

**Director's Report
For
September 11, 2013**

**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. **DNR Stewardship Grant:**
 - a. Waiting to hear from DNR. Expect September for grant award announcements.
2. **Laurel Clark Fountain:**
 - a. Operating normally. One fecal incident. No other down time.
3. **Parks Paving Projects for 2013**
 - a. Chavez Parking Lot Rehabilitation: Bids were well over estimates. Bids were rejected.
 - b. ADA asphalt upgrades: Lockwood, Pershing Soccer & JP Pavilion areas will be ADA accessible. Complete.
 - c. Graceland Cemetery: Complete.
4. **Lockwood Softball Diamond:** (No change since July 2013)
 1. The softball diamond restoration & backstop replacement is scheduled for mid-September of 2013.
5. **Playground Equipment Replacement:**
 - a. Equipment has been ordered for Parker & Heck Parks. Complete.
 - b. Hantchel & Hamilton Parks: CDBG parks and play equipment improvement designs are complete. Coordination of the formal protocols for CDBG paperwork has slowed the process this year. Installation should still be this year. No Change since August.
6. **Park Electrical Upgrades:**
 - a. Island Park North Softball Lights: Bid went to Wil-Surge Electric. Cost at budget estimate.
 - b. Washington Park Bowl Lighting Electric Service: Bids in. Waiting for WE Energies. Expect to be complete mid – September
 - c. Humble Lighting Electric Service: Bids in. Waiting for WE Energies. Expect to be complete mid – September.
7. **Cemeteries:**
 - a. **Mound:**
 - i. Chapel Restroom: Plans have been approved by the Cemetery Commission. Construction will begin in phases starting at the end of June for completion by October 1st. Paul Burdick has agreed to have some the construction to be completed with in-house staff. No Change from August.
 - b. **Graceland:**
 - i. Section 23 drawings have been approved by the Cemetery Commission. The construction will be completed in phases. Concrete is complete. Full project should be complete by November.
 - ii. Fence: Last section will be installed by mid-September.

8. **Golf Courses:**
 - a. Johnson Tee & Green Rehab Project: Project going well with minor field changes. Completion set for mid-September.
 - b. Washington: No Update.
 - c. Shoop: No Update.
9. **Wustum:**
 - a. Project estimates are in. Will be studying which method to pay for the required ADA upgrades.
10. **Zoo:**
 - a. Completed 2013 concrete & asphalt inspection. Complete.
 - b. Safety Issue with Zoo Entry Gate: Have contacted the manufacturer & asked for solutions.

Recreation

1. Lockwood Fund Projects for 2013. A total of \$30,600 was available to the PRCS Department.
 - a. Removal of park road (additional parking optional).
 - b. Creating an entrance walkway to Lockwood Park.
 - c. Creating an accessible walkway from parking lot to shelter.
 - d. Install push button control light at tennis courts.
 - e. Replacing current lighting to LED lighting (pavilion and on top of hill).
2. Just like last year, the PRCS Department had an Open & Closed Men's City Softball Tournament. Each Tournament had its own weekend play. The Open was held on August 2 – 4 with eight teams and the Closed on August 9 – 11 with six teams. The Women's City Softball Tournament was held on August 9th – 11th at Island Park. With a total of eight teams registered.
3. The Back to School Fest took place on Monday, August 19 from 2:00 – 6:00 pm at Festival Hall grounds. With the help of SC Johnson, Sam's Club, Domino's and many others, the event was a success. A total of 3,000 back packs were filled with school supplies waiting to be handed out to eager students to be. Out of the 3,000 back packs, 2,600 were given out on the day of the event. The remaining 400 were given to local groups and organizations that we have worked with over the past few years.
4. The Laurel Clark Fountain will remain running until September 30 (weather permitting). The DRC Ambassadors will complete their duties on September 3. The PRCS Department will switch over to its staff to complete the season.
5. Fall Adult Sports have started. Kickball & Fall Ball will play at Island Park. The eight teams registered for Coed Kickball will play their games on Monday nights. Coed softball has twelve teams registered for Wednesday night play and the Men's League consisting of 11 teams play on Tuesday nights.
6. Winter Adult Sports registration has begun for Volleyball (Men's, Women's & Coed) and Basketball (Men's & Women's).
7. The Movies in the Park series ended on a high note with 100 people at the NNO showing of the "Lorax" at Cesar Chavez Community Center. 150 people attended the August 10th showing of "Madagascar 3" at Matson Park. Over 1,000 people attended the six movies. This is the first year we have shown six

