




Date: October 18, 2023
To: Glenn Steckman, City Manager
From:  Chip Leeper, Director of Parks and Recreation
CC: Vacant, City Clerk
Cheryl Thompson, Administrative Assistant

Subject: Parks and Recreation Department Quarterly Report (July-September '23)

Nome Recreation Center

Busy, busy, busy was the theme of the Nome Recreation Center over the past three months. Starting with the hosting of some indoor sessions of Summercise and continuing through the beginning of fall the calendar was chock full of events, programs and sport's leagues.

In addition to Summercise, July saw the start of our youth softball program. Inclement weather and the slow pace of registrations led to delays to the start of the season. Once numbers were high enough to field 2 teams in each division (Majors, Minors and Rookies) we were able to get things going and play ball.

Usually play is wrapped up by early August but since there was a later start the decision was made to prolong the season into mid-August. Things were going well until an extended bout of wind and rain washed out the final week of the Majors season. The Minors (and Rookies) were able to complete theirs and enjoy a season-ending BBQ.

Other than open gyms and Kindergyms some other events happening during the month of August included: National Night Out (August 1st)- a national event that involves local police departments hosting barbeques within their communities; an Injury Prevention Program (August 18th)- cohosted by NSHC's CAMP Department and the Nome Police Department with the objective of educating local youth about the risks of riding bikes and 4-wheelers without helmets; and lastly the Berry Festival (August 19th)- a celebration of all things berry. Organized and hosted by Kawerak the festival was scheduled to coincide with the arrival of a cruise ship.

The weekend after Labor Day the Nome Recreation Center resumed their 7-day a week winter schedule by re-opening on Saturdays and Sundays. As usual, weekend use started a little sluggishly before picking up a bit toward the end of the month.

The Fall Co-Ed Volleyball League kicked off in mid-September with 9 teams competing across two divisions- Competitive and Recreation.

Lastly on a somber note on September 23rd we hosted a Celebration of Life for Stan Anderson- a lifelong Nomite, dedicated Nanook fan and tireless public servant. A true Nome character if ever there was one. He will be missed.



Nome Swimming Pool

The swimming pool has been shuttered for the entirety of the quarter while it undergoes a major overhaul down in the mechanical room. The project was supposed to be completed by mid-Fall but production delays for some key components along with some unexpected issues that added more items to the to-do list has pushed the completion and public reopening date into mid-November.

Golden Strike Bowling Alley

The facility reopened for the season on Friday, September 22nd and is slowly beginning to see some use along with a few birthday parties sprinkled here and there.

Ice Hockey Rink

Spent quite a bit of time discussing and planning the relocation of the ice hockey rink with the Nome Winter Sports Association (NWSA). Long housed on lots between First and Third Avenue across from the VFW the rinks new home will be located to the immediate east of the Nome Recreation Center.

The move was decided upon for several reasons. It will be easier to supervise, not be as invasive to nearby inhabitants, consolidate the majority of our community's recreational offerings into the same general area and lastly potentially free up the space the old rink took up for a potential housing complex for new teachers and emergency services personnel and their families.

As part of the project new (slightly used) dasher boards were purchased from an indoor rink in Ontario, California and then trucked to Seattle before barged here.

In addition, new overhead lighting and support bars were purchased and will be installed onto poles that Nome Joint Utility will be driving into the ground shortly.

This project has been in the works for a long time. Both the City of Nome and the NWSA are excited for the future.