

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **AUGUST 2025**

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

The audit process went smoothly, and it shows that the Park District is in a good financial position with solid procedures in place. Lauterbach and Amen provided the final draft of the audit and copies will be available at the August 21, 2025 Board Meeting. The audit was reviewed by the Board President, Treasurer, and FSPD staff. Following consideration at the Board Meeting, the audit will be filed with the appropriate agencies.

Also on the agenda for your consideration is a change of venue for the September 18, 2025, Board Meeting from the Park District's Administration Building to The Square. If approved, the September agenda heading and website calendar will include the facility address and meeting room to ensure members of the public will be well informed.

The Board Meeting schedule is established annually during the May Board Meeting. The majority of monthly Board Meetings are held at the Community Center, with two scheduled at Square Links Golf Course. Moving forward, we can hold one of the 12 monthly meetings at The Square.

A request to open a new bank account is offered for your consideration. This account would be used to hold donations to the College Scholarship Program, specifically those provided by golfers through a QR code. This would expand the FSPD's ability to accept donations during and around the College Scholarship Classic, with the goal of increasing scholarship dollars awarded to local graduating seniors.

Staff prepared an honorary resolution recognizing the distinguished service of a part-time FSPD staff member. It will be provided for your consideration at the Board Meeting in advance of presenting it at a future meeting with the individual.

Progress continues on the Hunter Prairie Park Redevelopment project. The tennis court asphalt base was poured and tested via proof rolls to verify its stability. Concrete walkways entering the park and surrounding the playground were poured. The playground installation is well underway. Erosion control is inspected weekly and additional checks are conducted following .25-inch rainfalls.

#### **MAINTENANCE**

Historically, the FSPD ran recreation programs out of multiple school sites throughout the community. Once they became available, programming was focused at Mary Drew and Lincoln-Way North. The FSPD is grateful for the opportunities provided by Summit Hill School District 161 and Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210 to keep these facilities open and available for use by the residents we mutually serve.

The FSPD's dance program, known as BDC, was the last program to be moved out of Mary Drew and into The Square. It was a tremendous effort by staff, parents, and dancers to pack up 10+ years of supplies. Maintenance moved them to the new site and completed final sweeps of the building to collect any items left behind.

Staff continue their efforts on ballfield work and tree trimming throughout the District.

Following last month's Board Meeting, the football goalposts were painted at Union Creek Park. We also took the opportunity to paint the backstop fence posts at Hunter Prairie Park. They are in good shape and able to remain with new chain link fencing to be added with the park's redevelopment project.

## **RECREATION**

The band Strung Out closed out the 2025 Summer Concert season with the largest and most energetic crowd of the year. We are grateful to everyone who joined us at the Island Prairie Park bandshell this year!

It has been a fun year for those in the summer camps. Attendance was strong and many thanks to the outstanding staff efforts in providing positive memorable experiences this summer!

With camps finished for the season, staff turned their focus on preparing for the start of the upcoming school year with the BAS program and preschool. We are delighted to welcome 74 children into our ELC Preschool program this fall, an increase from 66 students last year. This notable growth is a testament to the strong reputation and dedication of our incredible preschool staff, reflecting the trust and confidence families place in our Park District.

## **SPECIAL RECREATION**

Keith Wallace, Executive Director, Lincolnway Special Recreation Association will attend the August 21 Board Meeting to share an overview of the agency and its operations that serve FSPD's residents with special needs and individuals from the other member agencies.

Staff attended the second of the two LWSR Foundation Golf Outings on August 8. The Foundation is grateful for your continued support through sponsorship and raffle baskets.

In addition, FSPD supports LWSRA by providing programming space at the Nature Center and Square Links Golf Course and Practice Center for summer camp and golf opportunities.

The next LWSRA Board Meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2025.

## **GOLF COURSE**

The College Scholarship Classic, which features \$5 greens fees, is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2025. Donation letters were sent, and to date, \$5,550 has been received. This annual event supports the FSPD College Scholarship program that provides funds for college-bound seniors. Since its inception in 2006, the FSPD has provided \$161,000 in \$1,000 individual awards to 161 students.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Safety Committee met with PDRMA representatives, Tim Lenac and Cheryl Morley, to discuss progress on this year's Risk Management Review, Smart Goals, and tour FSPD facilities. Staff were well prepared thanks to the tremendous efforts of Linda Mitchell and Arliss Bouton. The Essentials of Risk Management Form is new this year and Linda and Arliss gathered a tremendous amount of information and documentation to prove the FSPD's commitment. The FSPD is well on its way through the process and work will continue until the December 1, 2025, conclusion date.

Congratulations to the FSPD team who completed the latest PDRMA challenge. The revised format calculated the average number of team steps. The FSPD team finished in 13<sup>th</sup> place out of 70 teams with a total of 280,786 steps in 21 days, averaging 13,371 steps per day.

Annually, PDRMA accepts Risk Management Grant applications, enabling agencies to share creative and innovative ideas that can be implemented by its membership. Since becoming a PDRMA member in 2014, FSPD submitted 6 different successful applications detailing varying innovations. This year's application, titled "Foamstream – A Healthier Weed Control System", focuses on an environmentally friendly alternative to eradicate weeds in the Park District's outdoor spaces. PDRMA's Risk Management Committee will announce the results in the fall, and we look forward to another positive outcome.

Respectfully submitted:  
Audrey Marcquenski  
Executive Director