



Date: January 18, 2023  
To: W. Glenn Steckman, City Manager  
From: Chip Leeper, Director of Parks and Recreation  
CC: Bryant Hammond, City Clerk  
Cheryl Thompson, Administrative Assistant

Subject: Parks and Recreation Department Quarterly Report (October – December 2022)

### **Nome Recreation Center**

Poor snow conditions and strong northerly winds the past few months have driven all but the heartiest souls inside to meet their recreation needs. So while most of us would rather be in the back country enjoying nature we were happy to serve those people who needed to blow off steam with physical activity and exercise.

Starting off in October with our Co-Ed Adult Volleyball League. Played on Monday and Thursday nights the fall season attracted 8 teams in the Competitive Division and 4 in the Recreation Division.

After two months of play and a postseason tournament Arctic Ventures took home the crown in the Competitive Division and Mulukchuk Diggers took the top spot in the Recreation Division.

The volleyball stanchions were immediately stowed and basketballs brought out as we began City League Adult Basketball play in early November.

The league was composed of three divisions: Women (3 teams); Men's A (2 teams); and Men's B (4 teams). After playing a 7-week schedule the league will take a break for the holiday season.

Heading into the break Q-Trucking was dominant in posting a perfect 7-0 record to own the top spot in the Women's Division. Bering Sea Ballers and SPS went back and forth with the former edging the latter out for the top spot in the Men's A Division. Net Rippers had their own bout with perfection finishing with an unblemished 7-0 record in taking control of the Men's B Division.

After a two-week break the second half of the season will resume in January and run through until Iditarod starts in March.

In addition to the leagues outlined above we also hosted some other events. Starting off with Bering Strait Native Corporation's Annual Shareholder meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Later in the month the Native Village of Solomon held a community potluck in recognition and celebration of Indigenous People's Day on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

At the end of the month (October 29<sup>th</sup>) we were the site of a Fit Fair sponsored by Norton Sound Health Care's CAMP Department.



After a multi-year hiatus due to the Covid-related pandemic, the Nome Volunteer Fire Department were again able to host their annual Winter Carnival on the traditional first Saturday of December.

As is typical the carnival attracted throngs of people to the facility to play games, bingo and eat food supplied by a variety of organizations fundraising for their respective causes.

Behind the scenes we did a complete demolition of the kitchen in the bowling alley. The old floors, oven/range, grill, sink, dishwasher and built in counter top was removed in order that the space could get a deep cleaning and a much-needed upgrade.

The plan is to have everything refurbished and put back together in time for Iditarod.

### **Nome Swimming Pool**

Things continue to plug along with many of the same problems as usual. Fluctuating water temperatures, air circulation issues and low senior staffing numbers have been on-going challenges.

Even so we've been able to host NACTEC's morning Safety Swim classes, Nome Public School classes along with some regular programs like Family, Open and Lap Swims.

Lead Lifeguard Melissa Ford held an American Red Cross Lifeguard certification class on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Four people took the class (Christian Graham, Sienna Pederson, Ryan Fox and Chelsea Huburt) and all passed becoming newly minted lifeguards. Of those Graham, Fox and Huburt will join our staff.

The project to replace the salt disinfection system with a traditional chlorine-fed one continues to plug along. As part of it, Polar Pools' Bob Walker, an electrician and a plumber visited Nome at the end of October to get some more measurements and information need to finalize the plan.