

**Director's Report
For October 8, 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.
- b. Will be looking to close the fountain before the end of October.

2. Parks Paving Projects for 2014

- a. Two pending paving projects:
 - i. Douglas Parking lot upgrades – Will be complete by October 7.
- b. Graceland Cemetery Road Replacements – site engineering has been completed. Spring 2015 project.

3. Miscellaneous Projects

- a. Bleacher Replacement: 9 bleachers ordered.
- b. Pershing Fence Replacement: Waiting for final contract documents, expect the project to begin mid-October.

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: Complete.
 - ii. Mound Chapel AC and electrical: Complete.
 - iii. Mound Fountain Liner: Complete.
 - iv. Road Removal Section 5: Currently out for bids.
- c. Graceland:
 - i. Chimney Repairs Service Building: Bids out early October for November construction.
 - ii. Section 23: Tree planning & site directional markers will be complete, late fall. (No Change)
 - iii. Graceland Pond Rehab: DPW/Utilities project. Finalizing bid documents, bidding mid –October, bid opening November & construction to begin January 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.

6. Golf Courses:

a. Johnson:

- i. Door replacement of Club House: Bids ready early October. 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. (No Change)

b. Washington: No Update.

c. Shoop: No Update.

7. Wustum:

- a. Siding and window replacement project: Complete.
- b. Paving to lower barn area: Currently out for bids.

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. Closed down North and Zoo beaches for the season.
2. Built new berm on the south end of the beach. Worked with the Health Department on this.
3. Re-landscaping started at the Bryant Center.
4. Flail mowed Michigan Blvd. - east side, top of hill.
5. Cut trails at Johnson Park and dog run.
6. Set up and cleaned up for Party on the Pavement.
7. Began landscaping project at Lockwood.

Recreation

A. Youth Activities

1. A total of 20 youth are signed up for the Fast Break Basketball Camp scheduled at Cesar Chavez Community Center. The camp will take place on Wednesday, October 8 from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm.
2. The Snow Sharks Ski and Snowboard Club is entering its 12th season. This program will be returning to its six night format for the 2014-2015 season.
3. PRCS and the Racine City Soccer Academy are working on a spring indoor and outdoor youth camp and league; as well as the Snow Flake Indoor Soccer Tournament scheduled for January 3 at the Chavez Center.

B. Adult Activities

1. There are currently 64 teams registered for women's, men's and coed volleyball leagues. League play will begin the end of October/beginning of November.
2. There 9 teams registered for the men's basketball league. League play will begin the end of October/beginning of November.
3. Basketball Official School is scheduled for October 11 and the Volleyball Official School on October 6. Both will be held at Chavez Center.

4. The PRCS and Racine City Soccer Academy have teamed up to offer Adult Drop-In Soccer Program on Sunday mornings from September 28 through November 9 from 9:00 – 11:00 am at Pershing Park. We are hoping to have a minimum of 12 to 15 players for the first season

C. Special Events

1. We will be offering the Reuse Your Shoes recycling program at the Cesar Chavez and King Community Centers on Make a Difference Day (MADD) scheduled for October 25.
2. The annual Make A Difference Day (MADD) Haunted House is scheduled for Friday, October 31 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm at the Cesar Chavez Center. Admission is a non-perishable food item which will be donated to a local food pantry as part of MADD.
3. PRCS has applied for consideration in the Milwaukee Bucks Charitable Ticket Program for the 2014-2015 season. This allows us to scheduled field trips for youth to attend NBA games at the Bradley Center

D. Miscellaneous

1. The Laurel Clark Fountain was shut down for the year on Sunday, September 28.
2. We are working with Racine Unified School District to bring back the Special Education Movie Program. The program is scheduled once a month at the Chavez Center. Each month will feature a seasonal movie chosen specifically for RUSD special needs students. Attendance for the movies range from 75 to 100 students and teachers. The first movie “Hotel Transylvania” is scheduled for October 9.

