

**Director's Report
For
August 8, 2012**

Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

A. Projects

1. **Laurel Clark Fountain:**
 - a. The project is in the final stages of completion.
 - b. The financials are near complete – there is one outstanding change order related to electrical work that remains in conflict. The final project cost is contingent upon the resolution of the final change order.
 - c. There has been a few equipment malfunctions, all have been resolved & were covered by warrantee.
 - d. Due to the hot summer, chemical usage is higher than originally calculated. The chemical cost, to date, remains lower than last year.
2. **Concrete Projects:** These concrete projects are currently in progress. Funds for the concrete projects are a combination of 2011 & 2012 project allotments.
 - a. Sidewalk inspections are complete and the projects have been bid
 - b. Cemetery Concrete – Included with the sidewalk project.
 - c. Zoo Concrete & Asphalt – in process
3. **Humble 21st St – Sidewalk** – Phase II sidewalk bids have been received by DPW Phase 2 sidewalk project, at first review, this portion of the project appears to be under budget.
4. **Parks Paving Projects** – Current at the consultant and are ready for review. 1st advertisement is August 10th – Bid opening is September 6th for installation after mid to late October.
 - a. Johnson Park Picnic Road
 - b. Lincoln West Lot
 - c. Pershing Soccer Field Lot
 - d. Mound Cemetery Service Building
5. **Driveway Installation at Johnson Park on Brook Road (4th Tee):** Bid received, won by Vaash Excavating. **Project Complete.**
6. **Painting of Handrail at Gaslight Pointe:** Project On-hold pending color selection of Festival Hall Roof. Krekling Painting
7. **Park Place Tuck Pointing:** Bids received for Contract 44-12(K2-054), Won by RD Woods.
8. **Lincoln Softball Diamond:** Project awarded to H&K Sport Field for cost of \$23,750. Project is scheduled to begin September 4.
9. **Playground Equipment Replacement:** All field work complete, bid specs are progressing, scheduled for RFP in early September for a fall installation.
 - a. Parker Park – The condition of this equipment remains in good condition. The play equipment will be changed in **Hamilton Park**. We are looking into installing play equipment to complement the existing Cop House.
 - b. West Park
 - c. Heck Park
10. **ADA Updates:** Remaining CDBG funds from 2011 will be used to upgrade accessibility to the recreational amenities in Island, Lincoln and Roosevelt Parks. Asphalt path will be added to Restrooms, play equipment and athletic fields to comply with the 2010 ADA Standards. Work will be scheduled for after Labor Day.



B. Recreation

1. Adult Fall Softball and Kickball registration has begun. All games will be played at Island Park.
2. Hot dog cart concession at Island Park began on Monday, July 13.
3. City Softball Tournament: Men's Closed is scheduled for August 3 – 5; Men's/Women's Open is scheduled for August 10 – 12. Youth/Adult Homerun Derby will take place on Saturday, August 11.
4. Information for Fall/Winter Programming will be available soon.
 - i. Adult Basketball
 - ii. Adult Volleyball
 - iii. Youth Basketball
5. PRCS Dept. is working with RUSD in planning for the After School Zones Program. The following community centers will be involved in this program to start this Fall: Dr. John Bryant, Dr. Martin Luther King, Tyler-Domer and Cesar Chavez.
6. Our Department is eight months into Facebook and currently has 222 friends.
7. All community centers and traditional playgrounds will be participating in National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3.
8. Ironman returned for another year at North Beach on Sunday, July 12. There were over 2000 registered participants. A total of 29 lifeguards were on hand to help with the swim portion of the race.
9. The International Cycle Event was held for the first time at North Beach on Tuesday, July 14. The extreme heat caused low participation in both registration and for people spectating.
10. Main Gallery projects are going well. Program will end on August 4 with the Chair-i-ties art auction and display. The event will be held at Monument Square from 10-12; display will begin promptly at 10:00 and the voice auction to begin at 11:00. We will be collaborating with the Racine Arts Council on marketing and organization of event. Postcards and mailing will go out week of July 23 for invites.
11. Optimist softball games have been going well, most games will conclude the first week in August. We have had no rainouts as of yet but we did have two cancellations due to the extreme heat and heat advisory.
12. The playground program is doing very well. Our numbers are great and we are bringing alternative programming such as soccer clinics, golf and kayaking to the registered portion of the program. We will finish the summer with exciting events and trips like the beach parties, zoo trips, Brewer's game, State Fair, NNO, REC Center, Messfest, and Skatetown.
13. The Summer Outdoor Movies Series is coming to an end. The last two movie presentations were well attended and enjoyed by everyone. We estimate about 300 people viewed "Casper" at Mound Cemetery on July 14 and 400 people viewed "Zookeeper" at Hantschel Park on July 21. The final presentation is "Cars 2" at Matson Park on August 4.
14. The Lake F/X games were "awesome." Participant numbers were down slightly because of a conflict with another competition, but spectator numbers were up. Gateway Technical College provided t-shirts, Sky High Skate Shop provided skateboard prizes, Racine Cyclery provided BMX prizes, Warren Industries provided water & Gatorade for participants and Friday Optimist Club provided water for the event staff as co-sponsors of this event.

