

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT JANUARY 2025

ADMINISTRATION

On January 1, 2025, minimum wage increased to \$15.00 per hour for employees over the age of 18 and all FSPD staff wages are in compliance. Staff continue to monitor wages locally and within the recreation field in an effort to stay competitive and attract quality staff.

Staff meet weekly to work on the 2025/2026 budget, and the first draft will be available for the January 16 meeting. The 2025 CPI is anticipated to be released in mid-January, and the property tax line items will be adjusted accordingly.

A bid opening was conducted on January 8, 2025, for the Foamstream L12 System. This commercial herbicide-free weed control system uses the precise application of hot water insulated by a specifically formulated biodegradable and organic foam delivered by patented equipment. It was tested last summer at Union Creek Park and provided impressive results. Made from natural plant oils and sugars, it is safe for use around people, animals, and waterways. This will be very beneficial in high-use areas such as playgrounds and ballfields.

Staff reviewed the bid results and recommends the lowest responsible bidder for your consideration.

FSPD continues to communicate with Summit Hill School District 161 administration on the sale of the former Frankfort Square School, newly renamed as The Square, with the goal of keeping it open and available to the residents we mutually serve. Due to SHSD's outstanding bonds, a condition of the sale limits the FSPD's ability to rent space within the facility to outside organizations at this time. In response, SHSD will accommodate reasonable requests from community groups within SHSD's facilities and the FSPD will aid in their efforts by providing staffing as needed.

Amendments to the Use Tax Act (HB 4951) expand the application of sales tax to leased property. After January 1, 2025, a use tax will be imposed on leases of tangible personal property (TPP) from a retailer to a consumer. TPP includes golf carts and golf clubs as well as other items made available through Park District operations and staff are working through these new requirements and reconfiguring accounting procedures.

The agenda includes the required semi-annual review of closed session minutes and destruction of audio recordings. I would like to request an Executive Session to review all closed session minutes and then return to open session to complete the necessary action.

MAINTENANCE

We officially broke ground on the Hunter Prairie Park redevelopment project! The walking path is laid out and staff are using the new excavator for the installation. This is a team effort with staff moving the dirt and replacing it with stone. The stone will settle over time and be ready for paving this summer.

With last week's cold spell, the maintenance staff was able to open the Champion's Park ice rink for skaters to enjoy and they were on the ice immediately.

RECREATION

The FSPD welcomed new basketball instructor, Tim Stauffacher. Both he and his camps that were conducted over winter break were well received by an increasing number of participants.

Students also enjoyed the Escapades program during their days off of school with lots of holiday fun and field trips. A highlight included a trip to the Farmhouse Academy for a culinary class to make yummy treats!

We welcomed the preschoolers back following the winter break and they are continuing their way through the alphabet. The teachers are preparing for the January 21 Open House where they welcome families to tour the classrooms and ask questions regarding the program. Registration for the 2025/2026 school year begins January 30.

SPECIAL RECREATION

The next LWSRA Board Meeting is scheduled for January 21.

GOLF COURSE

The Tinley Park Golf Expo continues to be a beneficial opportunity to showcase what Square Links has to offer. We are registered as a booth and a sponsor for the January 31 – February 2, 2025, event.

Square Links will open on February 9 for Super Bowl Sunday. This special event continues to grow in popularity, and we are excited to welcome golfers who make this a yearly tradition as well as those who are new to this fun event.

OFFICE

The front office staff are doing an exceptional job managing the winter/spring 2025 program registrations, F.A.N. pass sales and dance class transfers as well as welcoming everyone who comes into the Community Center.

FOIA

Staff received and responded to a FOIA request for documents related to intergovernmental agreements and land/building purchase agreements/contracts from June 15, 2024, through December 15, 2024. Park Counsel reviewed the request, and Park District staff provided the documents to the requestor within the required timeframe. The cost spreadsheet has been linked to the agenda for Board review.

Respectfully submitted:
Audrey Marcquenski
Executive Director