

## Parks Commission - Recreation Division - Report 8/9/2023

**No COVID-19 cases in Recreation at this time!**

### Recreation Division - Position status/Vacancy

- Asst. Facility Supervisor - Tennis – currently being advertised
- Outdoor Recreation Coordinator- reviewing applicants; setting up interviews soon
- Recreation Programmer (Stephens)- reviewing applicants for interviews
- Therapeutic Recreation Specialist – setting up interviews when Sherrie returns from vacation
- JFDAC Fitness Specialist- offered; awaiting offer response
- Assistant Aquatic Specialist- awaiting approval to advertise/hire

### Community Centers

#### Stephens Community Center:

- The School had a Bottle Saver Station installed on the water fountain.
- The Summer Playground Program reached full capacity.
- Officer Brandon and Tolentino came out to talk with the kids (Pops with a Cop).
- American Idol Nia Renee' came by to sing and interact with the kids.
- The kids had a great time with a candy toss.
- The Cooling Center is opened. A Participant came in feeling really bad and very hot. Said, she had just given blood. We researched and found that fish and whole grain would be good. She said she felt better after eating and drinking.
- Registration for Youth Volleyball started July 3, 2023.
- The Men's fall 40 & over League registration began July 7, 2023.

#### Dunbar Community Center:

- **T-Ball/ Baseball:** These athletic programs teaches youth the basic fundamentals of the sport while creating an environment for safe play. Youth practiced and played against others in their respective age groups and were giving an opportunity to compete in league and tournament play. Dunbar had one team in baseball and one in tee ball.
- **Summer Playground Program:** Dunbar had 200+ participants in the Summer Playground Program this year. Youth spent their days enjoying field trips and free play at the community center. During the last week of the program we had swimming on Monday, took in a Travelers game on Tuesday and Thursday (last day), we had a talent show with a special performance from Nia Renee (American Idol contestant), youth also enjoyed having snow cones and electronic day.
- **Upcoming Fall Programs:** We are promoting the programs that take place in the fall. Programs include Latchkey, Volleyball, Cheerleading, and Basketball.

#### West Central Community Center:

- **Youth Sports Program:** We ended the baseball/tee-ball season on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Director Lewis came to join us on the last day championship game. All games were played in a timely manner. The season went well with no major incidents. WE are preparing to have an end of the season banquet. We are preparing to start advertisement on volleyball.
- **Karate:** The Karate program had 15 participants for the month. They resumed classes on July 25<sup>th</sup> at West Central Community Center
- **West Central CC:** Reopened door on July 17<sup>th</sup>, and we are slowly having customer come back. Our senior program and Dance programs have both resumed activities. We will have an official grand

reopening on August 9, 2023 9:00 a.m. – 8:00p.m. with a variety of things going on all day such as Scavenger hunt, three-point shootout contest, bingo, and other activities.

- **Rentals:** The center had a total of 3 rentals for the month.
- **Maintenance:** We have had all maintenance request and work orders fulfilled for the month. The walls in the banquet hall, main hall and gym have all been freshly painted. Floors in the banquet room and senior room have been cleaned. Everything was ready for the reopening.

