

Recreation Department Directors Report- November 30, 2021

The director's report is designed to provide a monthly overview of Recreation Department's work.

1. Outdoor Skating: Discover Saratoga has requested to meet with the City again in hopes of offering an outdoor skating rink this winter. I was unable to schedule a time with DPW but I directed them to the Commissioner of PW. I have offered our support should DPW and Discover Saratoga move forward with the idea.
2. Assistant Administrative Director of Recreation Position: Lisa Morahan started on November 17th. She is currently meeting with the staff and learning our operations.
3. Veterans Memorial Park Playground Project: Friends of Rec, the Mayor, and I presented the plan to the businesses at Grande Industrial Park on November 4th. There were 5 local businesses in attendance. I will continue to work with FOR to identify potential sponsors. The goal is to begin construction in 2022.
4. Renaming of Rec Center: On Thursday, December 16 Commissioner Madigan will be hosting a ceremony in honor of Scott Johnson for the renaming the Recreation Center after him. At the request of the finance office I am working on prices for a new sign outside, a new sign on the side of the building, and a new sign inside the rec center.
5. New Mayor: The staff and I are meeting the incoming Mayor, Ron Kim, on November 23 to share with him our goals and learn more about his goals.
6. Youth Basketball League: Our youth basketball league kicked off on November 6th. We struggled this year obtaining volunteer coaches for the league. As a result we were forced to delay the start of the 9-12th grade division from 11/6 to 11/20. We plan to review our volunteer coach refund policy to see if that has contributed to the reduction of coaches not only in basketball but the soccer program too. Wes Clark, the program coordinator, is coaching two teams until we find coaches. Overall the basketball program has been successful. The intro program led by Coach Ron Lewis is seeing its highest participation ever. To help coordinate the program the department hired Athena Ryan. She is a long time volunteer with the Recreation Basketball program and was recommended by Coach Lewis.
7. Intro to Ice Skating: The intro to ice program continues to see growth year after year. Jill Ramos, the program coordinator, is actively recruiting new coaches to ensure we can accommodate the number of skaters. Additionally we are working with Saratoga Springs Figure Skating, Youth Hockey, and Winter Club to promote their programs to our graduating skaters.
8. Skate Park: The project is slowly progressing and there is still hope that construction can begin in the Summer of 2022. The Department of Public Works is reviewing the proposal from Artisan Skate Parks to determine how to best support the project. On Deck Saratoga is raising funds in hopes to have the bowl included in the project. The bowl is estimated to cost about \$50-75k. The proposal minus the bowl is about \$265k.