

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT JULY 2024

ADMINISTRATION

A reminder that the July 18, 2024, Board Meeting will be held at the Square Links Clubhouse, as determined during the May organizational meeting.

On the agenda is a presentation of the Comprehensive Plan by Jarrod Scheunemann from Campfire Concepts. This document is the culmination of a year-long effort, and we offer our appreciation to everyone who participated in the process. This document provides information on the District as a whole and lays the groundwork for moving forward now and in the future.

It is with great disappointment that Jimbooo's was unable to fully open at the Square Links Clubhouse. With guidance from Park Counsel, we are in the process of terminating the restaurant services agreement.

The general obligation and refunding bond payments due July 1, 2024, totaling \$52,196.88 were paid to Amalgamated Bank.

A legal ad ran in the *Daily Southtown* on July 11 for the latest phase of the security camera project. Bid documents are available at the Park Office and on the District's website in advance of the July 25 bid opening. Results will be available for the August 15 Board Meeting.

Work continues on the annual audit and a presentation by Lauterbach and Amen is expected for the August 15 Board Meeting.

MAINTENANCE

The seasonal staff are trained and have found their rhythm. Tree Week is scheduled for later this month when all hands focus on tree trimming and pruning almost 100 trees District-wide. In addition, the planned tree survey to be completed by the Great Lakes Urban Forestry is scheduled for late August.

The drainage project near the Union Creek Football Field is underway with the main work finished and the restoration and details to be completed shortly.

Weekly Park Days, where the staff focus on a single park, continue to be successful. Staff were recently at LaPorte Meadows Park with good work completed in and around the spillway. Their efforts will enable the contractor to remove and replace the split rail fence.

The batteries in the solar light poles at Community Park have reached the end of their useful life and the contractor is in the process of replacing them.

RECREATION

Staff are completing the final proofs and edits for the Fall 2024 brochure that will go to the printer next week and is expected to be in residents' mailboxes in August. Fall resident program registration begins August 22, 2024.

Childcare programs such as BAS and day camp require many documents and authorization forms for medication, epi-pens, inhalers, allergies and dietary requirements, parental contact information, swimming and behavior guidelines, and waivers. This information is critically important to staff to provide proper care, but time consuming for parents to complete the many paper forms. Efforts continue to make the registration process more efficient and the District is introducing ePACT this fall. Information and usage tips for this secure emergency network to collect medical and emergency contact information electronically will be posted on the website and available in the lobby.

The staff, activities, and field trips for both the Early Childhood Camp and Summer Day Camp are outstanding. Participation numbers continue to dramatically increase over recent years.

Both the Summer Concerts in the Park and the Local Community Concerts have been well attended and appreciated this year. The FSPD is welcoming Strung Out on July 16 and Audiomatic on July 18 at the Island Prairie Park Bandshell.

SPECIAL RECREATION

As approved at the June 20, 2024, FSPD Board Meeting, staff provided the sponsorship for the LWSR Foundation Golf Outing on August 16. Staff also prepared two raffle baskets with Square Links greens fees, logo hats, and golf items. LWSR Foundation President, Dave Macek, shared his appreciation for the District's continued support.

The next LWSRA Board Meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2024.

GOLF COURSE

Based upon Board Member input led by Denis Moore and Phil Cherry at last month's Board Meeting, two new opportunities have been implemented at the golf course. The Youth Golf Summer Special, offering reduced rates, has been well received with 14 children golfing on the first day at Square Links. Following the meeting, Board Member Ryan Holley offered a suggestion that was also implemented. Veterans, those who are currently serving in the military, and first responders will be offered a free bucket of balls for the driving range when they play a round of golf at Square Links.

Sponsorship letters for the College Scholarship Golf Classic will be mailed the week of July 22. This is our big fundraising effort, and we are grateful for the continued support from our community, contractors, and vendors enabling the Park District to award \$153,000 in college scholarships to deserving students since introducing the program in 2006.

Staff are preparing for the Saturday, September 21, 2024, event and have expanded the offerings to include a youth golf skills challenge on Sunday, September 22.

RISK MANAGEMENT

PDRMA and KYND, the cyber risk professionals PDRMA contracted with, annually review FSPD's cyber risk-management controls. Staff and our IT contractor received the latest report and are working to implement the prioritized recommendations to further decrease cyber risk.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Congratulations to the Maddog Strong Foundation on their successful Giving Tree Ceremony and Miles for Maddog 10K Run/5K Run and Walk last month. Next year's events are already scheduled for June 20 – 21, 2025.

Respectfully submitted:
Audrey Marcquenski
Executive Director