



## Memo

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To: Park Board  
From: Park and Recreation Staff  
Date: October 6, 2014  
Subject: Monthly Update

Following are department highlights for September and early October for your review.

1. Director Mark Jones reported the following highlights:

a. *Budget/Capital:*

- Parks & Recreation staff has been working extremely hard to get quotes in for various projects and equipment whose funding was recently approved through an additional appropriation to our budget.
- Continuing to working with Parks & Recreation staff and Mayor Brown on finalizing 2015 operation/capital budget.

b. *Marketing:*

- Interview process has started and is going very well. I would like to have new person on by end of October.

c. *Parks/Facilities/General:*

- Continuing to do walk-throughs with Parks & Recreation staff on all park facilities.
- Hamilton Center project is going really well and we are trying to lock in a Grand Re-opening for some time in early 2015.
- I've met with Eric Marvin the new Sports Manager at the Visitor Center.
- I'm working with staff and tournament organizers on finalizing 2015 tournament schedule.
- Staff is starting to pull Annual Report numbers together in preparation for the end of the year Annual Report that will come out in early 2015.
- Working with Parks & Recreation staff, Park Board and Jeff Logston on Golf Course agreement.
- Working on the Mill Race Amphitheater project.

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

*Fun and Fit at Columbus Gymnastics Center:*

a. Open gym attendance for September increased by 58 children over August open gym attendance. Open gym numbers for September were:

- Pre-school (including MOMS Club and MOPS program): 543
- Family Open Gym (Th. and Sat. Sessions): 124
- Ages 7-up: 71

b. Our once a month Friday Night Family Open Gym sessions resumed in Sept. on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We had 36 children and parents attend. The next date will be Friday, Oct. 24 from 6:30-8:00pm. Cost is \$3 per child and all children must be supervised by an adult.

c. We hosted 19 parties for the month of September. We are now getting several calls each day to book in Oct., Nov. and Dec. Our party rentals increase as the weather gets colder.

- d. The MOMS groups held a special evening open gym for their members on Friday, Oct. 3.
- e. The "Flip and Dip" program will return for the Oct. BCSC fall break. Dates are: Mondays, Oct. 6 and 13, Fridays, Oct 10 and 17<sup>th</sup>. Participants will "flip" in the Gym Center from 1:00-2:00pm and then "dip" in the FFY pool from 2:00-3:00pm. Cost is \$6 per child/per session. Pre-registration and parent supervision are required.
- f. The Gymnastics Center will be open for normal classes and open gym schedule during the BCSC Fall Break, Oct. 6-18.
- g. Our "Active Artist" program will resume for October. This is a FREE/drop in program where children can make holiday crafts. It is held the first Thursday of each month Oct-Dec. and Feb-April during the 12:30-1:30pm family open gym sessions. Dates for 2014 are: Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec 4.
- h. Tina Cunningham, our Customer Service/Registration Manager for the Gym Center and FFY, has been involved in several community fairs in Sept. She attended 8 different fairs in Sept. These are opportunities to market Parks and Rec/Gymnastics Center and FFY programs.
- i. Children from the Boys and Girls Club overnight program will visit on Friday night, Oct. 3 from 7:30-9pm.
- j. Participants from the Fun For Youth Night (hosted by the Boys and Girls Club) will visit on Friday night, Oct. 10 from 7:00-8:30pm.

*Recreation – Programs:*

- a. Fall Break Magic Camp will be held Mon-Wed, Oct. 6-8 for ages 8-12 at Donner Center. Local magician Travis Easterling will lead the camp. Cost is \$45.00 per child. As of 10/1/14 only 4 spaces remained open for registration.
- b. Fall Break Knit Boot Camp will be held Mon-Wed, Oct. 13-15 from 10am-3pm at Donner Center.
- c. "Little Chefs - Ghost & Goblin Goodies" will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 1:00-2:15pm at Donner Center for ages 5-8. Cost is \$14 per child. A variety of Halloween goodies will be made!

