

**Director's Report
For November 12, 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 & winterized.

2. Parks Paving Projects for 2014

- a. Two pending paving projects:
 - i. Douglas Parking lot upgrades – Complete.
- b. Graceland Cemetery Road Replacements – site engineering has been completed. Spring 2015 project. (No Change)

3. Miscellaneous Projects

- a. Bleacher Replacement: Bids in. Vendor will be presented for Finance Committee and Common Council approval this month.
- b. Pershing Fence Replacement: Project official start date is October 30th – expect project completion by December 15th.
- c. Concrete Bleacher Pads – Lockwood Park: Complete.

4. Community Centers

- a. Bryant
 - i. None.
- b. Chavez
 - i. Parking Lot Paving – Complete.
- 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. Road Removal Section 5: Complete.
- c. Graceland:
 - i. Concrete Graceland Service Building: Complete.
 - ii. Chimney Repairs Service Building: Bids in - November construction.
 - iii. Graceland Pond Rehab: DPW/Utilities project. Bids due November 5th. Construction expected to begin early February 2015.
 - iv. 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, early April; contract documents & construction early May; for completion before Memorial Day – Weather Permitting. (No Change)

6. Golf Courses:

a. Johnson:

- i. Door Replacement of Club House: Bids ready mid-November, anticipate construction December.
- ii. WE Energies will be upgrading their wiring and transformers at JP. The upgrades will have no impact on the golf course. At PRCS Board for recommendation.

b. Washington: No Update.

c. Shoop: No Update.

7. Wustum:

a. Paving to Lower Barn Area: Complete.

b. Easement Request along East Sidewalk: at PRCS Board for recommendation.

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. Winter Preparations

a. Snow fencing installed at North Beach.

b. Snow markers have been placed for plowing.

c. Tires have been put in place on Lockwood snow hill.

2. Fall tree plantings are complete.

3. Closing down parks.

a. Final removing of leaves.

b. Final mulching.

c. Pavilions winterized for the winter.

Recreation

A. Youth Activities

1. The Fast Break Camp concluded on the October 8. The 20 youth that attended developed their basketball skills, learned basic concepts, and made new friends.
2. Youth basketball season has begun with 90 teams and 900 kids in the 2nd – 8th grade girls and boys leagues. We still have a few openings in some grade levels and are taking late registrations on first come first serve basis at the PRCS main office. Games begin Saturday, November 15. Game sites include Humble, Tyler Domer, Chavez, Bryant, King Community Centers as well as Gilmore Middle School.
3. Work continues on the Snow Shark, Youth Hoops, Racine Youth Track and Field Program, etc.

B. Adult Activities

1. The Adult Coed Kickball program ended with playoff victory (3-2) by Toad Hall over One Kick Wonders that was played at Douglas Park on October 30. This has been a great program. It continues to grow in interest and participation.
2. Schedules have been mailed out to the basketball managers. All twelve 12 teams will play each other once and will end the season by competing to be the City Tournament Champions. Games will be played beginning on November 6 at 6:30, 7:30 & 8:30 at the Chavez & Bryant Community Centers. Tournament play will start on Thursday, February 12 and continue on Thursday evenings through March 5. The last 6 teams will finish the tournament on Saturday/Sunday, March 7 & 8 at the Chavez Community Center.

3. Schedules have been mailed out to the volleyball managers. Seventy 70 volleyball teams are registered to play on Monday (COED & Women), Tuesday (Women), Wednesday (Men) and Thursday (women).

C. Special Events

1. Attendance at the Annual Monument Mash was low due the inclement weather on the Saturday, October 18. The staff and public that did attend (100+) had a “spook-tacular” time enjoying games; face painting, bounce house, and scary DJ. Costume and pumpkin decorating contest winners received gift certificates donated by the Downtown Racine Corporation.
2. We collected over 800 pairs of used athletic shoes on Make a Difference Day (MADD) Saturday, October 25 through the Reuse Your Shoes program. The used shoes are recycled through a cooperative program with Milwaukee Public Works.
3. The MADD Haunted House was held at the Chavez Center on the Friday, October 31. A total of 50 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected and donated to a local food bank in time for the Holiday Season. The staff and over 30 kids from the King Community Center helped make the event a success. GREAT JOB!!!

D. Miscellaneous

1. Over 50 special needs students and staff attended the first indoor movie presentation of “Hotel Transylvania” on Thursday, October 2 at the Chavez Center. The next presentation “Free Birds” is scheduled for Thursday, November 6.
2. Members of SEPRC are working to continue the Hershey Track and Field program next year. We are hoping to keep a similar format and include local, district, and possibly a state event. We are looking for a sponsor for our local and district meets. We have expressed an interest in hosting the first SEPRC District meet - TBD.
3. Five community groups participated in the Adopt-A-River program for Make a Difference Day. Together they removed approximately 100 pounds of garbage and recyclable materials from five parks along the Root River. This is the final clean-up of the 14th year of the program.