movies during the summer. We always receive positive feedback from those in attendance. Many thanks go out to the playground staff for going above and beyond to help with the presentations.

8. Main Gallery concluded on August 3rd with our Chairities Auction on Monument Square. This year's auction and art display had a great year with approximately \$6,000.00 in sales which made it highest in several years. Over 150 people attended and with help from the Racine Arts Council things ran smoothly. 2014 will be the 20th anniversary for Main Gallery. Plans are underway to have an art showing at the Racine Arts Council with artwork from past participants and instructors the month of July 2014. We will also be focusing on grant writing to promote and fund next year's program.
9. The playground program finished well. The new programming (Colorfest, Zumbatomics, Harry Potter Day, Tennis Clinics, UW-Extension Nutrition) was well received. We received positive feedback from parents, kids, and staff. End of the summer special events, parties, and field trips were well attended and fun for all involved. Summer total attendance was 30,715.
10. The Skate Park continues to be a popular destination for wheel athletes. Using park foreman estimates of 250 youth per day during the summer months approximately, 21,325 participants visited the park this summer.

Parks

1. Assisted West Park neighbors with a project that included a walkway through plantings and covering areas with wood chips.
2. Finally caught up with our grass cutting route including the medians.
3. GPS System was purchased to keep track of our vehicles during the work day.
4. The City Wide Tree Inventory will be coming to a close. Staff was able to include one or both of the city owned cemeteries.

Community Centers

A. Dr. MLK

1. Three Nutrition Classes were held by UW – Extension. A total of twelve participants registered.
2. Took ten youth to SummerFest.
3. Took twelve youth to the Billekin Day parade in Chicago.
4. Planning a Community Day for September 4th from 4:00 – 7:30 pm with N.S.S.S. Outreach and Molina Health Care.
5. Planning a Craft Fair for September 21st from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm as a fundraiser for center activities.

B. Humble Park

1. National Night Out went very well this year. Humble Park was chosen as the kickoff site by Neighborhood Watch and succeeded expectations according to Neighborhood Watch. Over 250 people attended and enjoyed live music, food, jump house, face painting, raffles, and games.
2. Senior Pickleball continues to grow on the outside tennis courts with all courts being used in the mornings from 9:00 to 12:00 noon.
3. Youth Softball concluded on August 14. The season went well with youth umpires and staff reporting no major issues.
4. Staff planned a back to school cookout for youth at the community center at the end of August.

C. Cesar Chavez

1. National Night Out on August 6th was well attended with over 75 people in attendance. Those in attendance enjoyed food, jump house, face painting and raffles. The evening concluded with the outdoor movie "Lorax" with over 100 people there to watch the movie.
2. The Playground Programs ended on August 14th with a cookout for kids. Summer went well and leaders did a nice job of supervising kids in and outside of the building.
3. Youth Hoops Basketball evening registrations will be held on September 4th, 12th, and 17th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm for all grade from 2nd to 8th. We expect the registrations to be busy and well attended. Youth Hoops registrations also began at the PRCS office on September 3rd for city residents and September 9th for residents and non-residents. Forms are now available at all Community Centers, in the main office and on-line.
4. Meeting with Jaime DeMatthew from the Milwaukee Bucks to promote some opportunities for our youth and coaches in the PRCS Youth Hoops program this fall.
5. Attended a gang prevention meeting on August 29th at the COP house on Villa to discuss gangs and our youth in Racine.

