

**Director's Report
For
May 9, 2012**

Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

1. Projects

a. Fountain Report

- i. The Laurel Clark Memorial Fountain celebrated its Grand Opening on Friday, May 4 in conjunction with First Friday. Sometime in May, the parking lot and bike path (that runs just east of the new building) will be asphalted.
- ii. Lincoln Park Pedestrian Bridge will be repaired and ready for use by the end of May.
- iii. We are working with WIN Root-Pike (Susan Greenfield) on the Bio-Swale Project in Island Park. The estimated cost for this project is \$22,531. WIN Root-Pike received a \$4,000 grant and the PRCS Dept. will be offering \$19,000 of the remaining \$33,820 from the Horlick Dr and the North parking Lot Repaving Project in Island Park. We plan to use the \$14,820 to pave walkways to the ball diamonds, tennis court and playground for accessibility.
- iv. The Davey Resource Group was selected for the PRCS Dept's ARC GIS Compatible Tree Inventory for the City of Racine. Work should begin late May early June. This project is being funded through a \$25,000 DNR Grant and \$42,000 through CIP.

2. Recreation

- a. Worked with our Health Dept. by sending out flyers for the medicine collection event that took place on Saturday, April 21. Their flyers went out with our adult and Youth Softball schedules that are sent to the managers.
- b. We are once again teaming up with Mt. Pleasant Recreation by combining our Boys 12 – 14 League softball teams. PRCS Dept's Solbraa Park ball diamond will host all of the games this year.
- c. Program Registration
 - i. Adult Softball – 211 Teams
 - ii. Adult Sand Volleyball – 49 Teams
 - iii. Adult Tennis – 7 Teams
 - iv. Tball, Coach Pitch & Kid Pitch – 24 Teams
 - v. Boys 12 – 14 Softball – 2 Teams
 - vi. Girls 12 – 14 Softball – 4 Teams
- d. Playground, Hersey Track & Field and Learn to Swim registration will begin in May.
- e. PRCS was awarded CDBG money to help run the following program for 2012
 - i. Main Gallery - \$10,000
 - ii. King Center's GED/HSED - \$12,000
- f. The Lifeguard Staff is in place. A total of 16 lifeguards will be manning the Zoo/North Beach and instructing Learn to Swim Classes. We have added a second Head Lifeguard to the staff allowing us to have either one or both scheduled seven days a week. Animal Crackers have scheduled entertainment for July 11 & 25 and August 8 & 22.

- g. Over 60 applications were received for the Main Gallery Program. Main Gallery on average hires about 35 – 40 employees. This is determined on the amount of funding the program receives.
- h. Interviews for the Playground Program are over. Over 70 candidates interviewed for 13 positions.

3. Parks

- a. Earth Day Projects went well:
 - i. Colonial Park
 - ii. Myers Park
 - iii. Racine Zoo
 - iv. North Beach
 - v. Carrie-Hogel Park
 - vi. TDCC – Reuse – A – Shoe
 - vii. 2013 – Mound and Graceland Cemeteries
- b. Walden III High School students (30 – 40) participated in our Arbor Day event on Thursday, May 10. Council President Jim Kaplan, who read the Proclamation, and Mike Frontier were present to see Matt Koepnick's Forestry crew plant three (3) trees in Franklin Park behind Walden School.
- c. Daily up keep to our park system is in full swing. Extra duties will be added on as summer activities approach.
- d. The PRCS received CDBG funding for the following Projects.
 - i. Replacement of West Park Play Equipment - \$20,000
 - ii. Sidewalk Replacement in Eligible Census Tracts - \$15,000
 - iii. Replacement of Heck Park Play Equipment - \$14,000
 - iv. Parkway Tree Planting in Eligible Census Tracts - \$35,000

4. Community Centers

- a. Dr. MLK
 - i. The Adult Basketball League had a total of eight teams. Games were played on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:00 and 6:00 pm. The tournament was played the weekend of April 27th and 28th. Attendance average is 150 people.
 - ii. Plans for the Youth Inner City Basketball League are under way. Each Center would have a home and away game, with a tournament at the end.
 - iii. The King Center was given approval to be the site for the Learning in Side Out, and Up Side down. This program, for mothers with children birth – 5, will focus on developing infants and toddlers learning skill, motor skills as well as showing parents different techniques that will improve their child's learning ability.
 - iv. The EXCEL Programs Credit Recovery Class will have 15 graduates. The program has now ended.
 - v. The gardening project will begin in the weeks few weeks. Flowers will be planted around the building. On the southeast corner of the lot will be the location we plant flowers and grow vegetables.

b. Humble Park/Cesar Chavez Community Centers

- i. Cesar Chavez Commemoration on March 31 at the Chavez Center went well with over 300 in attendance.
- ii. Voting at both buildings went well and with the addition of districts to both locations seemed to work out fine with set up and staffing.
- iii. Humble Park held 2nd annual NCAA challenge for 64 youth. Prizes were awarded to the youth who had the final four teams and movie passes for champion.
- iv. Drug Bowl was held at Chavez on April 14th with over 250 in attendance. The mayor emceed the event.
- v. John Rooney and traffic engineers held listening session on the construction of Douglas Avenue on April 11th over 70 people attended in the Chavez new gym.
- vi. AARP tax service at Humble Park ended on April 11th. The tax service was full each Wednesday. The volunteers liked being at the Center and would like to continue next year.
- vii. Old Timers Football will be holding three-four evening registrations at Humble Park in the month of April. Times will be during normal center hours.
- viii. Senior programming at the Chavez Center has increased its numbers with addition of some of the seniors that once attended the Belle City Senior Center.
- ix. Bat check was be held Saturday, April 21st at Chavez Center from 8-12.

c. Bryant/Tyler-Domer Community Centers

- i. The Boating Safety Class went well. Seven people signed up for the class which ran April 7, 14 and 21.
- ii. The Free Vessel Safety check was scheduled for April 21st from 10am-12noon.
- iii. The Chess program is going well. We are hoping to expand the program and offer it to playground youth this summer.
- iv. OTAC football sign-ups were held at the TDCC on April 21st.
- v. The Optimist Spring Hoops league is AWESOME!!!! The competition has been great, with most games decided by five points or less.