

Town of Munster
Department of Parks and Recreation
Board Report August 17, 2021

DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATION

2022 Budget: The Department's budget worksheet for 2022 has been submitted to the Clerk-Treasurer's office. Increased line items were included to cover expected part time wage range increases. Also included were increases to allow focus on contracting out additional park mowing to better utilize staff hours to do the 'odd' or less repetitive jobs that continually arise in operating a parks and recreation department.

Baseball Tournaments: Munster Little League hosted the State of Indiana tournament and Munster Babe Ruth hosted the Ohio Valley tournament in back-to-back weekends in July without any problems.

Pool: The pool was open on Sunday, August 8th as the last day for the public and the canine cannonball event on Monday, August 9th. Staff is now working on closing everything down for the season after a few leaks in the pump room get repaired. A pool summary will be presented at an upcoming meeting. With school starting on August 9th for staff and August 11th for students the ending date was earlier in the summer than what is traditional, but it also allowed a cut to the operational expenses at the pool which was necessary in a year when revenues were down due to the pandemic.

SSCVA Jumpstart Grant: The Town did receive notification that it was awarded a Jumpstart grant for \$20,000 from the South Shore Convention and Visitor's Authority. These funds will help finance several fall events due to budget cuts we made earlier this year.

Dog Park connectivity: Some antennae were moved at the dog park and some other troubleshooting was done by Impact to get the dog park gates reconnected to the Town network. As of last week, everything seems to be back working again.

One Region Parks Collaboration: The Director has been meeting with a group of other parks departments and the staff at One Region to discuss opportunities to collaborate for a better northwest Indiana.

Cricket Pitch: A meeting was held SEH about the Cricket pitch specifications as they were put out for quotes for the pitch at West Lakes Park.

Pennsy Bike Ride: Meetings have taken place with Schererville and Munster Parks staff to prepare for the inaugural Pennsy Bike Ride. The ride will be on Sat. Aug. 28th from Rohrman Park in Schererville to Centennial Park in Munster and back. It will include the exclusive opportunity to ride through the Centennial Park golf course on the cart paths.

Fall Park Use: Several the fall athletic programs have started or will be beginning soon. This includes Pop Warner, Munster Soccer, Munster Parks and Recreation soccer, Fall baseball and

Fall softball. Midwest Wings will not be using Beech Park this fall to allow for some upgrades to the fields. This will include adding dirt to some low spots and reseeding bare spots so it's ready for next spring.

RECREATION

Summer Camp has ended. Fifty campers per week were a good start during COVID. Next year, it is a hope that numbers can continue to increase. Per week, we averaged 20 waitlisted children.

Community Market has running well. Many new vendors are secured each week, however attendance has been hit or miss. We have 2 markets left.

Michigan Wine Tour was very well received! This exact tour was requested again for the spring 2022.

Cabela's and Meijer have been secured for Fishing Derby donations.

Programs/events to run this month: Movie in the Park, Craft in a box, Picnic Playdate, Koolaid and Kanvas, Scavenger Hunt, Challenger British Soccer Camp, 2-hour tennis camp, Steel Country Summer Concert, Canine Cannonball, Bow Wow & Meow Pet Fair, Pennsy Bike Ride, Baseball BINGO, Movie and Snacks featuring Jaws, Chicago Premium Outlets.

Canine Cannonball is open to dog park members to enjoy the Munster Pool upon closing to the public. Dogs swim, run, play and enjoy the atmosphere with their owners. 31 members took part in their event.

Fall Soccer is upon us. 362 players are registered. Looking forward to a successful and rain-free season.

Pint Size Camps ran well with 119 enrolled. Nine of the 10 schedule camps are active.

Session #2 completed of youth and adult tennis. Classes ran very well with most at capacity. Many positive compliments were given to staff and the parks office about instructors and the overall classes.

Safety BINGO was well-attended with 34 Keen-Agers. Officer James Ghrist gave a brief safety talk and passed out literature and prizes provided by Ace Hardware.

Smash & Splash Tennis Camp ran well with only 4 participants. All campers received individualized attention on the court and plenty of swim time at Munster Pool.

Biddy Baskets, Lil' Mustang Kickers and Hit Run and Score completed the Afternoon Sports Camps. With a total of 60 enrolled, classes ran smoothly and the parks office received many positive compliments.

Currently 175 Keen-agers are new or have renewed their membership for 2021.

Fourteen August rentals have been scheduled for the Community Park Social Center, 7 shelter rentals and 6 Heritage Park Weddings. At Munster Pool: 4 birthday parties, 6 private parties and National Night out are reserved. At this time, 10 rentals are scheduled for August with 1 Heritage Park wedding. Calumet Region Photo Club begins their rentals in September.

