

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT AUGUST, 2019

ADMINISTRATION

Chapman and Cutler, law firm/bond counsel, prepared necessary ordinances for the previously discussed bond refinancing. The schedule of repayment has not been extended, and Baird will be completing the sale in the immediate future. The bond climate looks good, and as previously mentioned, we hope for a net overall savings at or about \$70,000 over the balance of the bond period.

I am extremely excited to report on the closing of the SSSRA property, and sale proceeds in the amount of \$99,025 have been deposited into Park District accounts.

Per previous discussions, all non-bond loans and installment contracts have been fully remitted. This will improve the Park District's ability to address fix and repair projects after referendum proceeds have been expended.

The news on Lincoln-Way North was reported in local publications. Senator Michael Hastings is promoting the use by state agencies, primarily the Illinois State Police. I have no additional information and cannot answer the question of when and if this becomes a reality, what impact it will have on Park District's use of the property and indoor space. As additional information becomes available, I will forward the details to Board Members.

Park District Attorney, Jim Rock, has prepared a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) policy. The policy is designed to detail FOIA requests, Park District responses, and estimated staff hours/actual legal expense.

I met with several Dog Park members and reviewed necessary improvements and repairs. I also provided detail on the removal of communal water dishes, pools, and hose connections to water supply; all issues that are not recommended practices. The removal is supported by the American Veterinary Medical Association information that was provided by PDRMA, the Park District's risk manager. I was glad to meet with the group and found conversations and recommendations to be reasonable and beneficial to users. Action items that will be addressed based on this meeting have been linked to the August agenda.

I have included my travel request for attendance at the NRPA Convention in Baltimore, MD this September. I would request Board approval at Thursday's meeting.

Please note; Pam Kohlbacher is scheduled to be sworn in at the top of the August Board Meeting. This action may or may not occur due to a personal matter. I will update the Board as additional information becomes available.

MAINTENANCE

The new service truck has been delivered and will be equipped and is ready to be put to use.

The summer staff have done stellar work under some very difficult conditions. I mentioned before that staff charged with maintaining the Lincoln-Way North campus expended exceptional effort, improving over the formally contracted service of this large site.

Natural areas, although a difficult season due to a wet spring, have literally exploded with color/natural plant life, and diverse lengthy list of fauna that includes insects, birds, mammals, fish, and amphibians. Butterflies in the thousands have been enjoying the Park District's plant life. We continue to benefit from our natural areas contractor, Cardno, and they will be providing a six month overview of natural areas. Cardno, and their predecessor, J.F. New, have worked with the Park District, and me personally, for many years. This relationship continues to evolve and will continue to do so for the benefit of the District and community it serves.

Staff have mostly resolved playground issues and are on a path to providing these spaces in the expected conditions.

In addition to general maintenance, staff have overseen and assisted on many capital improvements over the past month. These include:

- Union Creek football picnic shelter
- Asphalt paving at Indian Boundary South Park and Union Creek baseball complex
- Picnic shelter roofing and painting at Indian Trail and Frankfort Square Schools and Hunter Prairie Park
- Light pole replacement at Champions Park that included four light poles at the pickleball courts and two at the softball/baseball fields. These lights were initially installed in the 1970's. Annual evaluation of all remaining light poles throughout the District will be conducted and will be an assumed expense in the coming years.
- Renovation of Champions Park concession stand
- Tree planting

Remaining projects include:

- Playground renovation – Woodlawn Park
- Boardwalk – water seal
- Park construction – Kiwanis Park
- Ballfield maintenance
- Dog Park improvements
- Installation of multi-generational swings
- Golf course master plan
- Farm master plan

The above projects reflect only a snapshot of actions, and maintenance staff are to be commended.

A bid opening was completed on June 6 for the Woodlawn Park playground renovation referendum project. Two sealed bids were received and have been tabulated. I would ask for Board consideration to award this project at Thursday's meeting as presented.

RECREATION

I am providing the July schedule of activity to reflect the quantity and detail of staff efforts.

The Park District receives thousands of requests and provides space for not only our direct activities, but also numerous groups that use Park District and School District facilities.

The fall brochure is complete, and it is always an impressive documents. Staff continue to meet the challenge of providing diverse programming.

In the next fiscal year, 2020/2021, we are due for a complete community-wide survey and master plan. This action proves to be the best tool for the successful provision of Park District services.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Park District continues to search for an affordable high speed internet back-up. AT&T is not currently available at the Community Center.

We found a reasonable, remote credit card processing unit, necessary in the event of loss of either power or internet, both of which have occurred over the past month.

SPECIAL RECREATION

The FSPD is a sponsoring agency of the annual LWSR Foundation golf outing, to be held on August 9. This highly successful event routinely raises over \$30,000 in support of programming efforts.

The rise in participation and the quality of opportunities are a testament to the Park Board's good decision to join LWSRA.

FINANCE & PLANNING

The previously detailed bond refinance and debt retirement are working towards effective affordable provision of Park District services. Staff will continue to detail and access potential opportunities for improvement.

The initial draft of the audited financial statements for Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2019, is expected to be received from the independent audit firm of Hearne & Associates during the week of August 12, and upon receipt, will be provided to Board Members.

Staff updated the Theft Control Guidelines to relate to our current environment, including iBanking advancements. This is being done in conjunction with the audit and also to improve the Park Board rating and to ensure we are forthright with public funds.

GOLF COURSE

The driving range drainage issue, difficult due to the nature of the land, has been improved.

We are meeting with Lohmann Quitno Golf Course Architects to finalize plans for future potential improvements. I am most excited about the "little guy" forward tees that will enable more people to enjoy our facility. A full update will be provided with departmental reports.

RISK MANAGEMENT

A digital decibel sound level meter was employed to test equipment noise levels at Square Links. Changes were made to ensure we are good neighbors to our residents that live adjacent to the golf course.

PDRMA staff were onsite to observe the Summer Day Camp program.

Respectfully submitted:

Jim Randall

Executive Director