

**Director's Report
For January 14, 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.

2. Parks Paving Projects for 2015

- a. Graceland Cemetery Road Replacements: Site engineering has been completed, preliminary plans are ready. Late spring 2015 project.
- b. Island Park Tennis Court Replacement: Have contacted an engineering firm to get quotes for the asphalt replacement. Once engineering is place, this project will be studied as a possible addition to the Graceland Paving project if there will be financial savings with economies of scale.

3. Miscellaneous Projects

- a. Lincoln Park Baseball Lighting: Have contracted for soil borings and engineering for the new baseball lighting – September 2015 construction.
- b. Bleacher Replacement: Bleachers ordered. Bleacher submittals have been approved.
- c. Pershing Fence Replacement: Project 99% complete, waiting for one gate and a punch list walk-through.

4. Park Shelters

- a. Hantschel Shelter Replacement: Need approvals from City Development Engineering/Architectural Consultant
- b. Solbraa Shelter Renovation: Have requested quote from two architects for plans and specifications.

5. Community Centers

- a. Bryant
 - i. None
- b. Chavez
 - i. None
- 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.
 - 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.
 - ii. Chimney repairs Service Building: Bid came in to high, will rebid project in May of 2015. (No Change)
 - iii. 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 by early April & construction start early May for completion before Memorial Day – weather permitting. (No Change)
7. **Golf Courses**:
- a. Johnson:
 - i. Door replacement of Club House: Vendor has measured and ordered the doors. They are expected to be installed before the end of January – weather permitting.
 - b. Washington: No Update.
 - c. Shoop: No Update.
8. **Wustum**:
- a. No Update.
9. **Zoo**: Plans and specifications for roof replacement of the feline/primate building and 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. Parks did rare mulching of leaves in December due to lack of snow cover.
2. Set up for and spent one day mulching the trails at Colonial Park. We will continue with this in January.
3. Forestry completed 37 removals and pruned 320 trees.

Recreation

A. Youth Activities

1. Working on Youth Softball registration flyers. Registration will take place February to March. Working with Mt. pleasant to combine our boys and girls 12 – 14 yr. old league.
2. Started the planning stage for Summer Playground Program.
3. Three of the four scheduled Snow Shark Ski and Snowboard trips are in the books. The December 17 trip was postponed due a lack of snow at Alpine Valley.
4. Thirteen Snow Shark members attended the December 23 Holiday Ski Trip to Cascade Mountain in Portage, WI.
5. Registration for Youth Spring Indoor Soccer as well as Youth Spring Outdoor Soccer has begun.
6. Work continues on PRCS Track and Field, Flag Football, Boating Safety.
7. Youth basketball games on Saturdays’ have been going well for 2nd – 8th grades leagues in boys and girls. Games ended on December 20 and will restart on January 10. Leagues run through February 14. Tournament for 5th – 8th grade leagues will conclude on February 15 at the Chavez Center.

B. Adult Activities

1. Adult registration information for softball and sand volleyball has been sent out to last year teams. News releases have been sent to all media outlets. Registration is currently underway.

2. There will be a new league format introduced this year for softball. Teams will sign up to be in a competitive league or a recreational league. Staff will form individual league from each of those 2 groups. On Tuesdays, we will be offering a Classic 12" league. All games will be played at Lincoln Park. There will be no bat requirement. We are limiting this league to 6 teams.
3. Plaques will be ordered for league winners from volleyball and basketball.
4. Updating all the adult sports handbooks.
5. Umpire information is ready to send out end of February. Class will be March 12, 17 and 19.

C. Special Events

1. Over 50 RUSD special needs youth and staff attended the December 4 presentation of "Alpha and Omega 2" at the Chavez Center. The next presentation is "Frozen" on January 8 also at the Chavez.
2. We have finalized the dates and tentative title schedule for the Movies in the Park series.

D. Miscellaneous

1. Rec Trac has been updated with all new fees & new programming.
2. Helping MIS with reports for trans codes, GL codes and cost center codes from Rec Trac.
3. Applications are now being taken for Summer Playground Leaders positions.
4. The Milwaukee Bucks have continued donating tickets to our department through the charitable ticket program. We received 100 tickets for the January 2 game against the Pacers and 75 tickets for January 9 game against the T-Wolves. We distribute the tickets using the CORI web-site and through the Community Centers.

