

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT JUNE 2024

ADMINISTRATION

The primary items for the June meeting are the public hearing and consideration of the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. Notice of the hearing was published in the June 11, 2024, edition of the *Daily Southtown*. These actions are required in the first quarter of our fiscal year, and Board Members are welcome to forward questions in advance of the meeting. After approval, the document will be filed, as required, with the Will and Cook County Clerk's Offices.

Staff is requesting your consideration to dispose of surplus equipment including a 2011 Ford F350 pickup truck which will be traded-in with the purchase of the new truck, as well as a 1989 Ford 4610 tractor and a 1976 Ford 231 tractor.

The annual audit is underway with Lauterbach and Amen. We are working with a new team of auditors to provide a fresh set of eyes. The onsite work was completed in record time thanks to the efforts and responsiveness of Sue Baker and Diane Meister. In the coming months, the auditors expect to complete the audit and present at a future Board Meeting.

The bank accounts needed for the Hunter Prairie Park Redevelopment OSLAD project are established and the first half of the grant was approved for payment. Staff are working together with PRI through the grant approval processes. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources approved the playground layout, and we are in receipt of the equipment.

Staff completed a review of the Comprehensive Plan draft and provided feedback to the Campfire Concepts teams. They will review and once complete, present it at a future Board Meeting.

The Cook County Levy Edit Report was reviewed and filed with the County. The Cook County Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) increased due to the commercial growth with Amazon and the Manheim Auto Auction.

MAINTENANCE

The seasonal staff are a welcome addition to the FSPD team. Several came with a good knowledge and understanding of baseball field maintenance which is appreciated. They have completed their orientations and begun work.

Last week's "Park Day" where all staff gather and focus their efforts on a single park took place at Island Prairie Park. They accomplished lots of pruning, trimming, and planting throughout the park.

A new Kentucky Coffee Tree, attractive to pollinators, was planted at Maddie's Grove located at Island Prairie Park, and staff prepared the site for the Giving Tree Ceremony on June 21. Annually, trees are dedicated to organ donors during this community event held in conjunction with the Miles for Maddog Run/Walk, building awareness about organ/tissue donation. The Miles for Maddog Walk/Run takes place on June 22. The event begins and ends in the LWN stadium with the course winding its way through the community.

RECREATION

The Splash Park is open, and this free opportunity has been well attended and enjoyed. Private party rentals are popular with a few birthday parties already scheduled for this month.

Staff hosted the Ice Cream Social at Champions Park with many families enjoying the treats and the various park activities including a girls softball game.

The Local Community Concert Series features talented local artists and began on June 13 with FSPD resident Eric Miner and his band, St. Jupiter at Island Prairie Park.

The Summer Concerts in the Park begin June 18 with a concert by the Messengers. They perform modern and classic rock, today's country and Americana, and totally unique medleys and mashups designed to have the audience dancing, clapping, and singing along.

SPECIAL RECREATION

The LWSR Foundation is hosting two golf outings this summer – August 9 at Sanctuary Golf Course and August 16 at Green Garden Country Club. I am requesting consideration of a \$750 sponsorship for the event on August 16, 2024, consistent with previous years.

LWSRA is hosting a summer camp at the Island Prairie Nature Center and golfers at the Square Links driving range. All are enjoying these offerings and facilities.

The next LWSRA Board Meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2024.

GOLF COURSE

Except for a few days that required closing due to rain and flooding conditions, the golf course has been busy with over 80% of tee times consistently booked on the weekends.

Lessons have started and Matt Major, the new golf pro, has been well received. The popular ladies league is also underway with 31 golfers.

FSPD and Reliable Services staff are preparing for Father's Day, which tends to be our busiest weekend of the year.

The new driving range mats arrived with the added feature of allowing golfers to use either the provided rubber tee or their own tees.

OFFICE

Summer program registration is underway and the first day of in-person resident registrations tripled compared to last year. Summer day camps lead the way with strong interest and participation.

Staff completed a review of BAS registrations from the past school year and the totals are 4,798 morning and 3,252 afternoon registrations.

RISK MANAGEMENT

In addition to a long career with the Summit Hill School District assisting multiple Superintendents including Dr. Julian Rogus, Arliss Bouton has worked for the Park District filling various roles and always willing to help. Most recently, she has served as our Safety Coordinator and a rental supervisor for weekend Community Room rentals.

Arliss has retired, and we wish her good health and happiness. She has taught me so much over my entire career with the FSPD and I cannot thank her enough for sharing her knowledge and guidance over the years.

Respectfully submitted:
Audrey Marcquenski
Executive Director