

West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department

Staff Management Report

Monday, May 18th, 2015

1. Upcoming Program Dates:

- May 16th, 10 am – 3 pm – Mind BoGgling Event @ Celery Bog Nature Area
- May 20, 5:30 p.m.: Summer Stroll w/ walking safety tips. Start at Morton Center
- May 23-Pool opens with special hours due to delay in school year end.
- June 1: Swim lessons and most summer programs begin.
- June 6: St. Elizabeth Health Fair

2. Pennie Ainsworth, Assistant Superintendent's Report

- a. Softball League play is underway. The first two Mondays were rain outs. Sixteen games have had to be rescheduled.
- b. We have received \$1,000 from the Purdue Research Foundation and \$500 from the Wal-Mart Foundation for Global Fest. A total of \$11,500 has been raised.
- c. Precision Concrete Cutting will do more sidewalk trip hazard removal in our Parks so we comply with the ADA. The cost is \$6,385 and will be paid for with CDBG funds
- d. I have received a request from the West Lafayette Public Library for single admission passes to the municipal pool for prizes for their Summer Reading Club. In the past we have donated 40, they would like more passes if possible. Single Admission to the pool is \$3.50. Forty passes would be \$140 value; fifty passes would be \$175 value.
- e. I have contacted RynoSys Corporation out of Indianapolis to come and do some minor repairs to our pool liner that is on our deck at the pool. We have some tears that need patched and it is pulling away from the diving board frame in areas.
- f. Bess received a request about our Summer Brochure not screen readable on the web site. The IT Department said that the City will have a new web site by mid-June and it will be accessible.

3. Chris Foley, Recreation Director's Report:

- a. The summer staff has been hired for the playground day camp program. There are still a few lifeguard openings.
- b. Pool staff have been making the final preparations for pool opening. We have been working with the IT Dept. preparing the point of sale (POS) computer sales register and the addition of time clock for pool employees. The pool staff has completed their first in-service training.
- c. Due to the change in the school schedule the Pool season has also been adjusted. We will be opening for the Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 23 through Monday, May 25. There will be special hours May 26-28, the pool will be open at 5:00 PM for lap swim and for public swim from 6:00 to 7:50 PM. The Pool's regular season hours will begin on Friday, May 29 – Noon and 5:00 PM Lap Swim, 1:00-4:50 and 6:00-7:50 PM for Public Swim
- d. Registration for summer programs has begun. Some Swim lessons for the little ones have filled as well as some tennis lessons.

4. Dan Dunten, Interim Parks Director Report:

- a. Inspection reports of our playgrounds and trails have been completed and filed.
- b. Happy Hollow Shelters 3 & 4 are now available to accommodate visitors, handicapped or otherwise.
- c. WL Municipal Pool is filled with water, and should be open for visitors on 5/23.
- d. Margerum Fountain is filled with water, and fully operational.
- e. Mowing has been a difficult task to keep up with, but is getting done.
- f. Code Enforcement has requested 3 properties to be mowed this last week.
- g. SIA has donated mulch for use in landscaping and on trails, but not playgrounds.

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- h. Morton Center HVAC units are causing problems; parts are ordered.
- i. Installed the Farmer's Market Shade Sail for 5/6 dedication.
- j. Staff have worked towards compliance of the Storm Water Pollution Protection Plan(SWPPP).
- k. Ball fields have been regularly mowed, raked, and lined.

5. Bess Witcoskey, Morton Center Director:

- a. Mor'Danc'n Recital was a great success with over 700 people in attendance, including almost 200 dancers. A very special thank you goes out to LaVerne Mikhail, her instructors, and all of our volunteers including Alecia Wiltgen, Angela, David, and Shelby Bisher, Joan Goetz, and Jennifer Barnard. This year we had one of the smoothest recitals because of their efforts.
- b. The Summer Stroll Series will kick off Wed, May 20th at 5:30p from Morton. It is themed as our "Safety Stroll" with Officer Janet Winslow as the guest presenter. She will discuss some best practices for strolling around the city.
- c. Morton will be attending the St E Health Fair on Sat, June 6th at 10am
- d. In the News:
 - i. The Journal and Courier ran an article about Bess Witcosky's chat at the Unitarian Universalist Church on April 26th.
 - ii. WLFI showed up for a quick interview at our Mor'Danc'n recital and ran a short story on the 11pm news May 2nd.

6. Dan Dunten, Stewardship Director's Report

- a. Arbor Day: Every Arbor Day (4th Friday in April) we involve local citizens in planting trees somewhere in West Lafayette. This year I coordinated the planting of 16 new varieties of trees along Kalberer Rd. by local individuals. These included Purdue students, preschoolers from Burgett's Child Care, Tree Friends members, Mayor Dennis, Parks and Recreation staff, and Smokey Bear.
- b. Conservation Field Day: We hosted this event at the Celery Bog Nature Area for approximately 150 fourth graders. They received training on a variety of topics and were introduced to a wide range of educational options in the area of Natural Resources.
- c. "Paint The Rain:" I was asked by the Mayor to represent the city on this WREC, Rain Barrel Education Committee. Students from elementary through high school were invited to paint barrels for competition. The judging this year was held in the Lilly Nature Center. Both city mayors were in attendance to support the efforts of the youth and to encourage them to continue their interest in conservation.
- d. Mind BOGgling Event: This yearly event provided an opportunity for youth and adults to learn more about the Celery Bog Nature Area and various areas of Natural Resources. In addition to hands-on activities and hikes, we offered presentations on falconry, monarch butterflies, and wetlands. Each year over 300 people attend this event.
- e. New Wildflower Garden: A group of volunteers from Purdue planted and mulched our new wildflower garden next to the Nature Center. Half of the plants were purchased from a personal donation, plus we used some of the plants we saved from other locations and from a local nature lover (Chad Evans). This garden will add to the enjoyment of visitors.

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7. Janet Fawley, Park Superintendent's Report:

- a. Happy Hollow Road to be closed just below park entrance for next couple of months. Follow the link to view the project elements according to their timeline.
http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/egov/docs/1428006122_148010.pdf
- b. The trail from Morehouse Road to Trailhead Park on Kalberer Rd is now closed for the next month or so.
- c. Cattail Trail Extension (from WalMart to Yeager) is making progress towards completion.
- d. Staff has begun the work of preparing the 2016 budget. Don't have a deadline yet, but expect it to be ready in mid-June.
- e. Professional staff will maintain a booth at the Farmer's Market the last Wednesday of each month.
- f. Instituted a formal process for approving &/or scheduling staff educational opportunities.
- g. Received notice of SIA grant to be awarded for Celery Bog Nature Area. Will keep you posted!
- h. Interviews have been completed to fill the vacancy left by Lee Booth's retirement. On 5/13, Jon Munn, who currently works in the City of West Lafayette Engineering Department, was offered the position of Parks Director. Jon's start date is yet to be determined.