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Memorandum

TO: City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Adam Huehnergath, Parks and Recreation Manager
RE: Monthly Directors Report January 2024
CC: Mick Michel, City Administrator
Date: February 19, 2024

Aquatic Center:

We have advertised the last two weeks for openings for lifeguards, facility assistants and assistant managers. The deadline for applications is February 28th. The number of applications as of now is low but I am figuring the labor pool for lifeguards waits until the last minute. Last year was the same way. I am going to try to recruit at local high schools this week during their lunch hour. About 11 of the crew from 2023 has verified that they will return. I would like to add nine more for this summer. We had a total of 17 lifeguards last year, but having a higher total will give us more flexibility for different programs throughout the summer. One of our assistant managers is returning and is helping to craft a solid crew and develop operational plans.

Summer Programs:

The earlier spring weather puts our summer programs on everyone's minds. Registration for all sports opened up February 1st and continues until February 28th for baseball and softball. Like past years I anticipate a high participation percentage. Residents have been reminded many times and many different ways (online, in print and posters around town) to register on time. I have to let the Prairie League know by March 1st the number of teams and field availability. The first games will start the week of April 22nd. The commission decided this year to divide the T-Ball league into two groups. The PreK kids will still play with the required tee but the K group will have the option of having a coach pitch to them. We also put an age requirement that they have to turn four by May 1st 2024 to be in the league. By separating the two groups we feel the games will be better for the kids and the coaches to keep skill levels somewhat separated.

Live Healthy Iowa Kids Track Meet:

On March 1st, registration opens for our 2nd track meet to be held May 11th at Beckman HS starting at 9am. This is a completely free event open to anyone from the area for kids ages 8-14. They will compete in two field events and running events from a 50yd dash to an 800yd run. The first and second finishers in each race earn the opportunity to race at the state meet held in Marshalltown on June 1st. Last year we had over 80 competitors and hope to increase that this year. I will work with Todd Troutman and Beckman students to get enough volunteers to move the meet along smoothly.