

**Director's Report
For September 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. No issues to report

2. Parks Paving Projects for 2014

- a. Two pending paving projects:
 - i. Douglas Parking Lot Upgrades – set to begin September 9 & continue through 1st week of October.
- b. Graceland Cemetery Road Replacements – some site engineering has been completed. Fall & Winter 2015 project. (No Change)

3. Miscellaneous Projects

- a. Pershing Bleacher Replacement: Field work in process. (No change.)
- b. Pershing Fence Replacement: Currently out for formal bidding with DPW.
- c. Pending Concrete Projects:
 - i. Concrete for ADA accessibility: In process.

4. Community Centers

- a. Bryant
 - i. None
- b. Chavez
 - i. Parking Lot Paving - See 2a
- c. Humble
 - i. None
- d. King
 - i. None
- e. Tyler-Domer
 - i. None

5. 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 – on hold (No Change).
- b. Mound:
 - i. Chapel Restroom: Will be complete by September 15.
 - ii. Mound Chapel AC and electrical: In process – will be complete by September 30.
 - iii. Mound Fountain Liner: Will be complete by September 15.
 - iv. Outside door repairs and new stain/sealer in process.
 - v. Rail painting round Mound office/chapel and Graceland crypts in process.

c. Graceland:

- i. Section 23: Tree planning & site directional markers are in process. (No Change)
- 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. (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. (No Change)

6. Golf Courses:

- a. Johnson: WE Energies will be upgrading their wiring and transformers at JP. The upgrades will have no impact on the golf course. (No Change)
- b. Washington: No update.
- c. Shoop: No update.

7. Wustum:

- a. Siding and window replacement project: Set to begin September 22.
- b. Gazebo and porch repairs are in process.

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.

Parks

1. Continue with massive seasonal turn over due to retirements of full time employees.
2. Summer student employees are done for the 2014 season.
3. In coordination with the Health Department, Park staff is putting up fencing and building new berms.
4. Continued with CDL training for some seasonal employees.
5. Cleaned up 17th Street dead end at the end of August.
6. Continued with grass cutting and normal park maintenance.

Recreation

A. Youth Activities

1. The Youth Drop-in Sand Soccer program had a surprising successful first year. An average of 30 youth attended Wednesday nights from July 7 through August 13 at North Beach. The program was in collaboration with Racine City Soccer Academy. PRCS looks forward to offering more soccer programming in partnership with the RCSA.
2. The Summer Playground programs were a success this year. New field trips, guest speakers, special events, parades, arts & crafts, songs and games made up the fun at the parks this year. Planning has already started for next year's program.
3. Youth T-ball, Coach Pitch and Kids Pitch Softball programs came to an end early August. Boys and girls leagues played their games at Humble Park Monday through Thursday. The Tuesday Optimist Club sold concessions during the games and has donated \$500.00 to be used for supplies for the program next summer.

4. The 12 – 14 year old boys and girls softball league also ended early August. Both leagues teamed up with the Mt. Pleasant league to create a larger league format. PRCS plans to continue this collaboration in the future.
5. Youth Basketball registration began at our downtown office on September 3 for City - residents and September 8 for non-residents. Evening registrations will be held at Chavez Center September 9, 16 and 18 from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. for 5th – 8th grade leagues participants. We expect over 1,000 participants in this program and have been receiving many calls and registrations already.

B. Adult Activities

1. City Softball Tournament: Men's Open Tournament took place August 1 – 3. Men's Closed and Women's Open Tournament took place August 8 – 10. A total of 20 teams enter the tournament hoping to be named the City Champions. Games took place at Island Park and Horlick Athletic Field.
2. After a tremendous amount of rainout makeup games, the summer Adult Softball Leagues have come to an end.
3. Adult Softball continues with eight (8) Men's teams and eight (8) Coed team's playing Fall Softball at Island Park on Tuesdays and Wednesdays respectively.
4. Adult Kickball League has started. An eleven (11) team league will play games the month of September and October on Monday nights.
5. Registration is underway for Adult Basketball and Volleyball leagues. Game and matches will begin the last week of October or early November.
6. The Adult Drop-in Sand Soccer program averaged 12 adults Monday nights during the six week program which ran from July 7 through August 13 at North Beach. The program was in collaboration with Racine City Soccer Academy

