

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 2024**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Working together to develop the Local Government Efficiency Report has been a beneficial and positive experience. The final meeting is scheduled for 6:50 p.m. in advance of the Board Meeting. Staff will request final approval of the report in advance of filing with the Will and Cook County Boards.

We are thrilled to be the recipient of a 2024 OSLAD grant for the redevelopment of Hunter Prairie Park! Many thanks to the residents who shared their time and ideas at the two public meetings, residents and local agencies who wrote letters of support, and the Park Board and staff for their efforts and support. Staff are meeting with Planning Resources Inc. to develop a timeline and the next steps to get started on this exciting project.

Staff are awaiting the official Illinois Department of Natural Resources agreement for the grant project. Once it is fully executed, we can begin the design and permitting phase of this two-year project.

The second draft of the budget is provided and the OSLAD grant portion is still serving as a placeholder. Information is expected in the next month that will allow us to prepare the budget.

Staff met with representatives from Wildcats Football and Cheerleading to discuss their facility needs for both indoor and outdoor usage. Multiple project ideas were discussed for the future. Currently, FSPD staff has prioritized game field area drainage.

We met with Reliable Services to discuss the upcoming season and negotiated an extension of the golf course maintenance contract. As usual, annual increases are tied to the consumer price index. Staff and golfers cannot say enough good things about Hunter Rowe, Superintendent, and the great shape of the course. We all look forward to another great year at Square Links!

The Park District is excited and ready to receive applications for the 2024 College Scholarship Program. This program was established in 2006 by the Board of Commissioners and to date, has awarded \$145,000 in scholarships to college-bound resident high school seniors. Funds are raised through local-area business donations highlighted at our annual College Scholarship Classic in September. Completed applications are due March 4, 2024, and our judging committee is comprised of key staff members and Board Members.

The March meeting will include full-time salary reviews and potential short-term and long-term projects. Please contact me directly in advance if Board Members would like information on specific areas or have any questions.

### **MAINTENANCE**

Seven wood light poles were removed, and, to date, three have been installed at Union Creek Park with the remaining four to be installed at Champions Park.

Staff refreshed the disc golf course at Indian Boundary South Park with new paint and it is ready for the upcoming season.

The transition from paper lists and calendars to the Productive Parks software is going well and staff are on track to accomplish the goal of going paperless by the end of February.

## **RECREATION**

The Summer 2024 brochure is under development and will feature a 1970s theme in celebration of the FSPD's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Staff planned a trip for active adults to Starved Rock to enjoy a Ukelele Moonshiners concert and lunch buffet on March 25. Also in the planning stages are trips to Holland, Michigan and Alaska.

Registration is underway for the 2024 – 2025 preschool year. We have a wonderful group of teachers, which is reflected in the 97% return rate for our students from the 3-year-old program to the 4-year-old program.

## **SPECIAL RECREATION**

LWSRA hosted a successful 2024 TRS Basketball Tournament at LWN, which consisted of 17 Special Olympics teams.

The next LWSRA Board Meeting is scheduled for February 20.

## **GOLF COURSE**

Staff hosted a booth at the Tinley Park Golf Expo and new this year, Square Links served as an event sponsor by providing two foursomes of golf which were raffled off to excited winners. This continues to be a wonderful opportunity to introduce Square Links to new golfers and staff collected approximately 250 email addresses from attendees interested in our golf course.

Square Links was again open on Super Bowl Sunday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for all to play on a first-come, first-served basis, and a record-breaking 101 golfers joined us for a fun day.

The golf course will open next month when conditions are favorable. The Reliable Property Services staff are excited about trying a new organic fertilizer this year. Good growth was seen in its testing, and we will give it a try on a section of the range. If we see good results, its use will be expanded.

## **OFFICE**

The front office staff are doing an excellent job with preschool registration making it a very organized process for both families and teachers. Also, F.A.N. pass sales, dance, and program registrations are ongoing with the 2024 Winter/Spring brochure.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Staff are working on goals and the kick-off forms for the annual Risk Management Review with PDRMA. The forms focus on loss information that FSPD reported to PDRMA, internal agency information such as near-misses and areas of concern, and membership-wide exposures. After completing the forms, staff will meet with our PDRMA representative to establish a timeline for completion.

## **FOIA**

Staff received and responded to a FOIA request for results from the playground equipment purchase bid, submitted by Lydia Simrayh, Construction Analyst for the Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting.

Also, staff received and responded to a FOIA request submitted by Katie Gaussein for documents related to “discussion of intergovernmental agency agreements or buildings FSPD wants to purchase, closed meeting discussion and open meeting discussion to purchase any 161 building, and emails between Audrey Marcquenski and Paul McDermott from January 2023 – January 2024.”

Staff hours incurred are detailed on the FOIA Cost Summary. Legal fees will be added when available.

Respectfully submitted:

Audrey Marcquenski  
Executive Director