

**Director's Report
For
April 9, 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. Parks Paving Projects for 2014

- a. Two pending paving projects: Douglas Parking lot upgrades - 2013 & Graceland Cemetery Road Replacements. Will coordinate project bidding with DPW asphalt projects. (No Change)

2. Playground Equipment Replacement:

- a. Hantschel & Hamilton Parks 2013 – CDBG Parks and Play Equipment Improvement: Play equipment has been ordered. Site preparation bids have been accepted – expect project to begin by mid April. Equipment installations will be bid out early April.
- b. Exercise Equipment for Dodge Park – 2013: Equipment will be selected to coordinate installation of the lakefront bike path. Timing will be mid-summer. (No Change)

3. Park Electrical Upgrades:

- a. Island Park North Softball Lights: Project has begun and has progressed adequately during the extreme cold. Weather related site conditions and project field changes have extended the project completion until late April.
- b. Humble Lighting Electric Service: Complete.

4. Miscellaneous Projects

- a. Pershing Soccer Facility Concession/Restroom/Locker Room – Roof Replacement: Complete.
- b. Pershing Bleacher Replacement: Field work in process. (No Change)
- c. Pershing Fence Replacement: Field work in process. (No Change)
- d. Lockwood Road Removal: At substantial completion – will require some minor adjustments in spring due to frost over 12” deep by Thanksgiving. (No Change)

5. Community Centers

- a. Bryant
 - i. Painting interior – In progress
 - ii. Replacement counters – Currently out for bid. (No Change)
- b. Chavez
 - i. Paving of Parking Lot: Will ask to have this project combined with the DPW paving projects. Plans and specifications are ready for 2014 bidding. (No Change)
- c. Humble
 - i. None.
- d. King
 - i. Painting Interior: Painting bids accepted, project expected to be complete before May 1.
 - ii. Replacement Counters: Currently out for bid (No Change)
- e. Tyler-Domer
 - i. None.

6. **Cemeteries:**

a. **Mound & Graceland:**

- i. 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 – (No Change).

b. **Mound:**

- i. Chapel Restroom: The project has started, plumbing and electrical has been roughed and approved. Drywall & painting bid has been accepted. Project expected completion is late April.
- ii. Mound Chapel AC and Electrical: Field work in progress – waiting for engineering from WE Energies.

c. **Graceland:**

- i. Section 23: Plots have been filed with Racine County Register of Deeds. Tree planning & site directional markers will be complete, late spring.
- ii. Graceland Pond Rehab: DPW/Utilities project. There have been two meetings regarding the pond rehab. This project appears to be best suited for winter construction and is anticipated for late 2014 & early 2015.
- iii. Paving Road Replacement: Will be coordinating with DPW/Traffic to replace roadways along the pond area after the pond restoration is complete. (No Change)

7. **Golf Courses:**

- a. **Johnson:** No Update.
- b. **Washington:** No Update.
- c. **Shoop:** No Update.

8. **Wustum:**

- a. Have submitted numerous estimates for CIP projects at Wustum.

9. **Zoo:**

- a. Have contracted with Industrial Roofing Services for plans and specifications for roof replacement at Feline/Primate Building. Project is anticipated for 2015 construction.

Recreation

1. Still taking in youth softball registration. Leagues will begin in June.
2. Adult Softball Team registration is complete. There are a total of 184 teams that will complete in leagues from Sunday to Friday. Teams are being sorted in to leagues that will begin on Thursday, May 1st.
3. Adult softball bat inspection will take place on Saturday, April 26 at the Chavez Center from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. After April 26, bat inspections will take place on Tuesday mornings starting at 10:00 am throughout the season. New this year, staff will inspect bats on both Tuesday & Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am for the month of May.
4. The department held its Umpire School on March 11, 13 & 18. Only one new recruit this year. Our short list of umpires is becoming a concern.
5. Summer Playground Supervisors are getting ready to start the interview process. Staff is working hard to provide a great summer program for this summer's participants.
6. This year's Spring Break Basketball Camp was well attended. Fifteen youth in grades 2-5 participated in the three day camp held March 11-13 at the Chavez Community Center.

7. Over thirty youth participated in the Annual Free Throw contest held at the Chavez Community Center on February 22. Nine finalists representing our department participated in the SEPRC Free Throw Event at Central High in West Allis on March 15. Placing first in their division were Evan Moherek (Boys 3rd Grade) and Kaden Pfeffer (Boys 5th Grade). Next year we hope to expand our local event and include all age groups.
8. Ten Snow Sharks had the opportunity to get some late season skiing/boarding in at Devil's Head Resort in Merrimac on March 14 during this special Spring Break trip.
9. The Milwaukee Bucks have donated tickets to three of the final games of the season. We are distributing the tickets through the community centers.
10. We have replaced the June 21 Movie@ Solbraa Park "Planes" with "The Lego " movie due to Disney franchise rules.
11. We, unfortunately, had to change the date for the Hershey local track meet. We have a new meet coordinator and there have been some scheduling confusion. The date is now set for Wednesday, May 21, 2014. Rain date of Friday, May 23, 2013. The meet will be held at Hammes Field, Case High School.
12. We are arranging sponsors for the Lake F/X games.
13. Registration numbers for Spring Fever Basketball and the Boating Safety course are still low. We have extended the registration dates.

Parks

1. Litter picking in the parks.
2. Three piers (six lanes) at the Boat Launch were installed on March 31.
3. All sixteen (16) of the long seasonal employees were in place by April 4.
4. Still reviewing the summer student positions.
5. Staff working hard to prepare the sports facilities for spring play.

