

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT OCTOBER 2024

ADMINISTRATION

It's been an exciting month working on the Hunter Prairie Park Redevelopment project. Plans were finalized and the Park District went out to bid for the project. A public bid opening was held on October 10, 2024, and staff are working with Planning Resources Inc. to review the bids. Ed Reidy, Superintendent of Parks, will attend Thursday's Board Meeting to present the results.

An honorary resolution will be presented to formally dedicate Blackburn Pond at Community Park. Staff are prepared to install a sign naming the pond and a new interpretive sign sharing updated information on Ken's service to the community.

I plan to request an Executive Session at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss personnel.

The November 21, 2024, Board Meeting will be held at Square Links Golf Course and Practice Center and will include annual staff reports and contributions to Wildcats Football and Cheerleading, Frankfort Square Baseball League, and Scouts generated by this year's beverage sales at the golf course.

LEGAL

The October agenda includes the required Truth in Taxation Resolution 24-10-48 in accordance with Section 60 of the Truth in Taxation law. We are putting forth this "balloon levy" in order to capture new growth, especially the proposed commercial development in Tinley Park. Without inflating the levy in this manner, the Park District could lose the tax dollars provided by any new growth. This development would increase the Park District's EAV, and with the development being added to the tax rolls, this cost would not be passed on to taxpayers. A park district cannot receive more than the law allows by the property tax calculation, so even if the estimated levy is higher than the results of the final levy figures, the FSPD will only receive what is established by the final EAV and new growth figures from Will and Cook Counties.

The agenda also includes consideration of the annual liquor license renewal for Square Links through the Will County Liquor Control Commission and the State of Illinois Liquor Control Commission as required for the sale and consumption of beer and wine at the golf course.

MAINTENANCE

Staff received the first phase of the three-year Tree Inventory Report from Great Lakes Urban Forestry. The document is under review and a brief summary will be provided at the meeting.

The hay wagon is out of storage and staff are making minor repairs and touching up the paint to make it look its best for the upcoming hayrides for preschool and BAS students. 100+ pumpkins are on their way to the FSPD pumpkin patch for the students' Halloween enjoyment.

It is also time for ballfield work District-wide filling in low spots and adding dirt, seed, and limestone. Work is starting on the Hunter Prairie Park ballfield with staff rebuilding the pitcher's mound, re-establishing the infield/outfield arc, and revitalizing the infield turf.

RECREATION

We have 43 adults on the Chattanooga Choo Choo trip. In addition to breathtaking views from trains and a riverboat, they are also enjoying lots of Southern cooking, pumpkin festivals, and garden tours.

Preschool is off to a great start, and we enjoyed seeing everyone all dressed-up for picture days last week. Students are working on “All About Me” posters at home that they share with the class. This gives the children a chance from an early age to present in front of a group. They share what they like, what they are good at, and pictures of their family. The teachers are enjoying the insight it gives into the children and their worlds.

SPECIAL RECREATION

The next LWSRA Board Meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2024. The final totals are in from the LWSR Foundation Golf Outings and \$39,523.65 was raised in support of LWSRA.

GOLF COURSE

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored, donated, participated, and worked the College Scholarship Classic. The “Beat the Board Member” Hole was a tremendous success allowing for another scholarship to be added for a deserving high school senior.

The 2025 College Scholarship Program application will become available on the Park District’s website, in hard copy at the Community Center, and at the LWE PPS Office, coinciding with the release of the winter/spring brochure. High school-aged students that live within the borders of the Frankfort Square Park District are encouraged to apply. Completed applications are due by March 6, 2025, and can be emailed to admin@fspd.org, or dropped off at the Park District’s Community Center.

The security cameras were installed and are now operational in and around the golf course. Per the Video Surveillance Policy, signage is posted, and the Personnel Handbook was updated to inform residents and staff that facilities contain video surveillance. In addition, staff received notification from the Local Records Commission that recordings were successfully added to our disposal certificate.

Following another incident that resulted in damage to a golf cart, staff are working on options to add a security camera to be located on the pump house facing the cart path between the eighth and ninth holes. This also provided a good opportunity to review and update the golf course posted rules.

The FSPD is currently out to bid for the practice area. To date, three companies have the bid packet, and the public bid opening is scheduled for October 31, 2024. Information is available on the FSPD website.

OFFICE

The front office is accepting registration forms for the Polar Express due by October 18 at 4:00 p.m. Due to high demand, an annual lottery is held, and staff will inform residents of the results the week of October 21.

Staff are finalizing a new procedure designed to streamline F.A.N. registration and check-in. Pre-printed F.A.N. membership cards will be available, eliminating the lengthy printing step of the registration process. Cards will be scannable by staff, and the member's photo, while not visible on the card, will be visible on the screen at time of check-in at the F.A.N. desk.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Staff participated in the annual Health Program Council Meeting as part of PDRMA Health, the insurance pool available through our Park District Risk Management Agency. PDRMA's goal is to keep annual rate increases below medical trend, and benefits from participating in this pool include having multiple-year rate increases lower than medical trend, use of accumulated net position to offset costs and rate increases, as well as lower administrative costs. 2025 is the second year of our three-year commitment and we will continue our participation in the same high deductible plan required for a health savings account.

FSPD staff routinely inspect and change batteries in the Thorguard Lightning Prediction System located on roof tops District-wide. As part of this year's Risk Management Review, we are analyzing locations and procedures to keep staff safe while completing this task. PDRMA is providing a fall protection assessment to be completed by a representative from the START Group on November 6.

Respectfully submitted:
Audrey Marcquenski
Executive Director