

Town of Munster
Department of Parks and Recreation
Board Report October 19, 2021

DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATION

Gariup Construction has started work on the cricket pitch. Once the concrete is completed and the turf is in hand it will be glued down. The project will then be at the mercy of weather.

As was done in 2020, the Town is planning to do one large General Obligation bond rather than a G.O. Bond and a Park Bond. This will save the Town money in bond issuance costs. Park staff has submitted a capital improvement and equipment list to be included. About \$1.2 million remains in un-used park bond funds. Staff will be reviewing past Scopes of Work to determine what projects can and will be completed or deemed no longer necessary. Where projects came under budget or were not completed, the Board may be asked to approve transferring the surplus funds to a general bond fund for use as other capitol projects come up.

The Town received the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds and the Town Council has approved \$500,00 to be budgeted to the Park Department. These funds are now available for use as part of the regular budget and will help with expenses for utilities, supplies and services through the end of the year. Prior to receiving the ARPA funds, moving and transferring from sub accounts in the operational budget was done to cover operational expenses.

As of October 18th, The Department is finally fully staffed with two new maintainer II's hired. We welcome aboard Fernando Lopez (Oct. 4th) and Christina Edwards (Oct. 18th). Linda Dillon retired October 1.

The fountain at the Monon Trailhead is back on. NIPSCO has completed work in the area in preparation for the train line. The brick pavers were restored but not to Park Department satisfaction. Many have sunk and there were some washouts in areas excavated for utility work. Staff is working to get this resolved.

The Board's recommendation for the Community Resources Phase 2 Development was forwarded to the Plan Commission as input for the public hearing on October 12th. The Plan Commission was thankful for the input and receptive to most ideas. The Plan Commission also asked the developer to provide additional pedestrian routes to the park site which will be between some parcels.

RECREATION

Superintendent and Marketing Coordinator attended Munster Chamber of Commerce meeting. Trunk or Treat and Walk in the Woods were advertised to local businesses.

The Community Market ended with 42 vendors/weekly. Evaluation surveys on improving the market in 2022 were emailed to vendors.

Youth and Adult tennis wrapped up a wonderful season. There were 203 new players who participated in 36 programs. Staff has started searching for coaches for 2022.

Pumpkins, Witches and Hayrides OH MY had the best attendance on record. Over 2,000 were in attendance, and families had many fun opportunities to choose from. A huge thank you to our MHS volunteers and event sponsors: South Shore Convention and Visitor's Authority, St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, Montessori Children's Schoolhouse, Homewood Disposal, Community Healthcare Systems and McDonald's.

Programs/events to run this month: Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training, CSRI Yoga, Craft in a Box, Cupcakes and Competition, Koolaid and Kanvas, Ballet/Tap/Tumble, Tiny Tot Dance, Mysterious Munchkin Halloween Party, Baller Basics Basketball, First Base Baseball, First Down Flag Football, Ladies Empowerment Walk – Refresh, Renew, Regenerate, Balance 101, Car Maintenance, Sewing 101, Pumpkins Witches and Hayrides, Walk in the Woods, Trunk or Treat, Bieker Woods Night Walk, Trick or Treat BINGO, Little Traveler, Four Winds Casino, Old Joliet Prison and Mayflower Travel Show.

Fall Soccer is wrapping up after a very successful season and will conclude on October 16. 422 players competed on 34 teams across 4 age groups. There was only 1 COVID case reported.

Adults are slowly but surely coming around to doing trips during COVID: This month, Little Traveler and Old Joliet Prison went in the park van, and Four Winds Casino went in a 15-passenger bus.

Keen-agers currently number 181. 2022 memberships go on sale December 1.

In October, 16 rentals are scheduled at the Social Center and 4 shelter rentals. Groups that rent the Social Center on a regular basis have been asked to lock in required dates for 2022 as reservations open to the public on November 1.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF COMPLETED PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	R	NR	REVENUE	EXPENSE	VARIANCE
Adult Beginner Tennis	7	0	\$360.00	\$94.00	\$266.00
Adult Drill & Play	7	7	1,460.00	188.00	1,272.00
Bird Watching	24	6	0.00	0.00	0.00
Community Market	42/week		10,366.58	3,884.75	6,481.83
Craft in a Box	1	0	20.00	10.00	10.00
CSRI Open Gym	8	4	300.00	10.00	290.00
Do you hear what I hear?*	2	2	250.00	10.00	240.00
Fall Tennis Lessons 4-8	8	5	755.00	120.00	635.00
Fall Tennis Lessons 9-13	7	3	580.00	60.00	520.00
Fall Soccer League	356	66	22,145.00	8,976.39	13,168.61
Grandparents Day BINGO	29		145.00	97.86	47.14
Ladies Empowerment Walk	3	6	225.00	150.00	75.00
Little Traveler Van Trip	2	4	188.00	25.00	163.00
Munster Community Pool	25,614		232,841.87	151,169.19	81,672.68
Pumpkins, Witches and Hayrides OH MY!	2,000+		25,582.30	11,960.17	13,622.13
TOTAL:	28,110	103	\$295,218.75	\$176,755.36	\$118,463.39

*\$250 Brochure Ad Sponsorship

PARK/CENTENNIAL MAINTENANCE

Park Maintenance

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

Assisted in hanging a couple of large display cases at town hall. Repaired/re-shimmed a toilet at the Social Center. Benches in Community Park were repaired. The exhaust fan in the Monon fountain vault was replaced. The upper cables on the Kidnetix spinner at White Oak Park were replaced.

Tree and bush trimming continue. The trails in Bieker woods and at Heritage Park were cleared of downed trees and debris in preparation for the upcoming Halloween events.

The pool buildings have been Winterized.

Staff prepared for and cleaned up after, Pumpkins, Witches and Hayrides event. Event banners were switched out.

Centennial Park Maintenance

The generator is running again as of October 13 after being shut down for about six weeks waiting for repair parts.

Staff did set up and take down for the movie in the park and the Pumpkins Witches and Hayrides event.

13 stained carpet squares were replaced at the clubhouse.

Time is being spent training new employee.

2 memorial plaques were installed.

Locating and trimming around irrigation valve boxes in preparation for winterization.

CENTENNIAL PARK

YTD through September total revenue is up 65% from 2020. Food and beverage revenue is up 133%.

16,927 rounds of golf have been played. Green and cart fee revenue is up slightly, and range revenue is about the same as 2020.

Sales/Banquets

In the past 2 weeks the sales office had 87 new leads. There were 45 in-office appointments.

Bookings include; 2 wedding ceremonies, 3 bridal showers, 2 celebrations of life, 1 birthday party and 3 weddings in 2022.

Golf Course Maintenance

The greens were aerated October 5th. The ground was a little wet, and it took a couple of extra days to get the greens in playable shape. As of this report, they are healing up nicely.

Staff is now aerating tees. As of October 12, 5 of the 9 sets of tees have been done. Heavy rain on October 11 halted this process until the course dries up.

Fairway aeration will start the week of October 18.

The course may need an extra fungicide treatment this year due to the higher-than-normal temperatures coupled with the above normal precipitation recently; disease has returned.

Use of an air compressor is scheduled for the last week of October to blow out the irrigation lines. This takes 3 to 4 days to complete between the golf course and the park.