### **Southwest Community Center:**

- **Summer Laurette Program:** The Southwest Community Center Summer Laurette Summer program has ended for the year with approximately 100 youth participating daily. The program age group range from 6-15. All participated were offered breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. After breakfast the summer program began with educational and nature walks or open discussion depending on weather. All youth were offered the opportunity to participate on weekly field trips offsite as well as swim on site a couple of days out of the week. The program will end on July 20<sup>th</sup> with an annual celebration for all participants, parents and friends. Surveys were taken at the end of the program to assure the best quality programs were being offered.
- **Youth Athletics:** Southwest Community Center Youth Soccer, Baseball, Tee-ball has ended for the season with 3 teams overall participating. The baseball games were played during the week Monday through Thursday at West Central Community Center. Soccer clinics were held at Southwest Community Center Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The season was very exciting and fun for those that participated. Junior hoops season also ended with four teams playing for the championship. Football skills and drills has taking place with activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays open registration for football has opened targeting ages 5-14. Football season will begin late August
- **Special Events:** Southwest Community Center is in the process of cross training all staff to assure customer service, programs and special events are offered to the highest standards. Southwest Community Center will be scheduling weekly pickle ball trainings on Thursday mornings for anyone that's interested in learning the game of pickle ball. The goal will be to register at least 10 participants in advance to teach the basic fundamentals of the game and educate the importance of healthy living and cardio. Southwest Community Center has also engaged in advertising and communicating all events, programs, meetings etc. Through social media Facebook. July 15<sup>th</sup> we hosted "BOOKS ARE US" reading event that offered several vendors, fire trucks, food vendors, free haircuts and the opportunity for kids to understand the importance of reading.
  - Midnight basketball began on Thursday July 20th the hours of 9:00 p.m.-11:45p.m. August 7<sup>th</sup> we will host our first Advisory board meeting of the year 6pm-7pm. Baptist health will host a Back to School event August 9<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-7pm. Stephanie Smith will collaborate with SWCC to host a Health seminar focusing on helping individuals receive health insurance. 5:30pm-7:00pm.

### **ELR Community Center:**

- Had a successful Summer Playground Program, FUNDAY, contest, and awards ceremony. The youth totally enjoyed the MacArthur and Clinton Library weekly visits and the various Fourth of July activities. Looking for the 2024 summer to be a blast.
- Everyone got a chance to hear, share and enjoy the American Idol contestant, Nia Renee performance and interaction.
- Youth did a really nice shaving cream art project, which was framed and signed by everyone. They also, made jewelry and mirror image names.
- There were visits from the LR Police and MEMS, they both gave very good information to the participants along with trinkets and freeze pops.

- East Little Rock Neighborhood Association helped with the end of the year FUNDAY, with food, drinks and played games with the youth.
- The youth learned what to do in case of fire, tornado, and lights going out and performed those drills each time successfully and during an actual emergency.
- Met with the architect, floor and roof reps this month in going forward with needed renovations to the facility.
- Provided a cooling center due to high temperatures for the citizens of Little Rock, very low attendance for the month.
- Maintenance cut, edged, and blew grass on the entire grounds and multi-purpose fields.
- Located 10 tables provided for tornado distribution site, need to get those returned ASAP. Constantly no answer at the number provided.
- East Little Rock Neighborhood Association held their monthly meeting this month. Will continue meeting monthly.
- AAU Football continued their pre-season practice Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday when it is not too HOT.
- The community groups are still using the outdoor basketball/tennis courts and other areas to do exercises and fitness. They are there 5 to 6 days per week, with about 8-10 participants.
- There is still some of use of the field/park...daily/weekends, celebrations, family gatherings, tennis court (hopefully to be refurbished as multi-use courts) for walking and playing matches, and other activities. Multi-purpose field Lights are working.

### **Senior Programs:**

The Active and Aging Seniors from Dunbar Seniors, East Little Rock Seniors, Southwest Seniors and West Central Senior each offer various arts and craft projects, exercise programs, play various games such as Skip-Bo, dominoes, phase 10, bingo, bean bag baseball, chair volleyball, pickle ball, pool, make jewelry, dance classes, etc. Baptist Health Outreach provide Free Screenings for Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure and pulse reading once a month for Dunbar Seniors, Southwest Seniors and West Central Seniors.

