



**Date:** April 4, 2023

**To:** Glenn Steckman, City Manager

**CC:** Bryant Hammond, City Clerk

**Cheryl Thompson, Administrative Assistant**

**From:** Chip Leeper, Director of Parks and Recreation

**Re:** Quarterly Report

**Reporting Period:** January – March 2023

### **Nome Recreation Center**

The quarter kicked off in January with the resumption of Adult City League Basketball. Four new teams (Draanjik in Men's A and Swish, R.Y.E and Team MJ in Women's) joined the fray for the second half.

When all was said and done Bering Sea Ballers knocked off Net Rippers to take home the Men's A crown; Q-Trucking showed their season-long dominance was no fluke as they throttled R.Y.E to earn the Women's Division title. Meanwhile BMW Ballers/NSHC took home the top prize in the Men's B Division after dispatching a punky Q-Trucking side in the finals.

Overall the season went well and there were few problems other than finding officials which as is usual gets increasingly difficult as the season progresses.

Those weren't the only competitive basketball games taking place in our facility. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> we welcomed our beloved Nome-Beltz Nanooks back. They came to play the North Pole Patriots a 4A school out of Fairbanks.

As expected the place was rocking and fueled by the energy of a raucous, partisan crowd the boys notched a pair of wins. Unfortunately, the energy wasn't enough to sustain the Lady Nanooks as they suffered a couple of close losses.

But that wasn't all the basketball to have been played here during this reporting period. No sooner were the City League scorebooks stashed until next year and the facility cleaned and the court waxed before Iditarod rolled around. With it came the return of another longtime favorite- the Lonnie O'Connor Iditarod Basketball Classic.

The day after the championships were played and everything put back away and it was time for the Finisher's Banquet on March 19th. Hosted by the Iditarod Trail Committee the affair serves as a combination awards banquet and opportunity for the mushers to give one last shout out to sponsors, family and supporters.



Like last year the event was scaled back with about half the typical amount of tickets sold. Even with a smaller number of attendees it did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd that came to celebrate Ryan Reddington's historic race.

Those weren't the only things happening. On Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> many Nomeites showed up to honor local resident Curtis Worland who tragically passed away protecting his family's dog lot from a herd of muskox. On February 11<sup>th</sup> the Nome Preschool held their annual fundraising auction.

Last and certainly not least the kitchen in the bowling alley underwent a complete renovation. A new floor was installed; all the appliances were replaced; and a produce and handwashing sinks were installed.

Long in disrepair it became obvious that something had to be done back in late September when Typhoon Merbok struck and displaced several families for a week. During that period of housing those evacuees it quickly evident the kitchen was not up to the task.

### **Nome Swimming Pool**

The last quarter saw the pool plagued with heating issues. The water temperature fluctuated between the mid-70's and high 80's both of which were problematic.

When the temperatures are too low no one wants to get because it is too cold. While most patrons don't mind the higher temperatures once it gets above 82-83° Fahrenheit it is unsafe for swim team members to practice or compete.

Still even with these issues we were able to offer the regular slate of community programming such as Open, Family and various Lap Swims. In addition, the Nome North Star Swim Team had a full schedule of activities.

Along with their daily practice schedule the squad was able to host several swim meets: 1) The Gold Rush Swim Meet was held the weekend of January 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> and included visiting teams from Fairbanks and Anchorage; 2) Team Time Trials on February 8<sup>th</sup> (This was an opportunity for swimmers to achieve certain bench mark scores that would allow qualification into the larger USA Swimming sanctioned meets; and lastly 3) The Pot of Gold Meet held during the week of Iditarod on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

With these events completed the majority of the season is over. The only remaining meets are the State Tournament in April and Junior Olympics for those that have scored a qualifying time in a particular event.

On the staffing side a Lifeguard Certification Class was held on March 25<sup>th</sup> and a staff in-service training on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.