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Memorandum

TO: City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Adam Huehnergath, Parks and Recreation Manager
RE: Monthly Directors Report February 2025
CC: Mick Michel, City Administrator
Date: March 17, 2025

Aquatic Center:

The start of the pool season is approaching. We are hiring 18 lifeguards this week. This is three more than we had last year. There are still a few that might apply as I would like to start with 20. This year we will have one assistant to manage. I will be a larger influence in the daily operations this summer to help navigate having only one manager. The lifeguard training will be on April 27th. We have many returning lifeguards and I have sat down with the manager and have an outline for pre-opening training. The opening date is scheduled for Monday, May 25th and stay open until August 15th. With a good group of lifeguards, we will try and extend the season if we have available guards.

Community Garden:

We are starting to organize the second year of our Community Gardens. As of now, we have 12 plots spoken for. We will till each spot soon. We will be adding a yard hydrant by the south side of 2nd St SW for easy water access. In collaboration with the Dyersville Park & Rec and the Ellen Kennedy Library, Alicia Willenborg will be offering a Conservation Camp at the site starting at the end of May. The plans are to have six classes based on operating a garden. In addition to planting, weeding and harvesting, the students will learn skills around building a rain barrel, building compost, soil conservation and planting prairie strips. We are hoping to have 20 kids from the two grade schools to participate. We are working with the two schools to advertise as well as using our Facebook page and the library's email list. We are in the initial planning stages and hope this program takes off as it opens areas of grant funding.

Baseball/Softball:

The baseball/softball season starts in six weeks! All the teams have been drafted and jerseys ordered. Dyersville teams have increased participants in both. We will have nine more baseball players and 14 more softball players. We will have one more extra team of softball versus 2024 and the same number for baseball. Thanks to all the parents volunteering to coach as it is a thankless position sometimes.

In the next couple of weeks, the fields will be leveled and prepared for practices to start. The dugouts are done at field #1 at Westside and the fences will be in soon. We have coordinated with the FoD on a timeline to add the temporary fences to the three diamonds that need them. With all the improvements, Westside Park ballfield complex will have a great clean look.

Trees Forever/Alliant Energy Grant:

With a partnership with the Dyersville Lions Club, we have been awarded a \$2000 grant for trees in 2025. We will be ordering trees with most of them planted in Westside Park area this year. The day scheduled for planting will be Arbor Day Friday April 25. The Lions Club and the Parks and Rec will work with the local grade schools to create a tree-planting event. The Commercial Club also received a grant, and we are coordinating with them to have both planting events at the same time.