



## Memo

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To: Park Board  
From: Park and Recreation Staff  
Date: January 7, 2014  
Subject: Monthly Update

Following are department highlights for December and early January for your review.

1. Kathy McPeck reported the following for Recreation/Events and Administration:

*Fun and Fit at Columbus Gymnastic Center:*

- a. Open gym attendance for December was:
  - Pre-school (including MOMS Club & MOPS program): 308
  - Thursday & Saturday Family Open Gym: 66
  - Ages 7-up: 43(Numbers for December are a bit low due to closings due to inclement weather and the holidays. We hope to be back on track for January, but unfortunately they are forecasting very bad weather for the week of January 6<sup>th</sup> when we re-open. I'm anticipating some additional closed days due to weather. We'll keep our fingers crossed that Mother Nature gets this type of weather out of her system soon!)
- b. Birthday party rentals for December went well. All available times for the month were booked! As of Jan. 4 only 1 birthday party time remains open for January and several parties have been scheduled for February already too!!!
- c. Friday night Family Open Gym on Dec. 13 attracted 36 children and their parents. The next Friday night Family Open Gym will be held on Jan. 24 from 6:00-8:30pm. Cost is \$3 per child and all children must be accompanied/supervised by an adult.
- d. The MOMS Club will continue with their twice a month open gyms in 2014. They have also scheduled another Friday evening open gym for their group on Jan. 17 from 5:30-6:30pm.
- e. St. Peter's JAM group has scheduled an open gym/field trip with us on Jan. 10 from 10:45-11:45am.
- f. Sandy Hook pre-school will visit on Jan. 28 for a field trip from 9:30-10:30am.
- g. The MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) will also continue their weekly Friday morning open gym session with us in 2014!
- h. Columbus Power Elite All-Star Cheer squad will resume their twice a week practice schedule at the Gymnastics Center on Monday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>.
- i. I have started working on the gymnastics information for the 2014-2015 Fun Guide.
- j. Children from the Boys/Girls' Club visited on Thursday, Jan. 2 for an open gym session.

*Recreation – Events/Program/Teens:*

- a. Approximately 100 attended the annual "Santa's Workshop" event on Friday, Dec. 13. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the "Dennis the Elf Bakes a Gingerbread Cookie" puppet show presented by Adzook's Puppets. After the show there were games, crafts, prizes and snack!
- b. The 16<sup>th</sup> annual "Mom & Me for Tea" was held on Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at Donner Center. The event went very well! The girls came out in their holiday best for the annual fashion show and all did a wonderful job on the "runway"! Looking forward to the 2014 edition already!

- c. Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree will start out 2014 in a great way with another free concert on Saturday, Jan. 18 at Donner Center. Open jam session is at 4pm - anyone with an instrument is welcome to come and play along. Group performances begin at 5pm. Concessions will be available for purchase. Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree is sponsored by Parks & Rec, CAAC, Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center and is generously supported by several local businesses.
- d. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual "American Girl Doll Day" will be held on Sunday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at Donner Center from 1-4pm. Girls ages 5-10 will bring their dolls for an afternoon of "Winter Wonderland" activities. These will include making snow globes, making matching snowflake bracelets and fleece scarves for the girls and their dolls and having some frozen fun for snack! Cost is \$20 per child and space is limited. Reg. deadline is Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>.
- e. The next "Community Cast-A-Ways" garage sale will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 9am-1pm at Donner Center. Booth space is \$26. A great way to get some extra cash!!
- f. The annual "Mad Scientists!" family science night will be held on Friday, Feb. 21 from 6:30-8pm at Donner Center. A variety of hands-on science experiments will be available, along with snack. Cost is \$1 per person and all children must be accompanied by an adult.
- g. Work has begun on the recreation information/programs for the 2014-2015 annual Fun Guide.
- h. The After Prom Party committee will have another meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 6:30pm at FFY.
- i. 9 children enjoyed the "Little Chefs-Sweet Christmas Treats" class on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. A variety of hands-on fun to make and eat "treats" were featured! The kids had some to eat at the class and some to take home to share!!
- j. We are already getting phone calls from folks wanting to reserve spaces for weddings at Mill Race for the 2014 summer and fall!!