15. Our annual Back to School Fest is scheduled for Monday, August 20. We are in our final planning stages. The event is prepared to provide participants with 3000 back packs. Johnson Wax is once again a major sponsor along with Wal-Mart Corporation.

C. Parks

1. Many hours were spent at North Beach removing seaweed that washed on shore.
2. Major clean up took place after the Fourth of July and Ironman Event.
3. Due to the lack of rain this summer more time was spent spraying weeds and watering trees and flower beds than cutting grass.
4. The tree inventory project (Davey Resource Group) has been underway for the past two weeks. The staff has completed 5,750 sites; approximately 25% done.
5. We are 99% done with EAB treatments.
 - i. We visited 2063 tree sites. Of those sites:
 - ii. 864 trees were treated
 - iii. 292 trees were missing (already removed sometime in the past 5 years)
 - iv. 283 trees were smaller than 10" and not treated
 - v. 309 trees were larger than 24" and not treated
 - vi. 116 trees were under wires and not treated
 - vii. 154 trees were in poor condition and not treated
 - viii. 46 trees were not treated for miscellaneous reasons
 - ix. We have 5 bottles of chemical left so we are going to identify two dozen of the healthy trees larger than 24" and treat them.
 - x. **We will be left with approximately 883 un-treated *street trees* that will need removal at some point, either before being infected or after being infected.**

D. Community Centers

1. Dr. MLK
 - i. The King Center Jammers (Drill Team) participated in the Fourth of July Parade, we had twelve girls total. The skirts the girls wore were made by the girls themselves during a two weeks sewing class.
 - ii. Summer Lunch Program is going very well; we are up to seventy lunches a day.
 - iii. True U, a program sponsored by the Girl Scouts was held here on Tuesday July 17. This program focus was on building young girls self-esteem through individual and group interaction and role playing. We had 7 girls attend.
 - iv. Playgrounds are going well. We took second place in the football tournament, which was held at Horlick Field.
 - v. We are working with Tina Riley from FOCUS, to do a six week support group for participants here at the center. This group will focus on bullying, peer pressure and mediation. Our goal is to introduce youth on ways to prevent and protect each other from negative behavior and show them that there are other ways to handle their anger.
2. Humble Park/Cesar Chavez Community Centers
 - i. Camp Kinder held a car wash at Humble Park on July 26. All proceeds benefitted developmentally disabled youth. Car wash had lines all day and many people attended.

