

Town of Munster
Department of Parks and Recreation
Board Report
March 15, 2022

DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATION

Repaving the Stewart Park parking lot was included in the 2021 GO bond. Working with Jill DiTommaso at SEH to get this project finalized for quotes. The project should be completed in 2022.

Pool parking lot and south Lions Club Drive repaving: Working with Jill at SEH to have borings done on the pool parking lot and south Lions Club Drive to determine if we can simply grind and resurface or if a full rebuild of either area will be needed. Once that's determined, we will have to coordinate with Munster High School as to how and when to schedule any work. This likely will have to be done in 2023 so there will be plenty of time to notify everyone and minimize disruption of the area for users. The challenge is that either school is in session or the pool is in season.

Skyler Ramberger, Recreation Supervisor, resigned from the department after accepting a new job in Mokena, Illinois. His last day was March 2nd. The search is on for a replacement.

Approval has been given to get the gate to the Centennial Park maintenance yard automated. The same company who provided this service for Public Works is going to install the necessary equipment to allow the gate to be opened/closed with the touch of a button. This will make the yard more secure.

A Municipal Complex Improvement Committee made up of Town staff has begun to meet which includes the Director. This a group has been charged with determining the needs for the facility in the next 20+ years. The Park Department would like to gain additional office and storage areas as well as additional space for recreational programming.

The Munster Civic Foundation held a meeting to get community-oriented groups (service groups, churches, schools, athletic programs, etc) that offer events in Munster together. The coordination of events/calendars beneficial as is the potential for further partnerships between groups for the overall betterment of Munster. The Director and Superintendent of Recreation attended. It was flattering to see how many groups the Department already works with to offer space, events, coordinate volunteers and sponsorships. The Director and Superintendent also attended the MCF March meeting with a request for funding so we could add some concerts at Centennial Park this summer which was approved so concerts will be added that are at the same level as the ones held at Town Hall in the summertime.

The Boy Scouts will be hosting a camp this summer at Community Park for a week in June. They will mainly be utilizing greenspace around the pool, the Lions Shelter and the Boy Scout building. Met with them to discuss their layout for activities and desire to close part of Lions Club Drive from the pool to the social center during camp as they will be back and forth across

that road during the week of camp. The road will re-open each night in time for baseball and softball games in the park but will provide a safer experience for their 100+ day campers.

A request for proposal was put out for private security services. This will be discussed at today's meeting.

Proposals were sought for a replacement vehicle for the Park Department's Town Vehicle. This will be discussed at today's meeting.

Centennial Park architect Request for Proposals sent out to 21 different companies. The RFP was also posted on the Town website. The Director also directly contacted several architects at the IPRA conference/show in Chicago in January. The proposals were due back by March 3rd. Further discussion will be required to determine which firm to engage with for these services.

Virtual meeting attendance: You should have all received an email last week from Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer about virtual meeting attendance. Since Governor Holcomb ended the statewide Covid-19 public health emergency, new rules are in place governing meeting attendance. These rules were adopted by the Town Council in ordinance #1830. The biggest ones to be aware of are that at least 50% of Board members must be physically present at a meeting where there is virtual member attendance, no member may attend more than 50% of meetings virtually in a calendar year and a member cannot attend more than 2 consecutive meetings virtually.

RECREATION

Staff is working on the Summer Recreation Guide.

Recreation staff has been conducting interviews to fill summer positions. Superintendent has been conducting interviews for summer intern, market manager, camp director and counselors. Pool assistant managers and head guards have been hired. Lifeguards, swim instructors and attendant positions are still open.

Superintendent met with Premier Porta-Potty to schedule all portable units for 2022.

Planning for the Colors of the World Culture Festival is in full swing. Staff is working hard to secure ethnic groups, clubs, dance troops and musical entertainment.

Southside Christian Church has been secured as a rain location for all five Summer Concerts scheduled at Town Hall for a minimal charge.

Swim lessons – session #2 began with 62 children in group lessons and 24 in private and semi-private.

Chicago Crime and Mob Tour was successful. Northbridge shops trip was March 10, and the next trip is Chicago River Architecture Tour in April.

Programs/events to run this month: Abracadabra, Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training, CSRI Open Gym, Craft in a Box, Cupcakes and Competition, Home Alone Training, Henna Art, Koolaid and Kanvas, Leprechaun Flashlight Hunt, Line Dancing, Intro to Sports, Shooting Stars Soccer, Volleykidz, Volleyball Skills and Drills, Wado-Ki Karate, Yogi Life, Balance 101, Luck

of the Irish BINGO, Basic Excel, DIY Tic-Tac-Toe, Mosaic Class, Evita Lunch and Show and The Shops at North Bridge.

We continue to take 2022 Keen-Ager memberships and perform membership checks weekly during the social center daily activities. At this time 163 have renewed.

