



GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

**Recreation and Park Department
IRA Civic Center
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Grand Rapids, MN 55744
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Memorandum

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Dale Anderson, Director of Parks & Recreation
Date: June 19, 2024
Re: Department Head Report

The Civic Center remodel has been a huge success. We've received countless compliments on how well done everything was completed. The main lobby remodel is currently underway which will have a consistent look with the upper lobby. The only negative comments have been about the sound quality which we are currently addressing. Acoustic treatments are being installed in August to improve the situation. The meeting/conference space in the upper lobby has also been a great addition. Many team functions, banquets, public meetings, trainings, voting, blood drives, wedding and baby showers, and other activities have enjoyed using the space.

As you are aware, GRAHA is installing refrigeration in the Miner's Pavilion this summer. Work will begin in July with the removal of the boards and glass, and the existing bituminous surfacing. The rink will then be subcut and new subsurfacing installed prior to the refrigeration tubing being installed. Once the refrigeration work is complete, the new rink will have a concrete surface, the same as our two indoor sheets. Their goal is to fire up the system by November 1st. This project became a priority following a winter where we only had 3 weeks of skateable ice due to unseasonably warm weather.

We will be putting ice back in the West Rink to begin summer programming on July 8th. Local hockey camps and figure skating will fill most of the weekday icetimes. A girls high school festival, a goalie camp, a Minnesota Hockey HP tryout, and a girls high school summer league will help fill weekends.

I recently worked with our Public Works department to make a couple notable improvements at Bob Streetar Field. The first being a new ADA wheelchair viewing bump-out on the east side of the bleachers along with new handrail safety improvements. We also constructed a new 16' x 16' storage shed, replacing the old shed that long outlived its useful life.

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Park CIP will be a priority for me moving forward. This came to mind when preparing to have my annual meeting with Mayor Connelly. Several projects will be added to the Park CIP in the upcoming years including the demo and reconstruction of a bathroom facility at Blandin Beach, tennis court resurfacing and playground replacement at Grussendorf Park, additional equipment and repair of existing ramps at the Cody Seim Memorial Skatepark will be my highest priorities.

The Grand Rapids Sports Complex is seeing another busy season. In early June we hosted the 7A and 7AA girl's fastpitch section playoffs. Currently we have men's slowpitch softball, association girl's fastpitch, association soccer, and YMCA youth soccer and t-ball programs.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.