*Recreation - Events:*

- a. Sneakers at Starlight was held at Mill Race Park on Sept. 12 with over 100 attending the event.
- b. Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree Concert was held at Donner Center on Saturday, Sept. 13. We had approximately 300-350 attend for the night. The next concert will be held on Nov. 1 at Donner Center.
- c. 6<sup>th</sup> annual Mill Race Rummage Sale was held on Saturday, Sept 19 from 9am-2pm. We had a beautiful day! Approximately 600 attended to shop!
- d. East Columbus United Methodist Church rented the amphitheater at Mill Race on Sunday, Sept. 21 for their annual service and outdoor picnic.
- e. The Kids Fun Run event of the Mill Race Marathon weekend was held on Friday, Sept. 26 at Mill Race Park. Over 1,100 children participated and approximately 3,500 people were in attendance for the event! It was another beautiful night!
- f. Mill Race Marathon was held on Saturday, Sept. 27. Mill Race Park was part of the route for the event.
- g. The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Drive-In Movie event was held on Saturday night, Sept. 27. We had "The Pirate Show" on the amphitheater stage at 7:00pm and then the movie began at approximately 8:15pm on a very large inflatable screen! Approximately 450 people attended the event.
- h. The annual Ethnic Expo parade will again stage at Mill Race Park on Saturday, Oct. 11
- i. Also on Oct. 11, the annual Kiwanis Duck Splash will be held at the Round Lake at Mill Race Park.
- j. "Trick or Treat Tales", family Halloween event will be held on Friday, Oct. 17 at Donner Center from 6:30-8pm. We will have a Halloween theme show at 6:30pm and then games,

crafts, prizes and snack after the show. Cost is \$1.00 per PERSON. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

- k. The annual Halloween Costume Contest will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26 at Donner Center. Contest for ages 0-6 will begin at 2pm, ages 7-12 will compete at approximately 3pm. Numbers for judging for both age groups will be available beginning at 1:30pm. This is a FREE event.

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

*Programs/Tournaments:*

- a. Fall youth soccer ended – 942 participants
- b. Fall adult soccer continues – 64 participants
- c. Fall adult volleyball continues – 31 teams
- d. Fall adult kickball continues – 10 teams
- e. Continuing to work with CIA (Columbus Intramural Association) and FFY to provide opportunities for area college students.
- f. Casey Ritz and Patrick met with area ambassadors for the USAPA (United States of America Pickleball Association) about programs and the new court(s).
- g. Preparing to end the season for concessions and batting cages.
- h. Patrick has been working with the new Ivy Tech baseball team about using our facilities for games and practices.
- i. CSA fall softball season will conclude at the end of October.
- j. Prep work continues on end of the year prep and spring program start up.
- k. Meeting with staff on a new program committee.
- l. BCSC soccer is starting to come to a close with Sectional/Regional (October 6-11 & October 16-18).
- m. Express soccer fall season is coming to an end.
- n. Rugby season will finish at the end of October.
- o. Interviewing for the Marketing position.
- p. Tournaments:
  - o September 20-21 "Cole Weddle" slowpitch – 30 teams
  - o Other tournaments were scheduled but were canceled due to lack of teams
  - o October we have 2 large fastpitch tournaments scheduled
  - o November 1-2 – soccer tournament

*Athletic Facilities:*

- a. Fall/winter prep work continues throughout all of the Athletic Facilities.
- b. BCSC work continues.
- c. Prep work for upcoming October tournaments underway.
- d. Athletic Facilities team is doing an outstanding job with Hamilton Center.
- e. Touch A Truck was a great team effort with Athletic Facilities Team and Park Operations.

*Hamilton Center:*

- a. We have started taking registrations for our Fall 2 session skating and hockey programs. It promises to be a very busy season!
- b. We are currently gearing up to begin our Hockey season, and our Skating season, by putting together our calendar schedule. Our pre-school sessions will also be starting again. Broomball and Adult Hockey will also be starting their seasons soon.
- c. On September 27<sup>th</sup>, we held our fifth annual skating extravaganza. This event provided members of the community an opportunity to try out Figure Skating, Hockey and Speed Skating for free. It was a great success! Each club as well as Hamilton Center staff was on hand to provide additional information to guests along with the opportunity to sign up for classes. We had approximately 250 people who participated. The exhibitions went great with demonstrations from our user groups.
- d. We held our second IU vs KY hockey game at the rink on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. There were over 200 people who attended and IU said they had never had such a turn out!! Both

