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Memorandum

TO: City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Adam Huehnergath, Parks and Recreation Manager
RE: Monthly Directors Report January 2023
CC: Mick Michel, City Administrator
Date: February 20, 2023

Aquatic Center:

We have advertised the last two weeks for openings for lifeguards, facility assistants and assistant managers. The deadline for applications is March 11th. The number of applications as of now is low but I am figuring the labor pool for lifeguards waits until the last minute. I am sending out an email to 2022 lifeguards this week to remind them and also to help give us an idea if there is a need to prospect other ways. We had a total of 20 lifeguards last year and that is our minimal goal this year. Both of our assistant managers from 2022 have moved on. Hiring those replacements is a high priority. With a year watching pool operations I am going to be more involved daily.

Summer Programs:

Even though the weather tells us otherwise, baseball/softball season is starting to formulate. The deadline to register is February 28th and our teams are starting to fill up. We are at 60-70% of our final numbers from last year and it is my goal to increase the participation levels this year. It looks like I will have enough volunteer coaches for the amount of teams that we will have.

At Commercial Club Park fields, we have found a solution for dangerous foul ball situations between the two diamonds. We are going to install netting on the 1st base fence on the East field and on the 3rd base fence on the West field to thwart line drive foul balls that have injured fans lately. Also, we have found the materials for a batting cage purchased a while ago and plan on putting that between the two fields this spring.

Grants:

I have applied for four different grants recently. I asked for funds for shade at the pickleball courts and the new dugouts and Westside Park from Outside the Rays. I also applied for a IPRA mini-grant for 50% of the cost for the disc golf signage. I should find out about that result soon. I also applied for a Keep Iowa Beautiful and Diamond Vogel Paint grant for 20 gallons of paint to repaint the older swing sets and volleyball court. I will also be working with the local schools for our spring cleanup.