

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024

ADMINISTRATION

Staff worked with Old Plank Trail Community Bank and Chapman and Cutler to prepare the annual abatement ordinance and the provision for the extension of a General Obligation Bond (mini bond) totaling \$136,000, which are both included for your consideration on the September Board Meeting agenda. The sale date is scheduled for October 15, 2024, with repayment on October 15, 2025.

Following completion, the annual audit has been posted to the FSPD website, made available to requesting agencies, i.e. Standard and Poor's and Old Plank Trail Community Bank, filed with Will and Cook Counties, and posted per MSRB EMMA requirements.

At their August 21, 2024, meeting, the Summit Hill School District 161 School Board approved the purchase agreement allowing for the FSPD to purchase Frankfort Square School. At this time, a closing date has not been decided upon to complete the property transfer.

The building is now home to the BAS program, youth sports are starting this month in the gym, and we look forward to moving all FSPD programming from Mary Drew in the coming year. This is a long-term project with the goal of reimagining the facility into various programming spaces and amenities for all age groups. We are working to keep this valued community resource, located in the heart of our community, open and available to its residents.

The replacement of the two uninterruptable power supplies for our servers provided a good opportunity to review IT equipment that no longer functions or is useful. Staff generated a list and are requesting your consideration for disposal.

Also included for your consideration is a Video Surveillance Policy prepared and recommended by Park Counsel. Its purpose is to regulate the use of video surveillance within the FSPD's system which is designed to provide a safe environment for residents and staff.

FSPD staff and Planning Resources Inc. are preparing the bid documents for the Hunter Prairie Park renovation projects. The invitation to bid is scheduled to be advertised on September 30 with a bid opening on October 10. Staff expect to have results ready for Board consideration at the October 17, 2024, Board Meeting.

The community gardening season is coming to an end and staff are sending out letters to the participants regarding winterization, key fobs, and plans for next year. This is a popular offering with requests for plots exceeding what we currently have. We look forward to the new opportunities that will be available at Hunter Prairie Park with the renovation project.

The Park District received notification from Enbridge Inc., that on September 17, 2024, work begins in the Lighthouse Pointe subdivision, north of Colorado Avenue intersecting the bike path. This Integrity Dig involves excavating a section of pipeline for inspection. Signage is posted along the path and an informational brochure and map are available on the FSPD website.

MAINTENANCE

Russo Equipment provided a demonstration of Foamstream, a commercial herbicide-free weed control solution. According to the sales materials, it kills unwanted vegetation using the precise application of hot water insulated by a specially formulated biodegradable and organic foam delivered by patented machinery. Made from natural plant oils and sugars, it is safe for use around people, animals, and waterways. This would be very beneficial in high use areas such as playgrounds and ballfields.

Both Russo and FSPD staff were able to use the equipment. It was tested at a few locations around Union Creek Park, most visibly on UC4 ballfield. Results appeared impressive and staff are gathering additional information from other agencies that employ this system of weed control.

The first phase of the tree inventory has begun, and we look forward to the report available later this fall.

RECREATION

The school year is successfully underway. Staff did a great job moving the BAS program from Mary Drew into its new home at Frankfort Square School in time to welcome the students. It was a great team effort with the preschool teachers lending their decorating skills and efforts working with the recreation and maintenance departments.

Staff then prepared the Community Center for the start of the preschool year. Again, cleaning and decorating to make a bright, warm, and welcoming environment for all. Last year, the four-year-old program expanded to a second class and an additional day was offered to reinforce the weekly topics. Both were well received and continue this year.

This month, staff are hosting an informational meeting for those registered for our active adult trip aboard the Chattanooga Choo Choo running October 7 – 12.

SPECIAL RECREATION

The next LWSRA Board Meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2024.

GOLF COURSE

Square Links is hosting the College Scholarship Classic on Saturday, September 21 with tee times available all day for \$5. The event showcases our generous sponsors and offers a fun day in support of the FSPD College Scholarship Program.

To date, the FSPD has received over \$6,850 in donations for the College Scholarship Program. Since its inception in 2006, the FSPD has provided \$153,000 in \$1,000 individual awards to 153 students.

New this year, we are expanding with a free Golf Skills Challenge for children ages 7 – 13 showcasing their skills in driving, chipping, and putting. This event is scheduled for Sunday, September 22.

On September 10, we celebrated Hunter Rowe on “Thank a Golf Course Superintendent Day.” We are grateful for Hunter and his efforts in maintaining the grounds and providing a most excellent playing experience. In addition, we thank his Reliable Property Services staff and the golf course staff for their efforts and contributions in making Square Links a wonderful place to play!

OFFICE

Fall programming is underway and the front office is busy with lots of program registrations and September is the most popular month for F.A.N. membership renewals. Staff continue to explore options for simplifying the registration process and are currently looking at new membership card and scanner technology for quicker and easier check-in at F.A.N.

Preschool and BAS registrations have been streamlined with the transition to ePACT for emergency information and it has been well received by BAS families and staff.

RISK MANAGEMENT

This year’s risk management review continues, and staff are working on SMART goals and objectives involving facility emergency planning and fall risk assessments.

Staff reviewed and summarized FSPD’s cyber risk management efforts to the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) and KYND, their partner with cyber security. Focus areas included cyber security training; device and data management; and continuity, response, and recovery. KYND reviews the information provided and makes recommendations on areas for improvement.

Respectfully submitted:
Audrey Marcquenski
Executive Director