2. Mark Jones reported the following for the Sports and Athletic Facility Team:

*Programs/Tournaments:*

- a. Spring Youth Soccer registration has started.
- b. Baseball registration has begun.
- c. Adult Winter Volleyball League starts early January.
- d. Currently working on information for the 2014/15 Fun Guide.
- e. Continuing to finalize 2014 tournament schedule.
- f. Prep work continues for 2014 season.
- g. Mark Jones and Carleen Fry have been attending Sports Indiana Seminars and have made some really good contacts.

*Athletic Facilities:*

- a. Prep work continues for 2014 season.
- b. Projects:
  - Hamilton Center Roof has been delayed due to weather. Looking at early spring to be finished.
  - Hamilton Center Fundraising Project is going strong. Working with Steve Risting and David Doup to finalize construction details.
- c. Dick Wigh Soccer Complex Restroom project should be finished in the very near future. There have been a couple of delays but nothing major.

*Hamilton Center:*

- a. December was a busy month, with the holidays. We added extra sessions from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Christmas break weeks. These sessions brought in close to 1000 skaters each week.
- b. We also had another round of Princess Tea Skating sessions that brought in an additional 22 girls.

- c. We also offered Speed Skating drop-in sessions following our public sessions.
  - d. For the month of December, we have had 12 parties, with approximately 250 children in attendance. We had additional private patio rentals as well.
  - e. Our group lesson program rounded up the winter 1 session in December, and we have started taking registrations for the next session. The next session of group lesson classes which begins January 6<sup>th</sup> is usually our largest session. Our enrollment is close to 100 and sign-ups continue.
3. Casey Ritz reported for Park Operations:
- a. The Grounds Crew worked on the ash tree inventory on other city properties. They also finished fall clean up which included leaf chopping. By doing so, they were able to do the year-end cleaning of the mowers. The crew started flood clean up until the weather changed again and then they helped with snow removal.
  - b. The Maintenance Crew helped at several facilities with Christmas decorations and lighting. They also had several table and chair deliveries. They have started going through the picnic table inventory. The crew again helped with the flood clean up and the city snow removal.
  - c. The Cleaning Crew also worked with other crews on snow removals and flood clean up. Surprisingly, they also still had a significant amount of trash to collect in the parks.
  - d. The Donner Staff was busy again with rentals and parties at Donner Center. They did a great job decorating and preparing the Center for a wonderful experience for the community.
  - e. The FFY Staff worked hard on getting some maintenance items done during a short shut down at the facility. They also had to help with snow removal.
  - f. The Commons Staff had 10 rentals in the Performance Space and 25 meetings in the two conference rooms. Some of the highlights in December were the Christmas Village, City Band concert and the City's Christmas Luncheon. They also had 3 days of field trips from local schools in December.
4. April Williams' reported the following for Project, Resource Development:  
Current projects:
- Continue working with the Hamilton Center Project Campaign Committee. Working with David Doup and Steve Risting to determine timeline and cash flow for projects. Working with Chuck Wilt to solidify donation for patio enhancements. Awarded Visitor's Center grant request for \$20,000.00 toward the project.
  - Continue to attend the Arts District Coalition Team and Urban Infrastructure Team Meetings as a committee member. Assisting Arts District Team by devising a public survey to determine gaps in providing community events. Urban Infrastructure Team has proposed that the downtown trail portion from Lafayette to Jonathan Moore Pike be considered a project for "urban development" due to the economic benefits of this connection. Attended CAMPO Board Meeting to request funding for project. Project approved by CAMPO Board as priority project.
  - Continue to work with AmeriCorps member to make progress in creating an "Adopt a Trail" Program to assist with maintenance of our People Trails. Also establishing "Adopt a Park" Program to assist in maintenance of Parks.
  - Creating survey for participants of First Christmas Village at the Commons on December 7<sup>th</sup> to assist with future growth.
  - Submitted Race2play Project to the Bicentennial Commission as a proposed project endorsed by the Commission.
  - Working with Carl Malysz to incorporate Bicentennial Trust Grant in Golden Foundry Site development

- Park Foundation newsletter was distributed to approximately 2800 households who have in some way generously contributed to the Park Foundation for Parks and Recreation capital projects, programs and maintenance of assets.
- Working with Park Foundation subcommittee to plan PF Annual Community Meeting.
- Working with Park Foundation subcommittee to plan PF Tour de' Trails events to assist with People Trail maintenance costs.

Thank you for your service!

April Williams

c: Mayor Kristen Brown  
Councilman Dascal Bunch  
Jeff Logston  
Parks & Recreation FT Employees