



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

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**TO:** Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

**FROM:** Bob Beatty – Parks & Recreation Director

**DATE OF MEETING:** November 6, 2023

**ITEM TITLE:** Department Report – Parks & Recreation

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### **Parks & Forestry Department-**

All flowers have been removed from downtown. We will need to purchase 10 new 360 planters for next year to finish all of 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The switch saves us \$50.00 per pole on the planting side. I do think we can add more on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave North and South, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave North in the future as well.

Staff are finishing up mowing and mulching this week. We will likely mulch again in November when the temperature bumps up a bit. We have now changed the second landscape to rock at Liberty and will finish the design in the spring.

The Street Department poured the concrete pad for the inclusive playground. They will pour the sidewalk and we will get the curb cut in the spring. The playground equipment was delivered earlier than expected but still beyond the window to place the surfacing. The playground will be completed in the spring and hopefully fully funded. We are working on a couple of small grants to help close the gap. I will have a better idea of the final costs once we get all of the rock and concrete bills for the project.

### **Recreation Department-**

Flag Football finished last Monday. We had a pretty good season, weather and staff-wise. We had plenty of officials and this helped run it smoothly. We are currently advertising for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade basketball and hope to start that Thanksgiving weekend.

### **River'sEDGE Facility-**

River'sEDGE, we had a hanging heater installed in the backroom after 10 years of no heat. We also turfed another 1500 square feet and added a batting cage and a designated area for RE players to train during practice. This extra space will help us accommodate the extra 9 teams this Season. 24 travel teams could be a little overwhelming, but we are already gearing up for parent meetings in November. We will be hosting a Bat and equipment Demo on November 15. We are painting, fixing nets, and lights, and repairing holes/dents in the walls. Excited for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February 2024!

### **Dog Park-**

We had members of the Rotary Club help take down a shelter that had lived well beyond expectations. We will use it for parts to repair the other two. We are currently exploring pricing on a three-sided shelter to help members get out of the wind while using the Park. The goal is to purchase or build something this fall. We hosted a dog training on the agility course in early October. It did not fill but we had a few that took advantage of the workshop.

**Falcon Civic Center-**

The Falcon Civic Center has looked amazing since we hired the cleaning company. The patrons noticed the difference immediately and we couldn't be happier. We added four pieces of equipment to the weight room and two cardio pieces. The increased patronage has more than warranted it in the past year. We will need to focus more time in the future on the cardio side both in the upgrading and space. We hosted a craft show in October and were the host of the Boo Bash. Both events were pretty good draws and happy to have the spaces used.

**Aquatic Center Facility-**

Currently working on paint pricing for the fall of 2024. It is winterized and we will just need to clean the leaves out and fill the basin once the leaves are off the trees. This helps with the cleanup process and the staining that occurs with the leaves in the bottom.

**RV Park Facility-**

We have decided to stay open through the winter this season. We have some that have left for the winter but pay to store their campers at the RV Park and others are still there. As of October 31, we had 35 of 42 sites with a camper on them. We need to average about 7 to remain profitable based on billing last winter from Light and Power. The water is on, but campers are only allowed to hook up when they are filling tanks. We will be testing this system until the end of November and then will decide on the hydrants. The bathhouse will be closed and winterized.

**Complex Facility-**

The infield turf project has started. The crew has been busy placing all of the runoff tiles. This week they started on the fields and all of the tiles that run across and inside of the turf areas. After this is complete, they will likely pour the concrete edge and begin the drainage rock compacting. Hopefully, weather conditions remain decent.

I will bring a current copy of the revenues (fundraising) and expenditures page for all of you. We still have 2 grants out there. We are also trying to get estimates on all of the projects that will need to be completed to be operational and the projects that would be nice to have completed before 2025.

**Cemetery-**

The IPRD has maintained the cemetery for about 5 years, and we are at a crossroads on this facility. It needs major work. Several trees need to be removed, and there should be a headstone fixing plan in place. It is unfortunate when bankrupt cemeteries get turned over to cities. Honestly, I am not even sure about the potential costs but it could be more than \$50,000 -100,000 to do it right. It will likely not make the top ten priorities for the IPRD budget and money will continue to be tight everywhere. There is zero income or perpetual care monies available. Looking for thoughts, ideas, or suggestions.