Munster Community Pool: During the 8 days of August the pool was open, there were 4 private parties, 5 birthday parties. There were 23 Rescue Reports and the average daily attendance was 400 people. Staff will perform an in-depth report to present to the Board within the coming months for the 2022 season.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF COMPLETED PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	R	NR	REVENUE	EXPENSE	VARIANCE
2-hour Tennis Camp	7	8	\$ 1,280.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 1,100.00
Afternoon Sports Camps	50	10	\$ 2,765.00	\$ 188.00	\$ 2,577.00
Canine Cannonball	18	13	\$ 360.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 328.00
CPR	2	1	\$ 175.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 115.00
Group + Private + Semi-Private Swim Lessons	223	107	\$ 25,120.00	\$ 4,161.50	\$ 20,958.50
Koolaid and Kanvas	9	1	\$ 200.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 104.00
Ladies Empowerment Walk	3	19	\$ 264.00	\$ 177.60	\$ 86.40
Pint Size Camp	107	12	\$ 4,820.00	\$ 154.75	\$ 4,665.25
Safety Bingo	34		\$ 170.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 160.00
Smash & Splash	4	0	\$ 720.00	\$ 186.00	\$ 534.00
Summer Camp	319	133	\$ 59,975.00	\$ 24,507.92	\$ 35,467.08
Wine Tour	0	8	\$ 280.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 265.00
Youth & Adult Tennis Lessons -- Session 2	79	27	\$ 7,884.00	\$ 1,626.43	\$ 6,257.57
TOTAL:	846	338	\$104,023.00	\$ 31,395.20	\$ 72,627.80

PARK/CENTENNIAL MAINTENANCE

Park Maintenance

In addition to daily trash and litter pick up, bathroom cleaning, Social Center set up, daily pool maintenance, gas plant monitoring/maintenance and leachate pump operation/recording, the following tasks were completed;

Replaced a LED board on the Babe Ruth South field pitch counter.

Cut up more of the old barrel garbage cans.

Replaced the damaged tube section on the Sunnyside playground. Gametime changed vendors so the original color was no longer available, the replacement is a different shade of purple. So far, no complaints.

Pressure washed a large section of the pool deck.

There has been problems with the pool PH for several weeks leading to more acid being used than necessary. After replacing the PH probe on the chemical controller and adding 300 pounds of sodium bicarbonate, things are back to normal. The sodium bicarbonate had to be picked up at Aqua-Pure in Romeoville.

Made a temporary repair with epoxy to the toddler slide in the pool. Fiberglass was chipping away. The red slide at the pool was air locking, a loose valve was discovered and retightened

Bleachers were moved for the Little League tournament. Staff worked extra rounds during the tournament and delivered picnic tables and temporary fencing to Babe Ruth for the Ohio Valley Tournament the following week.

Put out movie in the park banners.

Delivered 20 barricades to the high school for band practice.

Cleaned up the spoil piles created by Thornton Blacktop at Frank Hammond when the widened the blacktop paths. Spread black dirt and seed along the new paths.

Opened and cleaned the A/C unit at the Babe Ruth press box, which started leaking during the tournament. It was being run with the windows open bringing in the high humidity causing excess condensation.

Staff continues to fill tree bags on the trees that were planted in the spring.

Set up for the National Night Out Against Crime.

The Little Free Library that was donated by Joshua Arredondo was installed at Stewart Park near the playground after staff made some improvements; better hinges, secured roof shingles, and painted.

Centennial Maintenance

Trimmed the trees in the north and south parking lots, low hanging branches. Also, the bushes between the maintenance entrance and the fire department door so a fire department vehicle could be parked there.

The Jenbacher engine oil was changed.

Pressure washed the outdoor bathrooms and shelter floors.

The new A/C condenser at the maintenance building was finally installed by Popa Heating and Air Conditioning.

Set up for Movie in The Park.

The door to the mechanical room was closed by someone and had to be pried open. The lock was modified so it can't happen again. The building shifting has caused the frame to be out of alignment.

A 4 inch main irrigation line broke at the bottom of Centennial south, Thomas Irrigation was called in to complete the repair.

Installed another memorial brick.

Cabeno removed the temporary well head jumper from the golf course. Staff helped get the materials back to the shop.

The A/C went down at the clubhouse during an event, staff was called out to reset and clean the condensers.

Delivered a water cooler and stand from the club house basement to the pool.

Bushes were trimmed along the Pennsey Greenway from Twin Creek to the dog park.

Worked on reinstalling drop ceiling panels in the banquet kitchen.

We have lost two seasonal employees, one at Centennial and one from Fisher Street.

CENTENNIAL PARK

Centennial Park July Synopsis;

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Total Golf Rounds	2,711	4,233
Green Fee Revenue	\$35,724	\$38,442
Cart Fee Revenue	\$10,038	\$5,027
Pro Shop Sales	\$3,073	\$4,124
Range Revenue	\$9,200	\$14,330

Sales/Banquets

In the last couple of weeks, the sales office had 60 in office appointments/tours; there were 94 new leads.

Bookings include; 3 2022 weddings, 3 showers, 4 shelter rentals. The View was booked for a grad party and a shower. The entertainment stage was booked for a "Dinner in Blanc" event. Pepsi is renting meeting space for strike negotiations.

The View is booked every weekend with events.

July F & B revenue was \$126,495.

Course Maintenance

This last week maintenance staff has been doing detail work, edging sprinklers, weed whipping bunker edges and tee signs and fences. Trees that are overhanging the edges of ditch lines are being cut.

There has only been a 1/2 inch of rain since July 28. Staff has been hand watering dry spots on greens daily. With the drought, it's easier to find sprinklers that aren't working properly. Occasionally clogged nozzles are found or heads that are not turning properly. These are then fixed.

August will be a basic maintenance month before more intense aerification time in September. Tees and fairways will be done after Labor Day by staff. The first Tuesday in October will be the greens which is done by CS Turf who has been every year since 2016. They will deep tine (10 to 12 inches). The course will be open sometime after lunch. This date was picked because the leagues are mostly done, and the greens have time to heal before we start getting frost.