- **Dunbar Seniors:** Finished their Art Project, played Bean Bag Baseball, Baptist Health Outreach provided their monthly blood pressure and sugar screenings, a great fellowship and snack day, enjoyed their Bible Study Sessions and Dominoes Challenge going strong
- **East Little Rock Seniors:** Still dancing up a storm, finalized one dance routine, garden is doing well tomatoes doing fine cauliflower did not make it, working on ceramic pieces/jewelry making, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic with homemade ice cream, watermelon and the works truly enjoyed and a few of the seniors went to Branson to attend the play Queen Ester and do a little shopping and they had a guest speaker.
- **Southwest Seniors:** Played a special BINGO, had a watermelon party, indoor bowling game, Baptist Health Outreach monthly screenings, pool challenge, played Skip-Bo, worked on an art project and had a special pop-up visit by Gold Ticket Winner American Idol Nia Renee.
- **West Central Seniors:** Challenge Hayes Center in chair volleyball weekly, Badgers won the Summer League Bean Bag Baseball losing only one game and that was to our other team the Blazers on the last day, loved playing pickleball and chair volleyball with the youth participants, went to Benton for bean bag baseball game. Finally got to move back to West Central Community Center!!!! FEMA no longer utilize the Community Center and Seniors are HAPPY to BE HOME!!!!!! They did a Special Thank You Presentation to the Southwest Community Center Staff for their hospitality.

### **The Centre at University Park:**

- The Centre had 22 Internal CLR bookings for the month of December of which 2 cancelled.
- December total revenue for the month of December **\$0**
- Total attendance **655**.
- **Meetings:** LR City Agenda/Board, Human Resources C.S hearings, Planning Dept., Parks Commission, Parks Work Order, Age Friendly Little Rock Commission, Parks Pioneers Interviews, NUSA, LR Marathon, Parks Stat, LR Mock Board Meeting, LR Special Board Meeting

### **Therapeutic:**

- Summer camp kids were able to visit many of our facilities such as the MacArthur Park Unlimited Playground, The First Tee, the Little Rock Zoo, Jim Dailey, Southwest Community Center, and MacArthur Museum.
- Coming up we will be preparing for Fall Sessions which will tentatively begin on August 14<sup>th</sup>. We are working to completely restructure our youth programming. We had an influx of new participants this summer that fall into a younger age bracket and need a specific direction of interventions and programs to be offered. So we are working with them and the families to determine the direction we want to go and what type of programming is desired.

### **MacArthur Military Museum:**

- Museum attendance for July was 2407, which was a 17% increase over last year's attendance for the month. This total includes: (1) Off-Site outreach at the Summer Playground Program and the Summer Laureate Program, (2) On-site visitation, (3) Special events, and (4) Virtual Programming through the museum's virtual mini-documentaries and interviews. Attendance to date at the museum is 24,423. On-site attendance is up 49% compared to last year and off-site outreach has tripled. Gift shop sales are 27% compared to 2022.
- The museum partnered with the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs and the Korean American Federation of Arkansas to host the Korean War Armistice Day ceremonies on July 27. Presentations occurred inside the museum and were followed by a wreath laying at the Arkansas Korean War Veterans Memorial in MacArthur Park. Approximately 130 persons attended the event, including Gov. Sarah Sanders, ADVA Secretary Kendall Penn, and the Korean Consul General from Houston.
- The museum continues to host two traveling exhibits through the end of summer. *The Color of Freedom: Honoring the Diversity of America's Servicewomen*, on loan from the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington, VA will be on display through August 26. *Manufacturing Victory: The Arsenal of Democracy* is on loan from the National World War II Museum in New Orleans and will be at the museum through September 4.
- The museum is working with the Clinton Presidential Center, the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs, the Arkansas Women's History Institute, and the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington to plan an Arkansas Women Veterans Symposium in March of next year.
- The next "Movies at MacArthur" film is scheduled for August 15 and will be *The Real Inglourious Bastards*. The film relates efforts by the U.S. government's newly formed Office of Strategic Services in World War II to train thousands of men and launch hundreds of undercover missions. *The Real Inglourious Bastards* recounts the thrilling story of one of the most successful of these missions—Operation Greenup, comprised of two young Jewish refugees and one Wehrmacht officer. Movies are shown the third Tuesday of each month with the exception of November's film. A flyer of our August film is attached.

