

MARION PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: June 16, 2015

TO: Marion Mayor & Council

SUBJECT: May to June 2015 Staff Reports



Park Board Activity

- **Future Park Development:** The Board reviewed information regarding a land donation for a future park development south of Hwy 151 and east of Hwy 13. The Board is recommending the City Council accept the land donation.
- **Grant Application:** The Board directed staff to submit a REAP Grant application for a future park development associated with the land donation.
- **Approvals:** Request to vend in Thomas Park daily 5 to 7:30 p.m. by Tim Bird DBA Peppy's Ice Cream.

The bid and purchase from P&K Midwest (Hiawatha) for a 2015 Land Pride AMF4214 Flex Mower and trade in of a 2009 Land Pride AMF4214 in the amount of \$7,682.76.

Department Report

- **Police Station Landscaping Project:** Broad leaf control was applied to the prairie grass areas to help the grasses become better established. Mulch was removed from three large landscaping beds and replaced with 1" to 3" river rock to help reduce future maintenance concerns. Trees along the front of the station were mulched with red mulch to match existing landscaping beds. Washouts along both the public and employee parking lots were addressed by reshaping water ways and installing erosion control stone.
- **Faulkes Heritage Woods:** Rich Patterson is developing a maintenance plan for the 110 acres of natural forest.



- **Waldo's Rock:** Staff meet on site with the Council Member Paul Draper and State Geology officials to talk about the rock's significance. This is a future park land area that is near the walking trail on the east end of Marion.
- **Oak Shade Cemetery:** There were five burials in May and four spaces sold.

The cemetery was given extra care in advance of Memorial Weekend so that visitors would see the beauty of Oak Shade. All grave sites that have had burials in the last three years were checked. Any spaces that needed attention were weeded, top dressed with dirt and reseeded. The grounds were in top shape for the busy weekend.

On May 23, members of the American Legion, Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery, and local boy scouts placed flags at spaces to honor those who have served in the military.



Sometime over the Memorial Weekend, vandalism occurred knocking over and damaging headstones.

- **Citizen Requests:** Following the April absence of any citizen requests, in May we were contacted about 63 properties that had tall grass. After verification of the Code violation, proper notification, and a re-check, staff mowed 14 properties.
- **Pre-Summer Preparations:** The sun shades were installed on the youth playground in Thomas Park.

In advance of Memorial Weekend, the flower beds along the 7th Avenue viaduct were weeded and mulched, all parks were trimmed and the flag pole in City Square Park was painted.

The Thomas splash pad fixtures and ground nozzles were installed. The Water Department installed the water meter and charged the system and our staff tested the splash pad and recalibrated its features before opening to the public on Memorial Weekend.

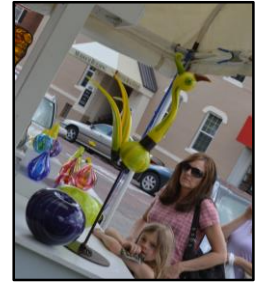


- **Ball Diamonds:** Usage of the ball diamonds at Lowe, Starry, and Peg Pierce is in full swing. This requires staff dragging and chalking diamonds every day, as well as picking up litter, emptying garbage cans and cleanup of all restrooms in preparation for games during the week and tournaments during the weekend. Mowing and trimming are completed weekly and painting foul lines is done every two to three weeks.
- **Pool:** Staff finished startup tasks for the pool and performed some preseason cleaning and repairs in the building and on the grounds. The new sun umbrellas were installed throughout the deck area.

The splash pad controller that was replaced last fall was tested and is ready to go. The system was charged and turned on for the season.

- **One Day in May Project:** Parks employees removed the benches from the Uptown planters along 7th Avenue at 11th Street and power washed the south side planter. Volunteers from Marion High School's One Day in May were provided stain and supplies to refinish the planters. Mulch was also provided by the department so the group could weed and mulch the north and south side planters. The caboose was also cleaned out and the interior was painted white by the students with paint provided by the department.

- **Marion Arts Festival:** In preparation for the Arts Festival, the department completed many tasks to make the Uptown area and City Square Park shine and ready for the May 16 event. Staff power washed the north planter and bus stop shelter along 7th Avenue at 11th Street and then stained both. The old bike rack near the south planter was removed and a new bike rack was installed. All trees in City Square Park, the Library and City Hall were mulched with gold mulch. All flower beds along 6th Avenue and in City Square Park were weeded and cleaned up.