- IU Hockey teams as well as the Bloomington youth teams have been practicing at Hamilton, since their ice has been shut down for the summer.
- e. The renovations are almost complete. We just need a few polishing touches here and there to really make things shine!
4. Casey Ritz reported for Park Operations:
    - a. The Maintenance Crew assisted with many events held in the month of September including Sneakers at Starlight, the Rummage Sale at Mill Race Park and Donner Park Variety Show. They installed the covered bridge flooring for the Mill Race Marathon, as well as delivered tables and barricades for the event. The Crew has also spent many hours removing and replacing the siding at the Skate Park.
    - b. The re-landscaping that has taken place outside Hamilton Center is the result of many hours of hard work by our Grounds Crew. They have also prepared for multiple events and meetings that were held over the past month. In preparation for fall and cooler weather, the Crew has been working to repair the turf areas that were damaged with their previous use as construction sites.
    - c. The Commons Staff worked through a very hectic month of September. There were 18 Performance Hall rentals and 28 Conference Room meetings. The Playground was busy with a total of 175 extra children enjoying the area on two separate field trips. All outside windows were washed and some painting was done inside the building. The Commons and staff ended the month by hosting the Mill Race Marathon. Staff assisted with the set-up and tear-down of many events and activities. They were kept very busy stocking the restrooms and cleaning the facility over the marathon's three day period.
    - d. Donner Staff assisted with the set-up and tear-down of 12 events held at Donner Center this past month. Staff has been busy with daily maintenance and upkeep, as well as supporting the contracted crew that has been painting areas throughout the Aquatics Center.
    - e. Staff has been installing internet wiring throughout the FFY building during the past month. Gary and staff are also working on updating their job descriptions and duties lists, as well as attending to day-to-day repairs and cleaning.
    - f. Due to the high volume of events that were scheduled in the month of September, the Park Ops Cleaning Crew has been very busy with trash collection and restroom cleaning. The Crew supported several Shelter House rentals for parties, reunions and workshops. Staff completed their excellent summer-long assistance to the 2014 Farmer's Market that was held for the final time this past month.
  5. Shanda Sasse reported for The Commons:
    - a. September events included 34 non-profit meetings in our two conference rooms and 7 rental events (3 private/3 free to public /1 ticketed). Estimated guest count for rental events was 13,074.
    - b. Looking Ahead...
      - Oct. 1 – 30 Artwork from Richards Elementary is on display in the playground area (Free)
      - Oct. 4 Wedding Reception
      - Oct. 5 City Band Concert (Free)
      - Oct. 14 – 15 MPO Conference
      - Oct. 17 Toyota Service Awards Banquet
      - Oct. 18 Wedding Reception
      - Oct. 19 DanceStreet Showcase (Free)
      - Oct. 21 Cummins Women's Infinity Group
      - Oct. 24 Wedding Reception
      - Oct. 30 – Nov. 3 Ofrendas Display that coincides with the Nov. 1 Dia de Los Muertos Celebration (Free)

6. April Williams' reported the following for Project, Resource Development:
- a. *Current projects:*
    - Hamilton Center: Working with Case Construction on donor brick area. Confirming recognitions and finalizing pledges and commitments. Meeting with Steering Committee to confirm final construction items. Planning for the Ribbon Cutting Celebration.
  - b. *People Trails:*
    - Coordination of engineering and design for Clifty Park extension, Haw Creek trail and Downtown trail.
    - Meetings with property owners for Clifty Trail
    - Meetings with engineers regarding Haw Creek Trail
    - Phase 1 section, State Street to Lafayette. Working with Christopher Burke and subcontractors to reach our goal of completing the project before year end. Groundwork of Phase 1 has begun. Section is on schedule to be complete by the end of October. Ribbon cutting planned at the completion of the project.
    - The Park Foundation has adopted the State Street People Trail (Indy cultural trail as model) expansion as an upcoming project. Meetings with Implementation Team.
  - c. *Other Projects:*
    - Meetings with planning committee for Bike Share Project.
    - Meeting with planning for Skate Park renovation.
    - Planning of Park Foundation Board Retreat.
    - Organizing Park Foundation Long Term Planning Team.
    - Creating content for Park Foundation Newsletter.
    - Meeting with Park Foundation Constituents.
    - Attended the Cummins United Way Fairs at four locations to bring exposure to the Parks Department and Park Foundation ~ share the opportunity for employees to contribute toward our "parks".
    - Created a Parks Dept. slideshow presentation encompassing the history and current extent of our park amenities.
    - Creating the Generations Club Campaign.
  - d. *Events:*
    - Planning for Christmas Village 2014.
    - Planning of Colorflow Yoga in the Park fundraising event for June 2015 at Mill Race Park.
    - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sneakers At Starlight event on September 12<sup>th</sup> at Mill Race Round Lake was a success. Final net profit is still being determined. Survey to participants has been sent out and responses will be reviewed soon. Proceeds benefit the State Street People Trail expansion.

Thank you for your service!  
April Williams

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