

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
FEBRUARY, 2014

ADMINISTRATION

Joe Vlosak, Park Board candidate, indicated his willingness to accept the appointed position, and will be in attendance at Thursday's meeting to take the Oath of Office.

All other candidates have been thanked for submitting applications, and were encouraged to consider running for office during the 2015 Consolidated Election.

All staff worked diligently to offer input and complete necessary data collection for the completion of the park district Master Plan. The accumulated data has been forwarded to the University of Illinois for completion of the final report. All gathered data; the purposes, history, financial reports, inventory, and assets have been forwarded via email for Board review. A five year draft of potential capital projects and staff wish list have also been provided.

Staff are finalizing PRORAGIS information, summarizing park district assets and information in a national data base. Additionally, the Gold Medal answer key has been developed for the new questionnaire, and will be completed in the coming weeks.

The Gold Medal application and Master Plan supporting documents are being organized for inclusion on the park district's website in early to mid-March. The completed Master Plan should also be available and posted on the website prior to March 20th.

No information or recommendations in the gathered data or subsequent Master Plan document are final, but simply provides a format for moving forward. Approval and adoption of goals and objectives will come before the Board for consideration, comment, amendment, and potential adoption.

Work on the 2014/2015 budget has been delayed, but will begin fast and furious to provide a detailed preliminary report for the March Board Meeting.

I would ask for a budget meeting to be scheduled to outline potential budget items for the upcoming year. Please bring your March calendar to the February meeting, enabling us to determine an available meeting date. I would offer a brief budget overview at the February meeting to define a basic direction before preliminary budget development.

All server/software upgrades have been completed, and are up and running. Internet service has been upgraded, and staff are enjoying the faster access.

The park district submitted health insurance applications to PDRMA to determine if we are eligible for the program. Our current health insurance agent is also seeking proposals for our April 1st renewal.

The 40th anniversary of the park district has been scheduled for Saturday, July 26th. Activities will include fireworks, concessions, and a possibly an alumni band concert orchestrated by Band Director, Kim Coughlin. More activities will be added, and we are open to any suggestions.

The February meeting agenda includes the following items for consideration:

1. Resolution No. 14-02-12, authorizing application to the 2014 ComEd Green Region Program. If successful, this grant would provide up to \$10,000 for the expansion of the Island Prairie boardwalk.
2. Amendment of the Natural Areas Maintenance Policy.

To date, the park district received eight college scholarship applications for 2014. The deadline for submittal is April 7th. Last year, five judges reviewed and scored applications, which included one current and two retired Board Members. I would encourage Board Members to confirm interest in serving on the judging committee.

In the past, scholarships were available at Lincoln-Way, enrolling four applicants annually in a leadership academy. The family providing this scholarship has notified Lincoln-Way that this will be the last year they will fund this opportunity. I would like the Board to consider having the park district continue this opportunity.

Please note; an executive session has been added to the agenda. This will remain on all agendas to ensure we comply with appropriate notification for executive sessions.

The park district has been establishing a Safety Committee, chaired by Audrey Marcquenski. I will invite Audrey to attend a future meeting to update Commissioners on this new, beneficial committee. Safety Committee will also be added to the Board Meeting agenda, and monthly Safety Committee meetings will be provided for Board review.

There are four remaining garden plots available at Brookside Bayou & Community Gardens Park. Julie Arvia, Superintendent of Beautification and Natural Areas, will attend the February Board Meeting to raffle the garden plots to interested gardeners.

Katie Smulevitz, a member of our IT contractor team, will be available during Thursday's meeting to add email access to Board Member's iPhones/mobile devices.

MAINTENANCE

Snow, and lots of it, has been setting records, exceeding all previous totals in the park district's 40 year history. The snow falling on weekends, primarily Saturdays, has made things difficult, with staff working as many as 18 consecutive days.

On a brighter note; the cold weather allowed for the formation of ice at the 80th Avenue hockey rink.

Service work continues on park district equipment. All mowing equipment should be ready to run by mid-March.

Staff have been working on organizational items and the development of new methods for all areas of district maintenance.

RECREATION

Staff members have completed the majority of registration for the winter/spring brochure, but also completed and proofed the 1st draft of the summer brochure.

Many special events, the second annual Indoor Triathlon, held on February 1st, and managed by recreation staff, was well-received by its 69 participants. The annual Daddy/Daughter Ball filled for February 15th, and is well on the way to filling the February 22nd offering.

John Keenan serves on the cooperative Family Faire committee, and this year's event will be held at Lincoln-Way East on Saturday, March 8th.

Respectfully submitted:
Jim Randall