- ii. Chavez Center had painting done on July 24 through a community grant with Home Depot/Glidden paints. One of our volunteer basketball coaches John Kisting pitched the idea last year and it was approved. Areas painted were the main hallways, basement hallway, bleachers, weight room, gym office and stage area.
- iii. Chavez Center served as a site for food distribution to needy families on July 30. A program through Diversey sponsored the event and chose Chavez as a prime location for this event.
- iv. Met with Rudy Collum on July 20 to discuss a partnership between PRCS and him to hold youth basketball camps at Chavez on October 6, 13, and 20. PRCS would be the provider and would set the price for the camps, marketing, take registrations' etc. Coach Collum would be a contracted service to provide instruction and supervision at the camps. We would include this in the fall flyer and set the price at an affordable rate for our center youth to be able to attend if wanted.
- v. In cooperation with Diversey Internship Community Project the Cesar Chavez Community Center played host to a food giveaway on July 30 from 12-3. Over 600 families were provided with enough food to last a week. The program was well organized and a success.

3. Bryant/Tyler - Domer Community Centers

- i. Collaboration efforts with the Girl Scouts have brought a troop to both Dr. John Bryant and Tyler-Domer Community Centers. Numbers are growing, Bryant at 13, Tyler-Domer at 8. These are good starting numbers.
- ii. We are also working with the Boy Scouts to bring troops to both centers.
- iii. The lunch program numbers at Bryant is at 100 and over 50 at Tyler-Domer.
- iv. The Basketball camp numbers are growing at Bryant. This is a program, instructed by staff, and is done three days a week from 8:00-11:00 am. There are about 15 children participating.
- v. The inaugural Visual Arts Camp started on July 23 at the TDCC. Thirteen students are attending this program instructed by Jason Ludtke's of Mega Structure class. We are hoping the students will be able to display their work at National Night Out at TDCC.

**Director's Report
For
September 12, 2012**

Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

A. Projects

1. Laurel Clark Fountain:
 - i. The financials are complete.
2. Concrete Projects: These concrete projects are currently in progress. Funds for the concrete projects are a combination of 2011 & 2012 project allotments.
 - i. Sidewalk replacements have begun for both General and CDBG sidewalks.
 - ii. Cemetery Concrete – Complete
3. Humble 21st St – Sidewalk – Phase II sidewalk bids have been received by DPW. The sidewalk installation is scheduled to begin the week of September 3.
4. Parks Paving Projects – Bid opening is September 6 for installation after mid to late October.
 - i. Johnson Park Picnic Road
 - ii. Lincoln West Lot – includes adding ADA access to softball diamond
 - iii. Pershing Soccer Field Lot
 - iv. Mound Cemetery Service Building
5. Painting of Handrail at Gaslight Pointe: Project is on track to be completed before the end of September. Color is the same as the existing handrail.
6. Park Place Tuck Pointing: Bids received for Contract 44-12(K2-054), Won by RD Woods.
7. Lincoln Softball Diamond: H&K Sport Fields are scheduled to begin September 4. The backstop & fence replacement is also out for bids.
8. Douglas Park Softball Lighting Replacement
 - i. Soil borings are complete and the preliminary report shows favorable soil conditions for the light bases.
 - ii. Engineering is expected to be complete the week of September 4 & will be bid out at the next available bid date for a spring installation.
9. Playground Equipment Replacement: All field work complete, bid specs are progressing, scheduled for RFP in early September for a fall installation. The first ever play equipment selection committee will be selecting play equipment for the parks on September 5.
 - i. Parker Park – The condition of this equipment remains in good condition. The play equipment will be changed in Hamilton Park. We are looking into installing play equipment to complement the existing Cop House.
 - ii. West Park
 - iii. Heck Park
10. ADA Updates:
 - i. Remaining CDBG funds from 2011 will be used to upgrade accessibility to the recreational amenities in Island, Lincoln and Roosevelt Parks. Asphalt path will be added to restrooms, play equipment and athletic fields to comply with the 2010 ADA Standards. Work will be scheduled for after Labor Day.
 - ii. ADA upgrades for Lockwood Park has also been completed and submitted for bids.