Ten March rentals have been scheduled for the Community Park Social Center. Eleven rentals are on schedule thus far for April.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF COMPLETED PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	R	NR	REVENUE	EXPENSE	VARIANCE
Babysitting Lessons/Safety Training	3	3	\$ 270.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 120.00
Baller Basics Basketball	30	4	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 320.00	\$ 1,060.00
Crime & Mob Tour	2	7	\$ 635.00	\$ 332.03	\$ 302.97
Cuban Dance Class	9	2	\$ 935.00	\$ 660.00	\$ 275.00
Evita at Drury Lane (Lunch/Show)	15	23	\$ 3,503.00	\$ 3,383.74	\$ 119.26
First Base Baseball	14	5	\$ 785.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 625.00
First Down Flag Football	8	1	\$ 365.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 205.00
Kool-aid and Kanvas – February	5	0	\$ 100.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 52.00
Leprechaun Flashlight Hunt	23	5	\$ 140.00	\$35.00	\$105.00
Line Dancing	9	2	\$ 715.00	\$ 429.00	\$ 286.00
Mayflower Trip Reimbursement	1	0	\$ 279.60	\$ 20.00	\$ 259.60
Northbridge Shopping O2L Trip	0	5	\$ 205.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 180.00
Super Smash Brothers Ultimate eSports Tourney	15	7	\$ 240.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 220.00
Swim Lessons – Group/Private (session #1)	49	6	\$ 4,750.00	\$ 2,167.75	\$ 2,582.25
Wado-Ki Karate	16	1	\$ 289.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 269.00
ZUMBA	7	1	\$ 450.00	\$ 315.00	\$ 135.00
TOTAL:	206	72	\$ 15,041.60	\$ 8,245.52	\$ 6,795.48

PARK/CENTENNIAL 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, the following tasks were completed;

Assisted Public Works with snow removal during the early February heavy snow storm along with plowing all parks.

Switched the Gator 835 from tracks back to tires and installed new mirror and light kits.

Met with Midwestern Electric to determine our backup power needs for the building. The quote was \$26,800 for a Generac 200 amp, 30kw natural gas-powered generator. It was decided to wait on this due to the increased price of the unit.

The shop and mezzanine at both Fisher Street and Centennial, were cleaned and organized.

The Social Center floor was scrubbed, and the building thoroughly cleaned.

The new pool boiler was installed. A rotted flue pipe was discovered during the installation and is on order.

Worked with Impact to install a new Wi-Fi antenna at the dog park.

The clubhouse elevator was temporally decommissioned. The Otis Elevator maintenance contract cancelled

A paint cabinet and supplies were moved from the clubhouse basement to the maintenance garage.

The pro shop was rearranged to allow customers just inside the main door and block access to the rest of the building.

Added high visibility fire hydrant markers to all hydrants in Centennial Park.

Frozen drains were dug out along South Centennial Drive.

With the warmer weather, a porta potty had to be added on North Centennial Drive until the bathrooms are opened April 1st .

Christina Edwards has passed her CDL pre trip walk around inspection and driving test, and is now off probation.

Miscellaneous tasks include;

- ✓ Replaced worn swing bolts at Grove Park
- ✓ Assembled a new additional lifeguard chair
- ✓ Community Park batting cage nets were put back up
- ✓ New flags were installed at Centennial, Community and Heritage Parks
- ✓ A damaged bollard light in front of the clubhouse was repaired that got hit by a vehicle

CENTENNIAL PARK GOLF

The course opened for play on Tuesday March 1, 2022, with the driving range opening (Mats Only).

Through Wednesday March 9:

Total Rounds 260

Public rounds 237

Compared to 381 rounds in 2021, with 154 of those rounds public

Green fees \$3,166.00

Cart fees \$217.00

Driving Range \$923.00

Golf Revenue 2022 Through March 9

2022 YTD: \$9,784.43 vs. 2021 YTD as of March 10, of \$19,578.38

Course Maintenance

March has been a roller coaster for weather. Several warm days have allowed Centennial to open when above 45 degrees. The Golf Course Superintendent was able to change cups on Saturday March 5 and put out some trash cans.

All trash cans, ball washers and tee markers have been cleaned, sanded, and painted. Staff will gradually put these items out as the golf season starts up. Divot boxes will be done this week.

The maintenance staff has spent many days pumping flooded areas on hole #1 because of clogged drains. The Superintendent has been working with several companies to get updated quotes for trenching in new lines. A combination of the landfill settling, and sediment have caused the original line to fail.

Centennial Mechanic is on pace to finish preventative maintenance work as the season starts.

Most of Centennial's vendors are all reporting greater than average increases in prices on everything related to fuel, shipping, supply chain, and raw materials. It can be as simple as not having product, but no container to ship it in.

A new issue this winter has been the public going on the golf course. The kids have moved sledding from the hill and range, out on the golf course plus several dog walkers are making a lap around the course.

The golf course conditions look good as spring approaches. A couple of 70-degree days in a row will green it up.

Most of the maintenance seasonal staff is returning. One new employee lined up for April. There is a combination of retired workers and college kids.