

**Director's Report
For
July 11, 2012**

Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

A. Projects

1. **Laurel Clark Fountain:**
 - a. State occupancy was granted on June 25. The Racine Health Department granted the one year Operation Permit on June 25.
 - b. Punch list items are being handled.
 - c. The financials are near complete – there are two outstanding change orders related to a fountain spray head that failed after the concrete was in place.
 - d. The fountain mechanical and chemical contractors have provide top quality service to keep the fountain running during the extremely hot weather.
2. **Concrete Projects:** These concrete projects are currently in progress. Funds for the concrete projects are a combination of 2011 & 2012 project allotments.
 - a. Park Bench pads at North Beach: Pads installed by JB Concrete of Racine, benches will be installed by staff before July 4.
 - b. Sidewalk inspections – General & CDBG
 - c. Cemetery Concrete
 - d. Zoo Concrete & Asphalt
3. **Humble 21st St – Sidewalk** – Currently out for bid with DPW Phase 2 sidewalk project.
4. **Parks Paving Projects** – Currently at the consultant and are ready for review. Expect to be bid out by the end of July for installation after Labor Day.
 - a. Johnson Park Picnic Road
 - b. Lincoln West Lot
 - c. Pershing Soccer Field Lot
5. **Asphalt Paving Johnson Park 1st Tee:** Completed by Rohner Asphalt & Grading.
6. **Driveway Installation at Johnson Park on Brook Road (4th Tee):** Bid received, won by Vaash Excavating.
7. **Painting of Handrail at Gaslight Pointe:** Project on-hold pending color selection of Festival Hall Roof by Krekling Painting.
8. **Park Place Tuck Pointing:** Bids received for Contract 44-12(K2-054), won by RD Woods.
9. **Lincoln Softball Diamond:** Project awarded to H&K Sport Field. Project is scheduled to being in August.
10. **Playground Equipment Replacement:** All field work complete, bid specs are progressing, scheduled for RFP in early September for a fall installation.
 - a. Parker Park
 - b. West Park
 - c. Heck Park
11. **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. Mid-Season Adult Softball registration took in over 80 players.
2. The beaches officially opened on Saturday June 9th. Attendance has been great. We are averaging about 970 participants a day. Zoo/North Beach has not been closed to date. The Health Dept. is now able to give us same day water readings.
3. The new jet ski is working out well on the beach, to date we have had three training session, one that included working with Fire Department and the Water Safety Patrol. Another training session was held on Friday, June 29 at 10:00 am for the remaining guards.
4. Met with Erin Donaldson, of Wheaton Franciscan to set up Water Safety Day at North Beach. A July and August date will be determined at the Monday, July 9 meeting.
5. Learn to Swim has started or at the DeKoven Center. We are running (2) two week sessions beginning June 18 – June 28, July 9 – July 20, 2012. All session are full, when it's all said and done we will have provided lessons to 80 youth.
6. Final preparations are being made for Animal Crackers Jazz series. We have four concerts dates beginning July 11, 2012. Should be another good year. The line- up is as follows; July 11 Smithsonian Jazz Master works, July 25 Maysa, August 8 Yellow Jackets and August 22 Rick Braun.
7. Optimist umpire meeting was held at Humble Park on Friday June 1. Majority of umpires are summer playground leaders and community center staff.
8. Optimist softball began June 4. Girls play Monday nights and Boys on Wednesday nights. All games are played at Humble Park ball diamonds. A 24 total teams participated in t-ball, coach pitch and kid pitch leagues.
9. Main Gallery orientation was held on Wednesday June 20 at Humble Park. Over 40 young people and supervisors were in attendance.
10. Main Gallery programs began on June 25. Photography meets at DeKoven Center from 1:00 -530 pm, Furniture Painting meets at Tyler - Domer Center from 9:00 am -130 pm and Rain Barrel/Multimedia Painting meet at Chavez Center from 9:00 am -130 pm. There are 33 young people working this summer. We had over 70 applicants. Funding for this summer comes from Johnson Wax, CDBG, Racine Community Foundation, PRCS and anonymous donors.
11. The PRCS Dept. hosted the Hershey District Meet for the second year in a row, which includes all SEPRC communities on June 7, at Case High School. It was estimated that approximately 500 athletes and spectators were in attendance. Our department was recognized again for our dedication and excellence in presenting the District event. The plaque we received is on display at the Park & Recreation office.
12. The first Summer Movie in the Park-Kung Fu Panda 2 was well attended with an estimated 400 people filling the "Ice Skating" bowl at Solbraa Park on June 23rd. The next presentation "Casper" is scheduled for July 7th, at Mound Cemetery, a first for this location.

