

# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**MAY 2024**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Following their appointments at the April 18, 2024, Board Meeting, we welcome Lauren Breedlove and Joseph King as they take the Oath of Office as new Board Members.

This is the FSPD's annual organizational meeting with numerous actions for Board Members to consider including election of officers and various appointments.

Also on the agenda is the required bi-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.

Many thanks to Board Members Frank Florentine and Phil Cherry who represented the Frankfort Square Park District at Lincoln-Way East's Scholarship Night on May 8, 2024, and presented scholarships to eight well-deserving high school seniors. Congratulations to Angelina Bushnell, Paul Fugett, Mia Hedrick, Kira Jekel, Emily Neumann, Grace Palmer, Cailey Petro, and Kaleigh Young.

Staff are reviewing the preliminary draft of the Comprehensive Plan prepared by Campfire Concepts.

We continue to experience issues with individuals and their contractors driving through parks, which is prohibited by Ordinance. Many thanks to the Village of Frankfort and Will County Sheriff's Department for their assistance.

The U.S. Department of Labor raised the minimum salary threshold for certain salaried exempt staff beginning July 1, 2024, with an additional increase on January 1, 2025, and every three years moving forward. We are currently in compliance and will need to make minor adjustments in advance of January 1, 2025.

Staff are working with Park Counsel to prepare the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance that will be on the agenda for your consideration at the June Board Meeting.

We are awaiting the fully executed copy of the OSLAD grant agreement, which signals the start of the Hunter Prairie Park Redevelopment project. Staff are working with Planning Resources Inc. (PRI) to secure civil engineers and suppliers, so we are ready when we get the green light from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

PRI is scheduled to present project updates at the September 19, 2024, and June 19, 2025 Board Meetings.

## **MAINTENANCE**

The Community Park pickleball courts were opened as scheduled and in advance of May 1. Improvements were made prior to opening the Champions Park courts, including moving the entrance gate away from the parking lot, installing new signage clearly detailing rules, expectations, and hours, and a new programmable lock that allows the Park District to schedule the opening and closing times per the posted hours. The planned barrier fence project was halted due to the discovery of gas and electric lines in that location. That delayed the opening of the courts, but following the needed repairs, the courts were opened for play.

Additional surfacing was installed at the Community Park playground, and it is ready for a season of fun!

## **RECREATION**

Congratulations to the Braemar Dance Center (BDC) on their successful annual Showcases held at Lincoln-Way West High School. Hundreds of talented dancers were cheered on by their families and friends during their awesome performances. Many thanks to Donnette and Kari, our dance directors, and the numerous teachers, aides, and volunteers who made this possible!

A group of 35 active adults enjoyed a trip to Holland, Michigan for the Tulip Festival. Registration is underway for the next trip which is to Chattanooga, Tennessee, October 7-12, 2024.

The Lincoln-Way Mega Band is enjoying their new home at Lincoln-Way North and communicating well with FSPD staff to coordinate facility usage. Every effort is being made to avoid impacting the F.A.N. program. Availability for private team usage has decreased and staff are communicating this with teams.

The Splash Park is scheduled to open for the season on Saturday, June 1, weather permitting. This free amenity is a favorite destination on warm summer days and is available for private party rentals.

## **SPECIAL RECREATION**

FSPD staff supported LWSRA's efforts in hosting the North American Wheelchair Basketball League Championships at LWN earlier this month. Congratulations to the LWSRA Hawks and all the amazing athletes who competed in this great event!

The next LWSRA Board Meeting is scheduled for May 21. The Illinois Park and Recreation Association's new Executive Director will be in attendance.

## **GOLF COURSE**

Our new golf instructor, Matt Major, is off to a good start by offering free clinics. Group lessons and leagues begin next month.

Golfers have been enjoying the 1970s-themed golf cart and range ball promotion in celebration of the FSPD's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The FSPD received the first of three possible \$500 financial incentives by successfully meeting the first incentive metric deadline for the 2024 Risk Management Review. The Safety Committee completed the Kickoff Form and the discussion with our Risk Management Consultant prior to the established deadlines.

PDRMA's Path program is offering a walking challenge, titled Mindful Exploration. Teams began the journey in Japan, unlock new destinations around the world, and learn mindful details related to their cultures as they complete a designated number of steps. Two teams of five began the challenge on May 6 and have successfully reached Turkey!

Respectfully submitted:  
Audrey Marcquenski  
Executive Director