

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
MAY, 2013

ADMINISTRATION

May is the annual organizational meeting of the Park Board. The agenda details the election of officers and other Board requirements. It is additionally required that the oath of office be administered to any Commissioners elected during the April 9th Consolidated Election.

The best news of the month is that the park district received a workers' compensation proposal for insurance coverage that reduces annual premiums by \$20,000. Previously, the park district was added to high risk coverage due to claims. The new policy will be effective beginning June 1, 2013.

The extension of tax anticipation warrants occurred on April 15th, but the park district has not needed to access these funds. Warrants will be repaid after the majority of the first half of tax proceeds are received on or about June 10th.

The change in health insurance carriers has been seamless. Brian Murray, Group Benefit Specialists, has proven to be a valuable asset and is exceptionally responsive to park district needs. Mr. Murray has also secured reasonable dental, vision, and life insurance coverage, available for purchase by full time staff.

I have struggled with field scheduling and facility usage by a community organization. I believe concerns have been resolved, but I am looking for a long term resolution to these recurring matters. I will orally report on this issue during Thursday's meeting.

With the growth of the community and expansion of park programs, the park district is increasingly asked to deal with court orders and legal matters. Park district staff members routinely secure appropriate legal opinions to ensure we best represent the district's concerns. I will discuss these issues in the broadest terms, not requiring an executive session.

The audit will be scheduled for completion mid to late June, with the final audit report available to Commissioners and the public in August.

Audrey reported that Lincoln-Way North's annual Senior Honor Night was another exceptional evening, with many thankful scholarship recipients. Nine students received \$1,000 checks from the park district during the event. Previously, they received notification, and the school district distributed the awards donated by the park district at a later date. The revised distribution procedures elevated the excitement of the high school seniors and their grateful families.

The following students were chosen as recipients of the 2013 College Scholarship Award:
Jennifer Bechtold, Jaelyn Billie, Matthew Burke, Meaghan Gallagher, Amber Glecier, Frank Licka, Caitlin McCully, Breanna Moore, and Matthew Murray.

I am currently working on numerous projects that include:

1. Asphalt surfacing at Hunter Prairie Park
2. Proposal for new tennis court surfacing at Hunter Prairie Park
3. Tree planting at Community Park
4. New swingset at Kiwanis Park
5. New park benches at the Community Center entrance
6. Asphalt parking lot completion at Kiwanis Park
7. Concrete pad at Kiwanis Park for concession trailer
8. Irrigation at the 5th fairway

A detailed report including costs for the listed projects will be provided for Board review in advance of purchase order release.

MAINTENANCE

The maintenance department has been slammed with wet, cold weather, followed by warmer temperatures, creating a perfect growing environment. Additional park property is contracted this year, enabling the small staff to get back on schedule during the coming week.

A problematic dog park gate has been replaced, and an automated gate was installed at the golf course.

The turnstile gate at the skate park was removed, and bikes have been welcomed at our skate park for the first time. I have no problems to report resulting from this change.

Trees were planted at the Kiwanis baseball field. Arbor Care transplanted large caliper trees that will soon provide shade for spectators.

Staff will focus on weed control throughout the district. We have been employing spot application as needed, but this has been an excessively aggressive year for dandelions, and more spraying is required.

RECREATION

Words cannot describe the time, effort, and expertise necessary for what has become the biggest annual park district event. I am talking about the annual spring dance recital held at the Lincoln-Way North Performing Arts Center. Two performances, with over 250 dancers each and a total audience exceeding 1,700 friends and family, made for a truly wonderful experience. The efforts of 21 full and part time staff were necessary to ensure the recital was organized and successful. Thanks to all who contributed time and effort during the event.

Two other big events include the American Cancer Society's Bark for Life on Saturday, May 11th, and the International Rett Syndrome Strollathon on Sunday, May 19th. Both fundraisers will be held at Union Creek Park.

The annual community-wide garage sale will be held on Saturday, May 18th.

INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY

New advances this year will include both software and hardware upgrades. Staff continue to investigate FinTrac, the compatible financial software to our RecTrac software package. Adding FinTrac will also make a compatible POS system available for use at the golf course.

A mounted camera was delivered, and will be added to the golf course system. The new camera will provide viewing of all areas of the course.

GOLF COURSE

Play has picked up with the improved weather.

Staff is researching ice cream equipment to replace a problematic unit. I will update Commissioners on this issue during Thursday's meeting.

Respectfully submitted:
Jim Randall