Community Centers

A. King Center

1. Chauntel Vinson was hired as the new Program Coordinator for the GED program. Ms. Vinson started on September 22. Ms. Vinson held the first GED/HSED orientation for students on Wednesday, October 8. A total of nine (9) students attended.
2. Planning is under way for the annual Christmas Party to be held on Friday, December 5. Donation letters have been mailed out to various organizations. We have already started receiving items that will be used for the party.
3. Energy Assistance has started receiving clients. They will meet every other Tuesday from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm to help individuals with their energy bills.
4. A trip has been planned to Milwaukee to see the Lion King Live on Sunday, November 23. We will be taking 15 youth from the King Center.
5. Attended voter registration training on September 9.
6. Adult Pickleball league will start here at the King Center on Thursdays starting November 6 from 9:00 – 11:30 am. They will start with two days and if interest increases we will add additional days.

7. Held our annual Halloween Party on Friday, October 31 from 2:00 - 4:00pm. There were 75 youth that attended the party. Activities included paper bats, witches hats made of ice cream cones and graham crackers, spiders made from cookies & donuts. Youth were also treated to a healthy snack of milk, bananas and apples.

B. Humble Park

1. Gym floor was fixed and cleaned in time for PRCS basketball season.
2. Started taking Humble middle school children to TDCC on Saturdays for basketball tournaments. They like the competition between centers.
3. Pickleball participants are starting to come back inside.
4. Mayor had a community meeting at Humble. Approximately 30 in attendance.
5. Tile floor had been waxed.
6. Practice for PRCS Youth Hoops began.
7. Special Olympics held their Halloween Dance at the center for approximately 200 participants.

C. Cesar Chavez

1. Youth Basketball season has begun with 90 teams and 900 kids in the 2nd – 8th grade girls and boys leagues. We still have a few openings in some grade levels and are taking late registrations on first come first serve basis at Annex. Games begin November 15th. Game sites include Humble, Tyler Domer, Chavez, Bryant, King Community Centers and Gilmore Middle School.
2. A Girl Scout program has started. They meet weekly in the multipurpose room.
3. Gym floors were stripped and waxed by the Parks department. They look great going into basketball season.
4. Parking lot is on the last phase and parking bumpers are going in this week. Lot is a great upgrade and will accommodate the many participants at the Chavez Center.
5. Youth basketball coaches meeting was held on Wednesday, October 22. Approximately 70 coaches were in attendance.
6. Will be meeting with Heather Lux this month to look at possibly hosting some classes for WWBIC at the Chavez Center in 2015.
7. Attended meeting at City Hall late September to become certified to register voters at the center.
8. Senior Picnic was held at the Chavez Center on Friday, October 24. Over 40 seniors were in attendance from the senior clubs at Chavez. Burgers, brats and other picnic food was served. It went well.
9. Tile floors were waxed and stripped the week of October 13 through MJI Janitorial. Quality was average therefore we will look at other options in 2015, if possible.

D. Bryant

1. Community Action Agency hosted the Baby Expo at the Bryant Center. There were about 250-300 people in attendance.

2. NAACP hosted their meeting this month preparing for their annual elections on November 4.
3. The Bryant Center also hosted the African America Community Leader's meeting. The group would like to make this an ongoing situation in order to strengthen our community.
4. The YMCA Fathers Program also hosted their meeting at the Bryant Center. This meeting involved the various vendors from the community.
5. The center hosted their annual Halloween party with games, food, fun and other entertainment. There were 100 youth in attendance.
6. The Bryant Center's Pom-Pom and Tae Kwon Do students have received uniforms. This took a lot of parent participation and fund raising. I'm happy to say that the center's programs have bought in and allowed parents to become part of the children's after school programming.
7. The senior and adult program numbers are also increasing. We look forward to more growth as we go into the winter months.

E. Tyler - Domer

1. Campus Life has started back up every Wednesday. Approximately 45 to 50 kids come from Park HS to have lunch and learn about life and God. They also get free time to do activities in the gym or game room.
2. Panther Pals started up again. They bring disabled children along with other children to work together on cooking and other activities.
3. Met with Park HS staff, Melissa Kaprelian-Becker and some community members to discuss the future of the new garden. Looking at writing a grant to help fund the cause.
4. Craft class is bringing in about 10 to 12 children.
5. New fitness class is conducted 3 times per week using the gym, senior room and weight room. Looking to add a more permanent class to aid in increased participation for the community.
6. PRCS Youth Hoops practices started. They use it every night and work around the current activities at the center.
7. Scheduled adult basketball officials and timers scorers. Season begins November 6 and runs thru February 2.
8. Always using center: quilters, ping pong players, weight lifters, special needs groups, Park HS, Narcotics anonymous.
9. Our center children will be going to a haunted house over at Chavez via PRCS van accompanied by staff.
10. Floors including gym were all waxed and cleaned. We are ready for winter.