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Memorandum

TO: City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Adam Huehnergath, Parks and Recreation Manager
RE: Monthly Directors Report May 2023
CC: Mick Michel, City Administrator
Date: June 19, 2023

Aquatic Center Features:

The features have been installed today. The inspection is happening tomorrow at 11:30am. Getting manufactures, delivery, installers and inspectors in sync has been a struggle but hopefully everything comes together and the pool will look different to patrons Tuesday. Because of the length of time to finish this process, most residents forgot about the improvements but after being publicized on Facebook and on the radio, there is definite chatter.

Senior Soccer:

We are putting teams together for senior soccer. Last year was the 1st year that we put 9-12th graders all together and it was a good decision. The fear was that the younger kids would be a little lost, but the older kids did a great job in helping them adjust and being coaches on the field for them. This is designed to be a developmental program for the area high school teams and I think that decision enhanced it. Last year we decided to not have an end-of-the year tournament. After overwhelming objections, we have decided to end this year with a tournament.

Baseball/Softball:

It is weird and sad to say that we only have two weeks left for regular season for Prairie League softball and the two younger groups of baseball. I am looking to do some intercity tournaments and pickup game nights for the younger players. There are some kids/parents that are ready to be done with playing games but I see a lot of kids that want to keep playing. I am trying to foster them to group up and play on their own by setting night/fields for each division. We are blessed with an abundance of nice fields that I would love to stay busy.

FOD Tournaments:

We are through four weeks of the collaboration tournaments on our fields. Many early mornings from the summer staff to maintain fields and keep the parks clean. Special shout out to Connor Grover and Ben Westhoff who have been showing up at 5:30 am smiling ready to pick up garbage. We have received many compliments on our field conditions and the upkeep of the parks.

Park Improvements:

In spring we detailed a large list of improvements to the parks/fields. New drinking fountains at Westside will be finished this week. City staff also decided to change the poles for the sand volleyball court at Candy Cane and the new net should be up this week. The next project is the batting cages at Commercial Club fields. I secured a grant for paint and the summer staff will paint the swing sets soon.