

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT OCTOBER, 2013

ADMINISTRATION

First and foremost, thanks to Park Commissioners for allowing staff and myself to attend the NRPA Congress in Houston.

We are all disappointed to not receive the Gold Medal Award recognition, but attendance at this annual event offers valuable experience. All in attendance returned with a better understanding of our profession, and many new and creative ideas.

In the coming weeks, staff will review our Gold Medal application and evaluate how best to move forward for the prescribed purpose of improving our park and program services.

Included in the October agenda are actions necessary to separate from IPARKS, our liability insurance carrier, and BerkleyNet, our workman's comp carrier.

Coverage will be replaced by the much-discussed PDRMA insurance, which will provide expanded coverage and limits through membership with their agency. In addition, the cost of coverage is reduced and premiums in this self-insurance pool have been more stable than traditional insurance.

We have received a pro-rated proposal estimate and included one year of liability nose coverage. The initial savings for the first year, including the added nose coverage, is \$10,000. Savings for subsequent years are projected to exceed \$20,000. Inclusion in PDRMA also offers potential opportunities for affordable health insurance opportunities.

On the agenda for the October Board Meeting is the annual mini-bond abatement and alternate bond sale. Chapman and Cutler provided the required legal opinion and authorizing ordinances, and Plank Trail Community Bank has again agreed to purchase the annual alternate bond.

I am disappointed to report our OSLAD grant application for the proposed redevelopment of Community Park was not successful. I was highly encouraged when the IDNR grant administrator visited, but the biggest obstacle we had to overcome was our past success in securing funding. We will evaluate this proposed project in the coming weeks and offer potential options.

I would ask for a brief executive session at the conclusion of Thursday's meeting to discuss a potential legal and separate personnel issue.

On a brighter note, cooperation with Frankfort Township Highway Commissioner, Bill Carlson, has resulted in completion of an asphalt parking lot at the baseball league field on St. Francis. Commissioner Carlson needed a new storage area for the wood mulch bins currently housed at Indian Boundary South Park. Approving relocation to this site allowed the completion of the parking lot at a cost to the park district of \$10,000 for a \$35,000 improvement.

Please note; I have included consideration of the park district's liquor license renewal on the October agenda. This is required annually, and if the license was to lapse, re-applying for a new permit would be expensive and unnecessary.

Department reports included in bi-weekly staff meetings detail individual department progress.

If for any reason you are unable to attend the October 17th meeting, please contact me directly.

Respectfully submitted:
Jim Randall