval this month. (No Change)
- b. Pershing Fence Replacement: Project is in process – expect project completion by December 30th.

4. **Community Centers**

- a. Bryant
 - i. None
- b. Chavez
 - i. None
- c. Humble
 - i. None
- d. King
 - i. None
- e. Tyler-Domer
 - i. None

5. **Cemeteries:**

- a. Mound & Graceland:
 - i. Have been making numerous block by block revisions to verify 100% accuracy for the conversion from the original blueprints to CAD drawings to support the CIMS upgrades.
 - ii. Crypt repair master plan is complete. Repairs are recommended in three phases and much can be completed in the winter. Critical required repairs are expected to cost \$120K. This project will be bid this year if possible – On hold (No Change).
- b. Mound:
 - i. None
- c. Graceland:

- i. Chimney Repairs Service Building: Bid came in too high. Will rebid project in May of 2015.
- ii. Graceland Pond Rehab: DPW/Utilities project. Bids due November 5th. Construction expected to begin early February 2015. (No Change)
- iii. Paving Road Replacement: Will be coordinating with DPW/Traffic to replace roadways along the Pond area after the pond restoration is complete. Bid documents will be ready by early March, contract documents early April & construction early May for completion before Memorial Day – Weather permitting. (No Change)

6. **Golf Courses:**

a. Johnson:

- i. Door Replacement of Club House: Bids in anticipate construction December.

b. Washington: No Update.

c. Shoop: No Update.

7. **Wustum:**

- a. No Update.

- 8. **Zoo:** Plans and Specifications for roof replacement of the feline/primate building and the roof replacement of the administration building are in process. Project will be ready for a January or early February 2015 bid. (No Change)

Parks

- 1. Finished mulching leaves for the year.
- 2. Put plows on all trucks.
- 3. Set up salting equipment.
- 4. Forestry finished fall tree planting.
- 5. Forestry began building new tree nursery site.
- 6. Removed piers for the year.
- 7. Prepped boat launch for upcoming harbor dredging.
- 8. Had to do three (3) sidewalk and parking lot snow operations (this is very early in the season for this).
- 9. Winterized all water systems in the parks.
- 10. Closed down shelters for the year.

Recreation

A. Youth Activities

- 1. A total of 33 youth attended the Annual Youth Hoops Basketball Clinic on Saturday, November 1 held at the Chavez Center. Former playground leader/supervisor and current youth hoops official, Ryan Thompson, took the lead in presenting the program.
- 2. 30 youth and their families have signed up for the 12th Snow Sharks Ski and Snowboard Season. We have gone back to the six night format which many participants are excited about. We have scheduled the holiday ski trip to Cascade Mountain on Tuesday, December 23.
- 3. Youth basketball games started on Saturday, November 15. The boys and girls leagues (2nd – 8th grade) will be played at the following locations in 2014/15: Chavez

Center, Humble Park Center, Tyler Domer, John Bryant, King Center and Gilmore middle school. We have over 90 teams participating and approximately 1,000 participants including youth hoops staff.

B. Adult Activities

1. Updating the 2015 summer softball, sand volleyball and tennis registration flyers. These will be sent out to the prior managers.
2. Volleyball and basketball leagues are off and running.
3. Working on updating our 88th Annual Basketball Tournament brochure.

C. Special Events

1. Registration information and publicity for the Snow Flake 4 v 4 soccer, spring indoor soccer and spring outdoor soccer programs is underway. This is the inaugural year for these programs. We are collaborating with the Racine City Soccer Academy to present them.
2. Over 75 RUSD special needs youth and staff attended the Thursday, November 6 presentation of "Free Birds" at the Chavez Center. The next presentation is scheduled for Thursday, December 4.

D. Miscellaneous

1. Application materials are ready for the summer playground leader and lifeguard positions. Interested students may pick up materials after the first of the year at Human Resources.
2. Work continues on Racine Track and Field, Playground programs, Flag Football, Boating Safety, etc.
3. Letters went out to returning lifeguards. We will provide information to area schools and other agencies in an effort to recruit additional guards for the 2015 summer beach season.
4. PRCS staff met with the Racine Belles early in November to discuss how PRCS and Racine Belles can work together to promote interest in girls slow/fast pitch softball in Racine/Racine County.
5. Updating web and Facebook with department news.

Community Centers

A. King Center

1. Voting was held on Tuesday, November 4. Approximately 1,700 people showed up to vote. The day went smoothly with no real issues with the poll observers.
2. Pickle Ball started on Friday, November 7. There are about 6 participants playing 2 days a week. Hoping to increase the number of participants and days in the future.
3. Youth Hoops started on Saturday, November 15. There are 4 games played from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.
4. We took 13 youth to see the "Lion King Live" in Milwaukee on Sunday, November 23. The kids really enjoyed the show.
5. We signed up 25 families from the Caron Butler Thanksgiving basket give-a-way for Monday, November 24. Baskets were given away at the Dr. John Bryant Center between 4:00-6:00pm.