Community Centers

A. King Center

1. Christmas craft week held December 8 – 12. Youth were involved in various Christmas activities from making candy cane tree ornaments out of pipe cleaner and snow flake beads, to reindeer cupcakes. In total there were 25 youth that participated in Christmas Craft week.
2. The Community Christmas Dinner was held on Friday, December 5 from 5:00-8:30pm. There were about 165 people in attendance. A special thanks to the sponsors and donors. Every child under 12 received a gift bag filled with toys. We also were able to raffle off adult gifts purchased with the donations received. Sponsors included Target, Romello Racing, Black Racing Assoc., Educators, and the Journal Times.
3. Youth Hoops is well attended and running well. The schedule alternate Saturdays with the 6th and 8th grade teams. The games for the most part have been pretty competitive and fun to watch.
4. Zumba instructor, Joanne Moore, will be replaced by Alisa Bishop due to a job change.
5. Planning underway for our annual King Day Celebration, this will be held on Saturday, January 10 beginning at 4:00pm.
6. Information has started to come in for the annual Black History Youth Achievement Awards. Memorial Hall has been reserved for Saturday, February 28.

B. Humble Park

1. Christmas activities for the kids included games, hot chocolate, baking cookies and brownies.
2. PRCS youth hoops and games are in full swing
3. Senior clubs continue to use the center 4 days a week.
4. Zumba has an average attendance of 10 to 15 people.
5. Our after school numbers are slow between 3:00 and 4:00 pm, but fill quickly with 20-30 children playing in the gym and using the game room.
6. Notified participants and workers of hour changes for the center for 2015.

7. Humble will have tax preparation beginning February 3 thru April 7. It will be held on Tuesdays from 11:00 am to approximately 4:30 pm.

C. Cesar Chavez

1. Youth Hoops games on Saturday's have been going well for 2nd – 8th grades leagues in boys and girls. Games ended on December 20 and will restart on January 10. Leagues run through February 14. Tournament for 5th – 8th grade leagues will conclude on February 15 at the Chavez Center.
2. Holiday break extended hours were well attended for both senior and youth programs.
3. RUSD movie was held on Thursday, December 4. Over 50 special needs students were in attendance.
4. Youth Softball signups will start February 10 this year. May collaborate with Mount Pleasant Recreation for 4th and 5th grade leagues this year.
5. Senior card groups will be holding a holiday luncheon in January.
6. Working on a fee for Community Center usage for traveling youth basketball teams this spring.
7. Fiber Optic lines have been installed by MIS at Chavez Center the month of December.
8. Girl Scout troop from neighborhood has been meeting bi weekly on Wednesdays in multipurpose room.

D. Bryant

1. Hosted a Christmas Party for 90 children. Each child received a \$5.00 Mc Donald gift card donated by the Racine Race Car Club.
2. The center cosponsored the Soulful Christmas Community Party. There were over 600 in attendance (this program has out grown the center). Dinner and gifts for the children were donated by various businesses and by people in the community.
3. The Performing Arts Program hosted a winter recital. Various groups shared their learned skills with parent and friends. Our keyboard/musical instruments students, martial arts; pom-pom and drama students did a wonderful job.
4. As part of our programming we are teaching our children how to give back to the community. The Pom-pom girls went to Halo over the Christmas season to serve the homeless (it was in the newspaper). The youth found this to be a rewarding experience.

E. Tyler - Domer

1. Christmas Party was held on December 19 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. We had the choir from Park HS perform and we had great food. Cake was donated by the neighborhood cake lady. The Grimmy Riders donated gifts for the children. We had approximately 65 people in attendance.
2. Panther Pals came the third Thursday of this month and they had approximately 40 kids participating in the program. Children work together on cooking and doing other activities together.
3. Adult basketball is going well. I get out to games weekly to see how teams are behaving and how officials are handling them. So far so good.
4. Youth Hoops on Saturdays is going good. Six games a day with approximately 60 to 70 attending per game. No problems so far.
5. Always using center: quilters, ping pong players, weight lifters, special needs groups, Park HS, Narcotics anonymous.