C. Special Events

1. We distributed 3,000 backpacks to students in Racine County for the Back to School Back Pack Giveaway event. With a lot of help from RUSD, SC Johnson and PRCS staff, the backpacks were stuffed and delivered to the proper schools for their open house or first week of school.
2. The Summer Movie series ended with over 300 people watching "Frozen" at Douglas Park at National Night Out, August 5 and over 150 viewing "Tad, The Lost Explorer" at Matson Park on August 8.
3. Main Gallery Charities Auction was held on Saturday, August 2 at Monument Square downtown Racine. All artwork from this summer program were on display and sold. Live auction on the Stage on Wheels brought in \$5,000.00 from the sale of wooden garden sculptures and decorative painted furniture. Silent auction brought in over \$1,200.00 from the sale of photography, garden sculptures and painted bags. Over 125 were in attendance. The 6 ft. carved and painted wooden sculpture will be placed at the REC Center on 6th Street. A small ceremony will be planned in the fall.

D. Miscellaneous

1. The Laurel Clark Fountain ran smoothly for the summer. Downtown Ambassador's ended their watch September 1. PRCS will take over on the weekends through the month of September. All staff had been trained on proper water testing on August 28 by the Health Department staff.
2. Several SEPRC members expressed an interest in continuing the "Hershey" Track and Field program in a new form at the SEPRC meeting held in Milwaukee on August 27. Our goal is to continue the local, district (SEPRC), and state (WPRA) format that has been used in the past. We are hoping to set up an advisory committee to develop plans for next year's program.
3. Programs in the works - The return of RUSD Special Needs Movies, Youth Hoops, Make a Difference Day, Snow Sharks, Bucks Charitable ticket program.

Community Centers

A. King Center

1. National Nights Out went really well. There were around 190 people in attendance. We had face painting, sack races, slip and slide, along with other activities. The Police & Fire Departments, members of Romello Racing and Independent Racing Association (two of our sponsors) attended this year's event. To round out the night we had the band Chicken Grease performing from 6:00 - 8:15 pm.
2. We took seventeen (17) youth to the Larry's Fun Fest located in Union Grove on the August 10th. Larry Fun Fest is an annual event where motor cycles and racing car drivers from around the country come to compete for prizes and money.
3. Last concert for Animal Crackers was held on August 20. It was another good concert series all the groups performed well.
4. The last day for lifeguard attending North Beach was August 31.
5. Held a Flag Football three on three event on August 14. There were a total of 6 teams that competed for the King Center Flag Football Championship. The youth enjoyed the games and are looking forward to playing again.
6. Our Back to School event was held on August 30 from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. The activities included a 3 on 3 basketball, jump house and free haircuts to the first 35 youth. Refreshments were provided.
7. The Summer Nights Music Series went pretty well. The schedule called for three (3) concerts, but we were only able to provide two due to lack of funding and weather. Both concerts were well attended, averaging about 150 people per concert.

B. Humble Park

1. National Night Out was August 5. The event had approximately 200 participants. Staff served brats and burgers and had many donations from the surrounding businesses. Activities included games, face painting, bouncy house, and drawings for prizes.
2. The Pickle Ball group is planning a round robin tournament and also an introduction session to get the interest sparked in the younger athletes in the area.
3. The new community access computer is in and the kids are using it a lot.

4. Vending machine is coming out due to lack of profit.
5. Continuing with the “Get Caught Being Good” program. The kid’s behavior has been better due to the rewards that they get for behaving.

