

**Director's Report  
For February 11, 2015**

**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 for season. Anticipate start-up to begin early April for May 1 operation.
- b. There are two minor maintenance issues that will be resolved before the new season begins. The contractor has ordered parts.

**2. Parks Paving Projects for 2015**

- a. Graceland Cemetery Road Replacements: Site engineering has been completed. Preliminary plans are ready. Late spring 2015 project. (no change)

**3. Miscellaneous Projects**

- a. Lincoln Park Baseball Lighting: Have contracted for soil borings and engineering for the new baseball lighting – September 2015 construction. (no change)
- b. Bleacher Replacement: Bleachers ordered.
- c. Bleacher Management (inspections): Hired Mattes Architects LLC for the inspections \$3,500.
- d. Lockwood Park Drain Repair: Project delayed. Existing drain underwater, area needs to be dry before excavation.
- e. Softball Backstop Replacements: Plans and specifications have been revised for the improved backstop.
- f. Pershing Fence Replacement: Project **complete**.

**4. Park Shelters**

- a. Hantschel Shelter Replacement: Need approvals from City Development for Engineering/Architectural Consultant.
- b. Solbraa Shelter Renovation: Have received two quotes, Rudie & Associates \$9,175 & Mattes Architects LLC - \$7,000.

**5. Community Centers**

- a. Bryant
  - i. None
- b. Chavez
  - i. Gym Floor Replacement: Plans and specification are almost complete. Expect to have project out for bid before the end of February. Project is expected to take 6 weeks. Timing: Mid May through the end of June.
- c. Humble
  - i. None
- d. King
  - i. None
- e. Tyler-Domer
  - i. None

**6. Cemeteries:**

- a. Mound & Graceland:
  - i. Have been making numerous block by block revisions to verify 100% accuracy for the conversion from the original blueprints to CAD drawings to support the CIMS upgrades. In process.
  - ii. 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. None
- c. Graceland:
  - i. Pond Restoration Project: This is a Public Works Project. The pond clean-up is underway and proceeding quickly. Project will be at "Substantial Completion" before March 1. Project is roughly 75% complete.
  - ii. Chimney repairs Service Building: Bid came in to high. Will rebid project in May of 2015. (no change)
  - iii. Graceland Pond Rehab: DPW/Utilities project. Bids due November 5. Construction expected to begin early February 2015. (no change)
  - 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, contract documents early April, construction early May for completion before Memorial Day; weather permitting. (no change)

## 7. **Golf Courses:**

- a. Johnson:
  - i. Door Replacement of Club House: **Complete.**
- b. Washington: No Update
- c. Shoop: No Update

## 8. **Wustum:**

- a. No Update

- 9. **Zoo**: Roof Replacement Feline/Primate Building: The roof consultant found some issues with the building masonry that must be resolved before the roof is replaced. Tom Eeg has requested this project be delayed until September.

## **Parks**

- 1. The parks crews have been working long hours snow plowing alleys, parking lots, sidewalks and various other sites.
- 2. Staff is also working out schedules for this summer scheduled special events.

## **Recreation**

### **A. Youth Activities**

- 1. Staff has been working on registration packets for the 12 – 14 year old softball program. Registration began on February 10 for city residents and will begin on February 16 for nonresidents.
- 2. Summer Playground Program is in its planning stage. Leader interviews have begun.

3. Youth basketball continues on weekends at Chavez Center through February 15. Championships for 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades girls and boys will be played on Sunday, February 15 starting at 12:30 p.m. Trophies will be awarded for first and second places in those grade levels.
4. Registration has begun for both Spring Indoor and Outdoor Soccer programs. This is the first year we are offering these programs in collaboration with the Racine City Soccer Academy.
5. The Snow Sharks Ski and Snowboard Club continue to offer one of the most economical, family-friendly winter sports programs in our area. Whole families participate in the weekly program offered in partnership with Alpine Valley Resort. There are over 30 youth ages 7-17 and their families involved in the program.
6. The Annual Free Throw Contest will be held on Monday, February 16 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Cesar Chavez. This is the first time we are offering the program in the evening. We hope this will increase attendance and participation. First place finishers from our contest will advance to the SEPRC Free Throw Contest in West Allis on March 14.
7. The dates for the Spring Break Basketball Camp have been set to April 7, 8, and 9 from 11:15am-1:00 pm. The camp is for youth in grades 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> and will stress basketball fundamentals in a fun, non-competitive atmosphere.

## **B. Adult Activities**

1. Basketball Tournament is scheduled for February 12. All teams are entered into tournament.
2. Volleyball Tournament is scheduled for March 13 – 15. Teams must register to compete.
3. Adult Softball Registration deadline is quickly approaching.
4. The Milwaukee Bucks continue to donate tickets to their home games through their Charitable Ticket Program. PRCS received over 800 tickets this season. The tickets are distributed through the community centers and through the main office. We are working with the Bucks staff to track the tickets to ensure maximum attendance in the program.
5. The next RUSD special needs movie presentation is "Frozen" scheduled for February 5 at the Chavez Center.