Community Centers

A. King Center

1. Adult basketball league has started; games will be played on Mondays at 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. We have six (6) teams this year down from eight (8) teams the previous two years. This event is averaging around 275 people per date.
2. Lifeguard testing was held on March 15 at Case High School. We had five guards that completed the test and passed with flying colors. Another testing session is scheduled for April 26. It takes a total of 16 lifeguards to staff the beach and the Learn to Swim Program. Our hope is that the April 26 test date will bring us the two (2) we need.

3. Working with Tech Force to purchase new computers for the community centers. The computers the community centers currently have operate on windows XP which is set to expire on April 8. The plan is to purchase ten computers splitting them between the five centers. We are also looking into having some donated through the Wisconsin Medical College, if available.
4. Will schedule a meeting with AI Days (Racine Police Department) to discuss police involvement with the community centers, and other PRCS programs and activities. We will also be discussing an emergency plan of action and protocol should an incident occur at one of the community centers.

B. Humble Park

1. Tax service has begun. We average approximately 20 people every Wednesday.
2. Humble has a 5th - 6th grade and a 7th - 8th grade basketball team that participate at the Bray Center league. They go early before their games to attend a mandatory life skills session.
3. Humble will house the Future and Play It Again playground programs.
4. Beginner pickleball is getting more and more popular. We have up to 15 to 20 people on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The outdoor courts will have a lot of new people using them.
5. The kids at the center were participating in a March Madness pool. When it is over we will have prizes for the top 4 winners.
6. Get “caught being good”. When a staff member sees a child at the center “being good” for example, opening a door for a senior or picking up trash, they get to put their name in a box and then at the end of the month they draw a name and that child receives prize. The better you behave the better your chances are to win.

C. Cesar Chavez

1. City League Basketball Tournament was held on Saturday and Sunday, March 1 & 2.
2. City of Racine traveling basketball team meeting was held on March 5 for all coaches looking for gym space. A total of seventeen (17) coaches were in attendance.
3. City League Volleyball Tournament was held on Saturday, March 8.
4. The center had good numbers of youth during its extended hours the week of March 10 for Spring Break.
5. Adult Softball Umpire School was held at Chavez on March 11, 13, and 18.
6. Paul Ryan’s listening session was held on March 19. Over 160 people were in attendance and things went well with hosting the event.
7. Main Gallery meeting was held on March 21 to discuss the 20th Anniversary plans.

8. Attended a gang collaboration meeting on March 27 at the Thelma Orr COP House. Things are moving slowly on this committee but eventually PRCS will see results and possible additional funding for programs geared at youth.
9. Senior Pickelball group held a City Tournament/Showcase on March 27. Over 35 senior players were in attendance.
10. Cesar Chavez birthday celebration was held March 31 from 4:00-8:00 pm in gym. There will be food, music and speakers.

D. Bryant

1. The Bryant Center 5th - 6th and 7th - 8th graders are participating in the Jacob Lott Basketball Program at the Bray Center. We have thirty youth signed up for this program.
2. The Golden Gloves Tournaments was hosted at the Bryant Center the last three Saturdays. The first event had about 300 in attendance.
3. Kiana Johnson came in to speak with the Girl Power and Girl Scout on an anti –bullying. There were 20 girls in attendance.
4. As part of our program parents and children went to support our boys during their basketball games at the Bray.
5. Mrs. Betty Poole has come on board as a tutor the last week of March to assist the children with their homework. Betty has committed to three days a week.
6. We have applied to a SC Johnson grant. We are awaiting their response. We are also in the submission section of the Helen Bader Foundation’s grant process. We will also receive the decision from the Mission Fund in June.
7. I have made contact with the SDC in Milwaukee in regards to a hot meal program at the beginning of the next school year.
8. We are preparing for the Juneteenth Celebration. The celebration will take place on June 14.
9. The painting at Bryant is almost complete. The face lift looks great. We have received many compliments from the general public.

E. Tyler - Domer

1. We have 12 youth signed up for our barbering class. Clippers and equipment are ready to go.
2. On Monday and Friday we have “Movers of Main Attraction” using the center. This is a group of dancers lead by two instructors, Sharon King and Tony Henderson. The purpose is to have the children

stay productive and keep them off of the streets. They will be having shows and competitions in the community.

3. Community organizations that continue to use the building on a weekly basis: Campus Life, Narcotics Anonymous, Park High School transitional program, developmentally disabled from Careers.
4. Zumba attendance is increasing. We will continue to have classes on Mondays and Wednesdays.
5. Panther Pals (Park High School Students) is continuing to use the building. Park is very happy with the use of the building.
6. TDCC has a 5th - 6th grade and a 7th - 8th grade basketball team that participate in the Bray Center league. They go early before their games to attend a mandatory life skills session.
7. Our Wednesday craft class is going much better with our new leader and new crafts. We are using what the kids make to decorate our bulletin boards. Numbers are staying right around 10.
8. 2 Jabs Fitness class on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays are growing in numbers.
9. Pickleball players use the gym every morning from 9 to 11:30. We also have seniors using the gym to prepare for softball - throwing, batting and catching drills.
10. Adult time with basketball is very busy. An average day attendance is around 20 to 30.
11. Master's Touch Clothing Closet is housed here at TDCC. Provides clothing for low income families and individuals. The clothing is focused on mostly women, children and infants.