Stepheny Becker Staff Report

Past Projects and Accomplishments

Bike Tune & Demo Day

The Bike Tune & Demo Day was a great success. Ten community members received bicycles, along with helmets as needed. The event generated positive feedback, and several parents contacted the City afterward after learning about the program through friends rather than social media. This demonstrated the need to continue expanding communication beyond social media. With additional outreach methods, the event has strong potential to grow next year and reach more families who could benefit.

Projects Concluding

Youth Basketball Program

Unfortunately, the City will not be able to offer the youth basketball program this season. The individual who had initially committed to serving as coordinator withdrew after determining that the time and responsibilities would be more than she could reasonably take on.

The coordinator position requires a considerable commitment to scheduling, communication, practices, games, and overall program management. At this time, no other volunteer has stepped forward to fill the position. It is disappointing that local children will miss another extracurricular opportunity, particularly an athletic program that is greatly needed in the community.

Projects in Progress

Bike-A-Thon – September 19

The Bike-A-Thon will take place this weekend. Gravity Sports is sponsoring the first- and second-place prizes, and Foresters Pizza is donating five pizzas. Participant numbers will likely not be known until the day of the event, which has been typical for this program.

Live from New Meadows – September 26th

Planning is underway for the upcoming music and comedy night. Two food vendors are confirmed, and the Kahili Club will operate the beer garden.

Rod has generously offered the continued use of an excellent stage for future City events. In exchange, the City will provide signage and promotional recognition for his business, United Metals. Access to this stage will be a significant benefit for future programming.

Mayor Julie Good also secured a generous donation from Ricky that is helping make the event possible. Admission is listed at $10; however, the park cannot be fully secured due to fencing limitations and the number of volunteers available to monitor entrances. The City's longer-term goal is to secure sufficient sponsorships and donations so more community events can eventually be offered without admission fees.

Great Fall Haul – October 10th

Interest in the Great Fall Haul continues to grow. Vendors from New Meadows and McCall have contacted the City about participating. Tyler Vance is confirmed to provide live music, and additional food vendors are currently being secured. This will be a new type of fall event for the community and has received an encouraging response.

Bowling, Boos & Blankets – October 17th

Blue Tick has agreed to donate the hot cocoa bar, Freddy is providing the movie projector, Angie Crow has offered to volunteer, and Family Dollar will donate bags of popcorn. This is shaping up to be a fun, family-friendly evening at the skatepark.

Trunk-or-Treat – October 30th

New Meadows currently appears to be one of the few nearby communities holding its Trunk-or-Treat on Friday, October 30, rather than on Halloween. Schools in both New Meadows and McCall will be closed that Friday, which may encourage families from throughout the area to attend.

Wine and Floral Centerpiece Event - November 14th

Teresa has been secured to lead a wine-tasting and floral centerpiece workshop. Participants will create an arrangement that can be used for Thanksgiving or another occasion. Registration is already nearing capacity, and sign-ups may need to close soon.

Challenges and Issues

Volunteer recruitment continues to be the largest concern. The absence of a basketball coordinator has resulted in the cancellation of the youth basketball season, and most City events continue to operate with a limited group of dependable volunteers.

While the City is fortunate to have individuals who consistently help, relying on the same people creates a risk of volunteer burnout. Expanding the volunteer base will be essential to sustaining and growing community programs. Any recommendations or connections from the Council would be greatly appreciated.

Loaner Program Update

The current inventory list for the City’s recreation loaner program is attached for review. The program space is still being organized, but the goal is to have it ready for public promotion by spring.

The thrift store has been extremely supportive by providing new and like-new recreational equipment, including rollerblades, ice skates, skis, ski boots, snowboards, snowboard boots, helmets, and other items. A raft has also recently been added to the available inventory. A few additional items and organizational needs remain before the program is ready to launch publicly.

Council Support Requested

Recommendations or connections from the Council regarding volunteer recruitment would be greatly appreciated.