11. Cemeteries:

i. Mound:

1. 2012 concrete replacement is complete. Included the concrete in front of the service building and the sidewalk from the cannon to the 12th Street parking lot.
2. Asphalt bids are due September 6.
3. Concrete bases for the cannon fence are installed. We are currently seeking quotes to install the fence.

ii. Graceland:

1. Proposed Block 23, former asphalt road. The asphalt has been removed and the area has been graded and seeded. A draft plot for the area will allow approximately 730 cremation internment sites.

12. Golf Courses:

i. Johnson Park.

1. DPW is coordinating with PRCS to do stream bank restoration along with the restoration of the current tees and greens scheduled for August of 2013.
2. AECOM has been hired to do design for restoration of Hoods Creek at the 3rd Tee.

13. Zoo:

- i. Concrete bids have been received for concrete replacement at the Zoo. Project includes stairs replacement at the north side of the Feline Building and concrete sidewalk replacement north of the Gift Shop.
- ii. Asphalt replacement at the Zoo's north end is currently out for bids.

B. Recreation

1. Adult City Softball Tournament

- i. Men's Closed – New this year, the men's closed tournament was held on August 3 - 5. This was a department effort to entice more of the lower league teams to be involved. A total of 12 teams participated. The department received positive comments and will expect more team registration in 2013.
 - ii. Men's & Women's Open - Games were held August 10 – 12. A total of eight (8) teams registered for the Men's Tournament and ten (10) for the Women's Tournament. The Men's Tournament was held at Horlick Athletic Field and the Women's Tournament at Island Park – All finals were held at Horlick Athletic Field.
 - iii. Concessions were sold for the first time during the Women's Tournament at Island Park. Concessions sales were good and received positive feedback.
 - iv. Homerun Derby – Youth preliminary rounds were held during the games on Saturday, August 11. Finalist matched up prior to the adult event. Participants ranged from grades 1 – 6. Each participant received a certificate during the day and winners received a trophy made from a wooden bat at the event. Melissa Champion and Keith Osborne won the adult contest.
2. The ninth Annual Back to School event took place on Monday, August 20 at Festival Hall from 2:00 – 6:00 pm. With assistance from SC Johnson, WalMart, Domino's and list of donors, 3,000 backpacks were given away to student's entering grades K – 12. There will be a post event meeting to go over possible changes for 2013.

3. Zoo/North Beach
 - i. Zoo Beach season came to a close on Sunday, August 19. As expected, staff was scheduled to return to college leaving only enough to man North Beach.
 - ii. North Beach remained open until Sunday, September 2. There were a few days during the last week of August that the protected area was not lifeguarded. Again this was due to shortage of staff.
 - iii. Overall, the beach season went well. This year's staff seemed to work very well with each other. There were few incidents to speak of. Only a few closing mainly due to a dry season that had a few downpours that caused some problems with water quality.
4. Coed Kickball is offered this fall. A total of 6 teams registered. The season began the last week in August.
5. Men's & Coed Fall Softball returns on Tuesday & Wednesday nights. Men's on Tuesday will have five (5) team in the competitive league and seven (7) in the non-competitive league. Wednesday's Coed League registered 17 teams. Two (2) non-competitive leagues will play games at Island Park with the competitive league playing games at Lockwood Park.
6. Main Gallery came to a conclusion on Saturday, August 4 with the Charities Art Auction on Monument Square. Over 125 people attended as we had art work on display from Furniture Painting, Photography and Multimedia Painting. Furniture and rain barrels were auctioned off and proceeds exceeded \$2,500. Katie Lafond provided music and the DRC and Arts Council collaborated with the event.
7. Registrations for Fall/Winter Youth Basketball began September 4 at the Annex. There will be three (3) evening registrations at the Chavez Center on September 6, 12 & 18 from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.
8. Our department completed its two year host commitment for the WPRA Hershey Track and Field district event. It was a great experience for our staff and department. Our efforts were recognized by the State Organization (WPRA).
9. The first Annual Monument Mash Fest is in the planning stages. The event has been selected as a finalist for the WPRA Silver Star award.
10. Duncan Cortez and Bob Rafel have been representing our department by attending at the 2012 SEPRC (Southeast Parks and Recreation Committee) monthly meetings and seminars.
11. Face book 271 likes.