## **Athletics**

- **Interstate Park Program:** Field Rental reservation will slow due to construction at Interstate ballpark
- **Adult Softball Program:** Registration opened up for the fall softball league on July 15, 2023 and run through September 12, 2023. League will start in September once road construction is complete.
- **Summer Playground Program:** Summer playground ended July 27, 2023. We had six location Baseline elementary, Washington Elementary, J.A Fair, East Little Rock, Dunbar and Stephens Community Center we had 524 kids in the program this year the same as last year. We also passed out surveys and the biggest change for 2024 will be more teen camp activities and fieldtrips.
- **Adult Flag Football League:** New Program coming back to Interstate Park in 2023

## **Rebsamen Tennis:**

- ATA had one tournament here (over 100 players) July 22-23, 2023
- “Paws at the Net” tournament held (fundraiser for CARE) here (165 players) July 14-16, 2023
- USTA mixed doubles season has started and well attended, leagues play Monday-Thursday 6-9 p.m.
- July revenue over budgeted amount so looking good there
- Looking to hire Assistant Facility Supervisor in the next two weeks
- Looking to replace a few part time Tennis Aides (desk) as our current staff is head off to college
- Courts 5, 6, 9, 10 were resurfaced (look great!)

## **JDFAC:**

- Hosting a special activity starting on July 20<sup>th</sup>, Midnight Basketball (Ages: 16 and up). It is open play basketball after business hours on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 pm to Midnight to give the young adult an activity during the summer months. The special activity is going well. Had over 60 + in attendance for the month of July.
- All fitness classes are doing well with attendance.

## **Aquatics:**

We are continuing with swim lessons throughout the month of July. Group lessons are \$40 per session and Private swim lessons are \$80 per session. The lessons are divided into the following groups: Pre-School (Ages: 3-5), Youth/Teen (Ages: 6-17), and Adults (18+). We have three different swim levels: Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced. We had 183 sign up for the group swim lessons and 49 signed up for the private swim lesson. The swim lessons are going well.

- On July 15<sup>th</sup>, Jim Dailey hosted Movies at the Pool. It is a community family event held at the outdoor pool. The cost is \$5.00 per person. The movie shown was Puss in Boots: The Last Wish. We had 61 in attendance for this event.
- All aquatic classes are doing well with attendance.

## **Rebsamen Golf:**

- On August 16<sup>th</sup>, we have Ladies Golf Association City Play, approximately 35 golfers generating \$900 in revenue.
- Although we do not have any tournaments scheduled for August, it is our busiest month. We can anticipate generating over \$130,000 in revenue for the month of August.

## **First Tee:** The Heat Wave Continues.

- We have accomplished quite a bit so far as we continue to bear this summer heat in Arkansas. With summer camps wrapping up in the next 2 weeks, to High School practice and matches fixing to start up for the school year, the amount of play continues to be on the rise. This can also attribute to the course conditions improving day by day. Superintendent Clint Sellers and his crew do a fantastic job

by keeping the course freshly groomed and continue to knock out small projects planned for the remaining of the year.

- Just recently UALR did fraze mowing on their baseball field. By doing this they leave piles of Bermuda grass behind to allow for new grass to fill in. Kind of like what we do for our aerification process of the golf greens. . We have acquired some of this grass at no charge and are in the process of distributing it across areas of the golf course that are bear with no grass. This will be a huge plus for the course and will definitely improve the quality.
- Very happy to know that we should be taking delivery of our 40 new golf carts in the month of August. This is an increase of 15 additional carts than normal. This will allow us to reserve more groups and in return, generate more revenue in daily green fees and cart rentals.
- In closing we are starting to look at future projects for 2024 and will continue to monitor our spending and revenue income for the remaining 2023 year end.