Banners were placed on poles in all four corners of the park and along the roof line of the Depot. All electrical was tested throughout the park including the Depot and caboose.

- **Gill Park Splash Pad:** The area around the new splash pad has been seeded and should be established soon. Calaccci Construction has a few items to correct before the splash pad can be opened to the public.
- **Recreation Programs:** Kick Star Soccer, for 3 year olds, ended on June 3 after several rainouts caused the program to run 2 weeks past its original end date.

Little Sports Camp wrapped up on June 2. We had 26 total kids participate in the program with both a morning and evening session being held. The sports covered were: football, soccer, blastball, and basketball.

Backyard Lawn Games Camp finished up on June 2, with 7 kids participating. Games played included: Bags, Ladder Ball, Bocce Ball, and Frisbee Golf.

Little Kickers Kickball began on June 1. Morning and evening sessions are being offered with 12 and 15 kids registered respectively.

Our second summer of youth tennis is underway. Session 1 begins June 8 with 30 registered for youth lessons, and a few adults for our *new adult session*.



- **Sunrise Yoga:** This partner program with the Marion Blue Zones begins June 6 at Lowe Park and continues each Saturday through August. A big turnout is expected as over 300 people have rsvp'd to the event through a combination of phone calls, Marion Blue Zones' website, and the Facebook event page.

- **Fish Iowa:** This joint program with Wickiup Hill takes place on June 6 at the Lowe Park Pond. There are 20 kids signed up for the free fishing clinic.
- **Summer Meals Site:** The summer meals program at the Thomas Park Safe Room began on Monday, June 8 and will run through Friday, August 21. Meals will be served from 11 to 11:30 a.m. at the Safe Room. City of Marion employees are volunteering to cover Tuesdays and Thursdays, while Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays will be covered by volunteers from other area organizations.
- **Baseball/Softball:** PeeWee Baseball and Softball began practices the week of May 18. Blastball had their first games June 4, and PeeWee games begin June 5.

- **Summer Safety Night:** Summer Safety Night was held at the pool on May 28. The pool staff partnered with Marion Police and Fire to conduct presentations on grill and camp fire safety, K9 demonstration, stranger danger, and water rescue demonstrations. A police car and fire truck were on exhibit for visitors to take a close up look at these emergency response vehicles.
- **Sun Safety:** The Community Cancer Center conducted two sun safety trainings for parks and pool staff. Through a grant we were awarded three gallons of sun screen to be used at the pool, Lowe Diamonds, and by park staff at Thomas Park.



- **Pool:** The pool opened on Monday, May 25. We have had special hours while school is in session. Night swimming lessons start June 8.

Marion Fire & Rescue visited the pool during lifeguard in-service training to discuss what our staff should expect when responders arrive. It was a great learning experience not only for pool staff but the rescue staff as well.



PAVILION RESERVATIONS – MAY

Pavilion	Free	Paid	TOTAL	Attendance*
English – Thomas Park	6	13	19	1,450
Begley #1 – Thomas Park	3	16	19	885
Begley #2 – Thomas Park	0	12	12	615
Hanna Park	0	11	11	885
Depot - City Park	2	9	11	580
Taube Park	7	11	18	875
2015 TOTALS	18	72	90	5,290
2014 TOTALS	26	54	80	3,204

*Does not include attendees to Marion Arts Festival (Depot), Trees Forever Garlic Mustard Pull (English) and Farmers Market (Taube)



SAFE ROOM & ARTS CENTER USAGE – MAY

Events with alcohol permits: 4
Some reservations use more than one room.

Room	Paid	Free
Safe Room	11	3
Amphitheater	0	0
Lobby	0	1
Art Room	0	2
Sunburst	10	13
Hickory	23	4
White Oak	1	4
Red Oak	4	0
Red & White Oak	18	10
Entire Facility	0	0
Outdoor / Greenhouse	0	0
2015 TOTALS	67	37
2014 TOTALS	48	39

Activity Type	Monthly Usage	Number of Attendees
Building Visitors	n/a	42
Gallery Open / Arts Council Activities	3	70
Helpful Smile & Fresh Conversations	2	24
Seniors Bingo	4	64
Senior Dance	7	142
Senior Cards	9	122
Parks / Recreation	6	1,798
Meetings / Work / School Event	7	330
Blood Drive	1	29
Graduations	49	5,840
Family Gatherings / Showers	8	530
Rehearsal/Wedding/Reception	1	50
2015 TOTALS	97	9,041
2014 TOTALS	87	6,033