C. Cesar Chavez

1. Main Gallery Charities Auction was held on Saturday, August 2 at Monument Square downtown Racine. All artwork from this summer programs were on display and sold. Live auction on the Stage on Wheels brought in \$5,000.00 from the sale of wooden garden sculptures and decorative painted furniture. Silent auction brought in over \$1,200.00 from the sale of photography, garden sculptures and painted bags. Over 125 were in attendance. The 6ft carved and painted wooden sculpture will be placed at the REC Center on 6th Street. A small ceremony will be planned in the fall.
2. National Night Out was our biggest and best yet. Over 175 people attended. Highlights were the jump house, face painting, playground leader games, food and the movie “Frozen” at dusk. We ran out of food at the end and had many new faces in attendance from the surrounding neighborhoods.
3. Voting was held in the big gym on August 12. Everything went smoothly.
4. Met with the REC Center Director on August 13 to discuss placement of the Main Gallery story pole.
5. Chavez Center signed up 500 recipients for the back pack giveaway within the first 24 hours of the announcement. Many walk in’s came as well as phones ringing constantly. The extra help with playground staff was very helpful and needed to maintain the phones and building traffic.
6. Met with Racine Soccer Academy reps on August 4. We did not get enough registrants for a fall league at this time but will be trying again to start up possible indoor Futsal league at Chavez Center this spring. Other ideas are being worked on to bring in soccer programming to the PRCS Department.
7. Youth Basketball Registrations started at our downtown office on September 3 for City - residents and September 8 for non-residents. Evening registrations will be held at Chavez Center September 9, 16 and 18 from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. for 5th – 8th grade leagues participants. We expect over 1,000 participants in this program and have been getting many calls & registrations already.
8. Helped with the back pack giveaway set up on August 22. Staff worked hard for over 7 hours unloading a semi-trailer full of supplies and packing up 3,000 backpacks.
9. Attending Gang Collaboration meeting on August 28 at Bray Center. Focus is on funding and bringing organizations together to bring in alternative programming. This could be a good fit with utilizing community centers.
10. Senior card clubs, pickle ball, volleyball and foot clinics continue to keep senior participation steady daily in morning hours.
11. AAU practices are now done for the summer season. A total of 20 teams utilizing gym spaces in the evenings for Racine youth teams.

12. Met with Diana Schultz from City Development on August 25 to discuss Main Gallery Program. She was impressed with how CDBG funds were used for this program.

D. Bryant

1. National Night Out was a success; with at least 200 people were in attendance. This was in collaboration with the Mead St. Cop House. The event took place at Hamilton Park.
2. The South Side Reunion was attended by 300 people. It was good to see the past generations of community center participants participating together.
3. Voting was held at the center on August 12. The turnout was low for the primary election.
4. The back pack give away is now completed. 3,000 students received back packs and supplies. There was some disappointment in the community due to not hosting the event (party) for the children at Festival Hall.
5. The children are raising funds for their uniforms for Drill Team and Pom-Poms. The Z&Z pizza sale is coming to an end.
6. The Bryant Center hosted a Double Dutch event co-sponsored by Together We Can Stop the Violence. There were 50 girls in attendance.
7. We will be hosting a Fall Basketball League. The Tommy Moore Basketball league will work with children from 3rd - 8th grades. We are signing children up now.

E. Tyler - Domer

1. Playgrounds ended on August 12 with cookouts and parties at all the parks. The leaders ended on August 13 and spent the next two (2) days cleaning shelters and getting TDCC ready for next playground season. I feel it was a great summer and hoping for a lot of returning leaders and supervisors.
2. National Night Out was August 5. Staff provided lots of food and entertainment. Playground Leaders provided games and beads. Visits from Fire and Police Departments and the bouncy house kept the kids busy.
3. The election went well on August 12 with pretty good participation.
4. The Cadet Drilling for Discipline is a drill team that will learn respect for adults and others. They will learn how to present the flag and learn what a drill team does. The program is targeting 4th grade to 8th grade students. It is for fun, but we are hoping to work toward competitions and parades.
5. I have hired another new person to do the crafts class on Wednesday.
6. The center is trying a filming making class for adults. We are providing the space. The volunteer will supply everything else. Hoping to get people interested in something a little different.

7. Our garden is going great and we are collaborating with Park High School and the community to share the responsibility and the benefits. We have taken kids out there this summer to show them what's growing and the insects and things that come with a garden. We have pumpkins and squash growing also.