6. Our Annual Christmas Party was held on Friday, December 5 from 5:00-7:30 pm. We received over \$1,000.00 in donations to purchase supplies & raffle prizes for the event.
7. Letters went out to returning lifeguards. We will be getting information out to area schools and other agencies in an effort to recruit additional guards for the 2015 summer beach season.
8. Planning is underway for the 2015 Black History Youth Achievement Awards. I have contacted Gateway requesting they assist with printing of the programs and provide the paper for the certificates. They have generously done this in previous years.
9. Looking to provide staff wellness training during the month of December. Working with Social Wellness and Olive Garden. The presentation will be 30 – 45 minutes with lunch provided by Olive Garden.

B. Humble Park

1. Tile floors have been waxed and gym floor repaired prior to the winter season.
2. Elections went well at Humble. No issues.
3. PRCS Youth Hoops games are in full swing on Saturdays.
4. Had 2 community service meetings with approximately 35 people in attendance. Providing important information to seniors.
5. Starting to plan for some Christmas activities for the kids.
6. Attended the WPRA conference; great sessions and networking.
7. Held the Special Olympic banquet with approximately 80 to 90 athletes and parents.

C. Cesar Chavez

1. Voting at the Center went well on Tuesday, November 4. Center and voting staff had no issues or any complaints. Looking to get a bigger flag and stand for the future.
2. Attended the WPRA conference from November 4 – 6 in Wisconsin Dells. Attended breakout sessions and trade show.
3. Held youth hoops official's meeting/clinic on Wednesday, November 12. We talked about rules, game management and how we can work as a team to make our program successful with, at times, a difficult group of fans. Over 20 officials attended and we had a good dialogue amongst peers.
4. RUSD held a 4k screening on Thursday, November 6 in the small gym. Over 75 people attended.
5. Duncan Cortez led a movie for RUSD special education students in big gym on Thursday, November 6 in large gym over 75 youth and staff from RUSD attended.
6. Youth basketball games started on Saturday, November 15. The boys and girls leagues (2nd – 8th grade) will be played at the following locations in 2014/15. Chavez Center, Humble Park Center, Tyler Domer, John Bryant, King Center and

Gilmore middle school. We have over 90 teams participating and approximately 1,000 participants including youth hoops staff.

7. New parking lot at Chavez Center has got all compliments from participants. Although still full on a Saturday for games, many parents stopped in to say how much more convenient it was not to park blocks away in the neighborhood.
8. Attended gang collaboration meeting on Thursday, November 20 at the Tyler Domer Center. Although the process has been slow they have finished mission statement and will now start looking into grants that could be utilized by the partnership. This could include grant opportunities for the Community Centers.
9. Senior programming continues to be steady for card groups, pickleball and senior volleyball. Senior walkers have picked up also with cold weather.

D. Bryant

1. The community center's gym is now hosting basketball practices Monday - Wednesday for St. Catherine's middle school teams. This arrangement was worked out with Tom Molbeck in order to enhance community collaborations.
2. We are proud to announce the performance of the Pom-pom Squads # 1 at the Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 8. The youth did an excellent job. There is such an interest in this program that we now have 2 squads.
3. Caron Butler hosted his Thanksgiving Basket Give-a-Way at the center. I was given 150 meals which were divided into the community as follows: 25 at Bryant Center, 25 at King Center, 25 at Bray Center, 25 at YWCA, and 25 at the Police Sports Program. The goal was to spread them across the community. All meals were handed out.
4. The Pom-Pom Squad #2, Martial arts, and part of the music department performed at the Thanksgiving dinner held at Festival Hall. Mrs. Cynthia Barker was the Center's spokesperson, explaining the different programs we offer as the Performing Arts Program.

E. Tyler - Domer

1. Campus Life has begun bringing in 40 to 50 kids on Wednesdays.
2. The Panther Pals Program, of approximately 40 students, attends the third Thursday of every month. This program combines students with special needs students together for cooking projects and activities.
3. Fitness class is going 4 times per week, using the gym, senior room and weight room. Will be adding a more permanent class for more community participation.
4. PRCS Youth Hoops practices started. They use it every night and work around the current usage of the Center.
5. Adult basketball is going well. I attend games weekly to see how teams are behaving and how officials are handling them. So far so good.
6. Youth Hoops on Saturday going good. 6 games a day with approximately 100 people here per game.

7. Always using center: quilters, ping pong players, weight lifters, special needs groups, Park HS, Narcotics anonymous.
8. Our Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 19 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. We will have food & gifts. Park H.S. Choir will be entertaining.
9. Tiles floors and gym have been waxed prior to the winter season.
10. Election Day went well. Approximately 1,200 went through.
11. Met with the Racine Belles. Trying to get some of our participants to move on over to fast pitch by distributing the information. It is a good transition from our softball program to theirs.
12. Attended the WPRC Conference in the Dells. Good sessions and networking.