D. Bryant

1. National Night Out at Bryant was a success. The public seemed to enjoy the food, fun and celebration.
2. The youth took a field trip to the Bud Billekan Parade. Twenty-two of our youth attended.
3. The center hosted a back to school dance for middle school students. There where forty students in attendance.
4. There will be a Focus on Fathers luncheon sponsored by the YWCA on August 28th. This event is to promote fathers in the lives of their children.

5. As we move into fall, we are in the planning stages for our performing arts classes for the school year.
6. Our music classes are going well. We have four students taking piano (key board) lessons, three in drums, and one on Alto Sax. We still have children who want to sign up for the fall sessions.

E. Tyler - Domer

1. Girl Scout Troop 5151, with a local church in conjunction with Tyler Domer Community Center kids had a sleep over at the center to top off the summer and get ready to return to school. Games, pizza, movies, nail salon were a few of the scheduled activities. A total of 25 kids attended.
2. Community organizations that continue to use the building on a weekly basis: Narcotics Anonymous, Case basketball, Park High School transitional program, developmentally disabled from Careers, COBY.
3. Our library project will begin in early fall. New reading incentive programs are being planned.
4. Playgrounds finished up August 14. There was good attendance throughout summer.
5. Youth and adult 3 on 3 inter community center basketball tournament is under way. The kids will be ready for the PRCS youth basketball.
6. We took eight kids down to the Back to School Fest at Festival Hall to get back packs and participate in the activities.
7. We gave away extra backpacks to center kids who couldn't make it to the event so they were ready for school too.
8. Craft classes continue to draw about 15 to 20 kids doing a variety of projects to take home or hang in the center.
9. National Night Out was a huge success. We had approximately 200 people in attendance. Visits from the Fire and Police. Great community participation.
10. Main Gallery Program kids did a great job. The projects were awesome. We look forward to their return next summer.
11. Zumba continues on Mondays and Wednesdays. Attendance is down a bit, but hopefully as it cools down the numbers will increase.
12. We have 3-4 musicians who practice here at the center.
13. Quilters are continuing to come and the numbers are growing we have about 6 participants now.

14. Our numbers are also growing with the weight lifters. The new equipment and set up has drawn more participants.
15. Staff put together a pool tournament amongst the kids. A fun activity before heading back to school. Small prizes were given such as chips, soda, etc.
16. Met with the gang collaboration group and are planning on having meetings at the various centers to work together as a community, not just individual efforts to help kids & educate staff. Fight the problem as a group.

F. Marketing

1. Our participation in the DRC First Friday's on August 2nd was a success. We generated over 150 contacts for our Monthly PRCS Newsletter as we handed out temperature sensitive cups that changed colors when cold liquid was added. Our booth was located on Monument Square next to the Step-and-Repeat. We will be present for future DRC meetings to continue our First Friday participation.
2. Our Newsletter went out to over 250 people.
3. Back to School Fest: Created video footage documenting volunteers preparing for the event while asking them questions about the event benefits and their participation.
4. NNO – Sent marketing team out to share PRCS activity information and to inspire Newsletter signup, take photos, and general documentation of the event.
5. PRCS is now on Vimeo and Instagram. Check regularly for footage of our events and people who help run them.
6. Preparation is under way for our inaugural Visit a Park Day on Saturday, October 5th. Paddle, Pedal, N' Stroll event featuring Kayaking, biking, and/or walking through the parks via Root River or our pathway.
7. Created our new Fall Flyer Card to be distributed amongst 1,000 people in the next month.
8. Our Facebook page has over 850 Likes and our Twitter has over 50 followers.
9. Coordinated volunteers for United Way's Day of Caring, set to take place Saturday, September 7.
10. Placing orders for PRCS logoed cups, coozies, and other new marketing tangibles.