

Recreation Department Directors Report- April 29, 2019

The monthly Director's report is designed to update you on the activities the Recreation Department is working on.

1. Recreation Center Update: The timeline has remained the same, Fall of 2019. No other updates have been provided.
2. The Soccer program kicked off on Saturday April 27th under some difficult weather conditions. Although our registrations were down about 28 players, 26 of them were from the little kickers program which we anticipated would happen. Each winter we ran a partnered program with First Touch Futbol Academy for 3-5 year olds (kicker ages) and those players typically would move from the winter program into our kicker programs. We will need to continue to focus on this. On a positive note, the new format for grade 1/2 was well received by the coaches. They practiced for 30 mins with Coach Liam and then played a 30 min game. They will do this every Saturday but on Tuesday's it will be just games.
3. Summer Camp registration continues to be strong. We will evaluate our available openings after the early bird registration period ends, on May 13th. Most of the staff interviews have been completed; however we are struggling to find a Waterfront director. A waterfront director is needed for us to be able to go to the pool or beach. We have reached out to several area swim teams, schools, rec depts, and YMCAs in hopes to find a person. We are also exploring the option to pay for our director to be trained.
4. The New York State Recreation and Parks Society annual conference was outstanding. Wes and I had a chance to attend a few classes and network with other parks and rec departments. At the commission meeting, I will share with you some of the highlights and ideas we plan to implement.
5. Mike Veitch, DPW business manager, and I met to discuss the chiller issue at the Weibel Ice Rink. The plan is to replace the chiller rather than continue to put money into repairs. The cost is roughly 300k for a new chiller. I agreed to transfer \$95,285 from Field Rehabilitation which was intended to rehab the field at north side rec. I also agreed to transfer \$117,001 from New Recreation Field which was intended to be used if we purchased new property. In addition, we had \$73,000 allocated for new entry doors and new locker room shelves at the ice rink which we will not be doing.
6. Game Time will also be providing us with a plan for Veterans Memorial Park playground which I hope to have in a couple of weeks. This way the commission can review both Kompan and Game Time's proposals to decide on the playground plan.
7. The City is hiring a Communication manager. The purpose of the position is to inform residents about City Hall-specific events/meetings, news, and decisions. They will inform residents by using the City website, City social media accounts, and assisting with press releases as needed (such as providing correct templates, formatting, distributions lists, or text review). I am part of the interview process because it has been indentified that this position would greatly support the Recreation Department. It is expected to have a person in the position by the end of May.
8. The School has approved the entire 2019 capital request as well as the use of old capital money to repair the skate bowl. The skate bowl project is becoming increasingly difficult. I am not able to find a contractor willing to do the work unless we replace the bowl completely. I will continue to explore more options.