C. Parks

1. The Mobi Mat was installed at Zoo Beach.
2. Assisted in preparation of Racine Bloom Event.
3. Special attention was given to North Beach for the 4th of July Celebration. A new design was used to assist Police & Fire better transportation across the park.
4. There was a record turnover of long season employees – a total of 7. We now have 10 new Parks Seasonals and 5 new Parks Student employees.

D. Community Centers

1. Dr. MLK

- i. Learning Inside Out and Upside Down has started. The program meets every Tuesday from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. We have 10 young parents and/or care givers that have attended the first two session. The program will run through August 14, 2012.
- ii. The summer lunch program is up and running. We are serving 60 lunches a day. Lunch is served Monday – Thursday from 12:00 -2:00 pm.
- iii. U.W. Extension Nutrition Program was held June 18 -21. Youth where treated to quick health snack, that they helped prepare and could make at home. We had 12 youth attend the class.
- iv. The King Center Jammers will be in this year Fourth of July Parade; they have been practicing since the beginning of May and are excited to be in the parade. We have 15 youth ranging from 5-14 years of age participating in the parade
- v. The King Center Community flower/vegetable garden will begin working by the end of the week. We will have youth the center plant flowers by the front parking lot, and also on the southeast end of the building along with some vegetables.
- vi. A sleepover was scheduled for Friday June 29; youth participated in games, dancing & life skills activities. A total of 30 youth participated.
- vii. The Playgrounds Program has started, we have Katelyn and Marcus as our leaders and they are doing a great job with the youth. We have about 15 youth who attend daily.

2. Humble Park/Cesar Chavez Community Centers

- i. Old Timers football held late registration at Humble Park on June 4.
- ii. Attended lunch program meeting at Racine Unified School district on June 5. Chavez Center will be providing lunches this summer Monday – Thursday from 12:30 to 2:30 pm.
- iii. Voting took place in both buildings on June 5. Both Centers were as crowded as I have ever seen for voting with lines outside the building at both locations. With the adding of districts to both locations we were packed.
- iv. Commission meeting was held June 13 at Humble Park at 5:15 pm, some members attended the tour after meeting and seemed supportive of our programming going on at the building.
- v. The Chavez Center has been hosting the Douglas Avenue construction update meeting every other Wednesday to the public who have questions on the road construction going on.

- vi. Main Gallery orientation was held on Wednesday June 20 at Humble Park. Over 40 young people and supervisors were in attendance.
- vii. Main Gallery programs began on June 25. Photography meets at Dekoven Center from 1:00-5:30 pm, Furniture Painting meets at Tyler - Domer center from 9:00 am - 130 pm and Rain Barrel/Multimedia Painting meet at Chavez Center from 9:00 am – 130 pm. A total of 33 young people are working this summer. We had over 70 applicants. Funding for this summer comes from Johnson Wax, CDBG, Racine Community Foundation, PRCS and anonymous donors.
- viii. Summer playgrounds programs are in full swing at both locations with Future and Sport of All sorts running at both sites. Over 40 youth attend both the a.m. and p.m. slots.
- ix. Camp Kinder used Humble Park for Car wash to benefit programming for youth with special needs. Three (3) busses of handicapped youth and supervisors came on June 26 at 9:00 a.m. Car washes are for donation and any funds raised help fund programs for the disabled.

3. Bryant/Tyler - Domer Community Centers

- i. Juneteenth was a success there were 3000+ people in attendance. The monetary help of Johnson Wax and Caron Butler took this event to the next level.
- ii. The summer lunch program has started, we now service 75 youth in our community.
- iii. We are working with Caron Butler Camp in planning a block party on July 21 from 4:00-8:00pm. There will be food, games and fun houses for the community.
- iv. Planning for the Back to School fest is coming together. It appears that all who were on board at our last event will be back again this year.
- v. UW Extension has just completed their nutrition program with the children at the center. There were 10 youth in the program.
- vi. We now have in place a basketball training in the mornings Mon-Fri 8:00 to 10:00, there are about 10-15 youth involved in the program.