C. Parks

1. The Tree Inventory Project should be coming to a close by September 14. Only half of the trees in the right of way will be inventoried. It was anticipated that 80% of the trees in the right of way would have been inventoried – that did not happen. The PRCS Department will be applying for the same \$25,000 DNR Grant for 2013. The city is requesting \$45,000 in its CIP Budget for 2013.
2. Parks crew continued to battle algae drifting ashore at North Beach all month. According to the Health Department, 2012 has been the worst since 2002. B Even with that statement, Zoo/North Beaches have only been closed a few times all season.
3. Parks crew removed the old ball diamond fence at Lincoln Park to allow the diamond to be regarded. A new fence will follow.
4. The PRCS Department will continue to reserve picnic dates and events through the month of September to parks that have restrooms. Starting in October, park restrooms will begin winter shut down.

D. Community Centers

1. Dr. MLK

- i. National Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 7. A total of approximately 150 people came in attendance. Activities such as a jumpy house, slippery slide, raffles, games and line dancing ran from 4:00 – 8:00 pm on the King Center grounds. Hotdogs, hamburgers, baked beans, ribs, corn and more were served.
- ii. It has been noticed that the center has been used by a large number of young fathers on a daily basis. Center staff is looking into providing a program that will focus on activities for the fathers and their children.
- iii. Working with Mr. Hardy (tennis pro) in an effort to bring tennis lesson to the King Center. We are hoping to have the program up and going by mid-September. The focus will be on youth age 7 – 14 both males and females. A section of the gym would be reserved for these lessons.
- iv. After School Zones are coming to the King Center this Fall. Staff has submitted program applications to receive \$2,000 in grant money to provide photography and a poetry workshop for middle school students. There will be ten week activities, and at the end of each we plan to have some sort of presentation to show off the youths work.

2. Humble Park/Cesar Chavez Community Centers

- i. National Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 7. Staff from both Chavez and Humble Community Centers helped organize and supervise the event.
 1. Humble Park had over 300 in attendance and was highlighted by food, music, bounce house, raffles, face painting for kids and playground leader's games. This by far was biggest turnout at Humble Park and was a huge success.
 2. Chavez Center had 150 in attendance and was highlighted by bounce house, face painting, music, food, raffles and prizes.
 3. Staff at both Centers helped out with organization and supervision of events.
- ii. Voting went smoothly at both locations on Tuesday, August 14 - there were no complaints
- iii. Discover Douglas Avenue event was held on Sunday, August 19 from 12:00-6:00 pm. The Chavez Center was open for washroom use and power for the Stage on Wheels. Attendance was good. Douglas Park and Cesar Chavez Community Center were left in great condition as the group did a nice job of cleaning up.
- iv. Fall hours will go into effect at both locations on Tuesday, September 4 with school starting.

3. Bryant/Tyler - Domer Community Centers

- i. The Monday through Thursday Free Summer Lunch program is now over. Dr. John Bryant averaged 100 lunches and TDCC averaged 50 lunches per day.
- ii. The girl's summer basketball program was a success, the team members ranged from ages 11-16. The last game was schedule for Friday, August 31.
- iii. We team up with Focus on Community for a program on abstinence for young ladies. The girl power group was a co-sponsor at this event.

- iv. After School Zones are coming to the Bryant Center this Fall. Staff has submitted program applications to receive \$2,000 in grant money to provide a community choir, ceramics, drills and skills basketball clinic and a girl's power program for Middle School students. These will be ten week activities, and at the end of each we plan to have some sort of presentation to show off the youths work.
- v. The middle school youth that participated in the inaugural "Visual Arts" camp had a wonderful experience. Each student in the camp was able to use their imagination and creativity to construct a 3D mega-structure during the two week camp held at the TDCC. The camp received some great publicity from the Journal Times and was recognized by State Senator Robert Wirch.
- vi. Fall programming will includes a Haunted House, Bucks Charitable program, Make a Difference Day and Snow Sharks.