## **A. Miscellaneous**

1. PRCS staff is working with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to present a Boating Safety Course and a Vessel Safety Check in time for the upcoming boating season.
2. PRCS staff is working with members of the Adopt-A-River program for the upcoming season. Project report cards, safety brochures, and renewal agreements will go out in time for Make a Difference Day.
3. Spring/Summer flyers have been distributed to all RUSD & parochial elementary and middle schools.
4. On Saturday, January 31 Center Directors (Lesia, James, Jason & Jeanne) were asked to shoot free throws during the half time of the Racine Storm basketball game. The Racine Storm has committed a donation to assist in the needs at our community centers.
5. The PRCS Forestry Division received a \$25,000 grant. This money will be used for various training the forestry crew and EAB management.
6. PRCS received a \$4,000 grant through RUSD to be used for Performing Arts Programming.

## **Community Centers**

### **A. King Center**

1. The Annual King Day Celebration was held on Saturday, January 10 from 4:00-5:30 pm. Sixty people were in attendance. Mr. Thomas White, Mrs. Bettie Poole and Ms. DeSheka Moore were the 2015 recipients of this year's Civil Service Award.
2. The GED orientation was held on Monday, January 12. Eleven people attended. Another orientation is planned for February 9 at noon. Currently nine registered students are attending class. Ms. Vinson is working very hard to get the program up and running at full steam.
3. Fifteen youth and young adults went to the Milwaukee Bucks game on Saturday, January 24.

4. On Sunday, February 1, both the King and Bryant Centers visited the DaSable Museum in Chicago. Each center brought a total of twenty participants.
5. Met with Mr. Bishop to discuss the possibility of starting the first component of our Multi-Media Program. The video portion of the program is set to begin on Tuesday, February 17. The group will meet for two hours twice a week for nine weeks. The goal is to teach all technician aspects of video production. Instructing them on how to direct, edit, produce various forms of video through hands on training. We are also looking to add a computer coding and musical component as well.

## **B. Humble Park**

1. PRCS Youth Hoops program is running smoothly.
2. Senior clubs continue to use the center 4 days a week.
3. Our after school numbers are on the rise. Approximately 20 – 30 kids are in the gym and game room. Duncan is working with the participants on basketball skills and games.
4. Tax preparation assistance will run from February 3 thru April 7. It will be on Tuesdays from 11:00 am to approximately 4:30 pm.
5. Looking at some fund raising with Buffalo Wild Wings to help support our youth programs.

## **C. Cesar Chavez**

1. Youth basketball continues on weekends at Chavez Center through February 14 & 15. Championship games for 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades girls and boys will be played on Sunday, February 15 starting at 12:30 p.m. Trophies will be awarded for first and second places in those grade levels.
2. Met with Heather Lux from the Women's Business Initiative Corporation on January 8. Looking to collaborate on some possible adult classes in the Community Centers with Chavez, King and Bryant as possible locations.
3. Met with representative from Schmidt Athletic Floors to look at replacement of Chavez big gym floor. We are targeting May/June as possible months for a full replacement of gym floor which is the original from building construction and has some issues of buckling and dead spots throughout.
4. Attended Munis training at City Hall on January 21.
5. Met with Jeff Pulda from Mount Pleasant Recreation to discuss combining our 4<sup>th</sup> /5<sup>th</sup> grade softball boys' leagues to play at both Humble and Mount Pleasant.
6. Youth Softball registrations will begin in February.
7. Racine Small Fry group will be using Chavez Center for a basketball tournament February 28 and March 1.
8. Senior programming continues to grow and Pickelball has now expanded to the small gym on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays afternoons.
9. Men's and women's bathrooms are being painted and looking at possible countertop replacement in women's bathroom.
10. Foot Clinic was held at Chavez Center on January 28. Over 15 seniors are utilizing this service through the Kenosha Visiting Nurses Association.

## **D. Bryant**

1. With the New Year under way we have begun to restructure our classes for the coming months. New programs start February 1.
2. Exploring grant options for 2015.
3. As part of our new programs we now have a recording studio which will allow youth to experience the art of music engineering.
4. On Saturday, January 31, our pom-pom squad performed at Half time for the Storm Basketball game. I must say "job well done".
5. On February 27 we will have a Motown Musical Review from 4:00-6:00 pm.

#### **E. Tyler - Domer**

1. Adult basketball going well. Attending games to see how teams are behaving and how officials are handling them. So far so good.
2. Youth Hoops continues to run smoothly on Saturdays. There are six games scheduled per day with approximately 60 to 70 people attending per game
3. Participation is good with quilters, ping pong players, weight lifters, special needs groups, Park HS and Narcotics Anonymous.
4. Zumba was discontinued as of February 1 due to lack of consistent participation. It will be replaced with "Dance Cardio Kick Boxing". It will run on Monday and Wednesday beginning February 9 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Donation of \$2.00 per session is asked of participants.
5. A Paint & Chat group will begin on Thursdays with Olivia from the Women's Resource Center. She is the Safe Start Prevention Specialist. They paint and talk about staying safe in relationships and how to handle difficult situations.
6. Another transitional group from Park HS is using the center for activities.
7. The gang prevention meeting was held on January 29. About eight people were in attendance. Working on funding sources to bring in prevention programs to the centers, and working with the other community entities to fight the problem together.