Community Centers

A. King Center

1. A local roller derby team will be using the gym on Tuesday nights for practice from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. There is some concern the gym floors could be damaged; however there was no damage after the first night. We will see how it goes the next couple of Tuesdays and monitor the condition of the gym floor after each practice.
2. Took a group of 17 youth to the UniversSoul Circus, on Saturday, September 20. The show started at 12:00 and the youth and staff had a great time.
3. Hired a new GED/HSED Program Coordinator, Ms. Chauntel Vinson. She began work on September 22.
4. We have two new people attending the senior lunch program, bringing our numbers up to nine per day. We are hoping by adding Pickleball to our programming we will increase our numbers over the next month.
5. The 3 on 3 Football League is going well. There are 5 teams playing Monday afternoons through the end of October.

B. Humble Park

1. Staff scheduled a back to school party for the kids. Staff served walking tacos and played games.
2. Repairs are being made to the gym floor. The company we purchased the floor from came out to show us how to cut, mend, glue and clean the floor.
3. Selling t-shirts for breast cancer awareness month.
4. Pickleball players are beginning to move back to the inside courts. Numbers are expected to increase as the weather changes.
5. Had approximately 10 people at the Outdoor Pickleball Introduction Clinic. It was a great event and interest in the sport is increasing.

6. Attended voter registration training on September 24 at City Hall.
7. Planning is underway for a Halloween Party at the center.

C. Cesar Chavez

1. Construction on the parking lot now in progress. Estimated finish time is mid-October. Some seniors have complained, but most have been understanding of the temporary inconvenience.
2. Youth basketball registrations have been going on throughout the month of September. Evening registrations were held at Chavez Center September 9, 16 and 18. Late registrations had been taken in the week of September 22.
3. Met with Erin Langer from Safe Haven on September 23 to talk about possible programming at the Chavez Center.
4. A Girl Scout troop will be meeting every other Wednesday evening during the school year in the multipurpose room.
5. Fast Break Basketball Camp started on September 17. Program will run in the big gym through October 8.
6. Attended Voter Registration training on September 24 at City Hall.
7. Center will be hosting monthly movies for special education kids through Racine Unified. Duncan Cortez will be coordinating movies and dates to be held in the mornings in Chavez big gym.
8. Main Gallery story pole from this summer's program is tentatively looking for a permanent site for display at the Rec Center. We may hold a small ceremony. I'll be meeting with Bob Rafel to look at options for placement.

D. Bryant

1. The overview meeting took place this month for the Back Pack Giveaway Program. SC Johnson, Unified, Tom Molbeck and I discussed the outcome, implementation and collaboration of the program. A meeting at the end of October will be scheduled to determine next year's event.
2. The Tommy Moore Basketball League has started. Five teams play in the first ever league.
3. Two new programs have been introduced. The Drum Line and Jazz classes are scheduled to begin soon. Drums were donated; now we will have to raise the money for the shoulder straps.
4. Cynthia Barker and I have completed the voter registration class.
5. The Bryant Center staff hosted The African American Community Leaders Forum this past Saturday. We have been asked to keep this going in order to help raise awareness in our community.
6. After positive reporting by the Journal Times we have received several new participants in our programs.
7. I will begin writing a grant to SC Johnson's requesting \$20,000.00 to assist in our program needs.

E. Tyler - Domer

1. Promoting new program - Cadet Drilling for Discipline. They will learn how to present the flag, how to show respect, discipline, teamwork and dedication. The program is targeting 4th through 8th graders. It is intended to be fun. We are hoping to work toward competitions and parades.

2. Campus Life has started back up on Wednesdays. This event continues to bring in 45 to 50 kids from Park HS. They enjoy lunch and learn about life and God. They also receive free time to do activities in the gym or game room.
3. Working on a coordinating a Halloween party. Flyers will be delivered throughout the neighborhood.
4. Panther Pals started up again. The program brings special education students together with other students to cook, eat and do other activities together.
5. We will be meeting in October with the staff from Park HS and individuals from the community to start the planning next year's garden.
6. Our craft class has a new awesome instructor. Each class is bringing in about 10 to 12 kids.
8. Attended voter registration training on September 24 at City Hall.
7. Attendance is increasing for Ping-Pong and pool in the game room.
8. Putting together homework/cooking in the kitchen. Kids will be encouraged to come in to do homework first; then work with an instructor to learn how to make healthy snacks after school.