Hiawatha Parks and Recreation

To:	Park and Recreation Commission
CC:	Mayor and City Council
From:	Kelly Willadsen, Park and Recreation Director
Date:	May 10th, 2016
Re:	Park and Recreation Report

Reports:

- **Parks Board Community Meetings- June, July and August**
  I would like to have three meetings throughout the summer in each of our parks. These meetings will be open to the community but marketed towards the people that live near each park. We would like to survey our park users and see what they currently enjoy and what they would like to see additionally. We haven't had a survey since 2010 so I believe this will be a great opportunity for us to collect some data.

  June-14th Guthridge Park
  July- 12th Tucker Park
  August-2nd (need to meet earlier with conflicts) Clark Park

  5:00-6:00pm with meeting to follow if needed.

- **Kennedy Advanced Art Class Sketches for Learning Center:** Rick, Ted and Kelly painted a base coat on the education center in Guthridge Park before the Kennedy art students begin to paint the classic fairy tale mural on the structure. They will begin painting on Monday, May 9th. The Friends Foundation supported the painted and supplies for this project. We are excited for the outcome.

- **Memorial Bike Rodeo and Parade/Concert in the Park:** On Friday, May 27th at Guthridge Park we will be holding our annual Bike Rodeo and Parade. Free bike helmets will be given away to the first 50 kids and fitted by members of the Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Foundation. The parade around Guthridge Park will be led by a Hiawatha Police Officer at 5:30pm. Don't forget the Concert in the Park to follow! Swamp Cats will treat us with rock and roll, pop and some blues and country from 6 to 9PM. Many thanks to our sponsors: Iowa Association for Justice, Hiawatha Police Department and Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Foundation.

- **Sustainable Tree Grant:** The next Sustainable Tree Grant session with be on May 25th in Clark Park where we will learn the proper ways of planting and maintaining trees. We will be planting 10 trees total that day.

- **Vino Van Gogh:** The next Vino Van Gogh class will take place June 9th at 6:00pm. We hope we can get enough interest this time around. They have been a good company to work with so far.

- **Dance Club Cardio:** Dance Club Cardio took place in the Community Center on May 2nd from 6 to 7pm! They had a great turnout with 35 people in attendance. Ashley Grabe is great to work with and has a large following. Back In Line Chiropractic sponsored this free event for anyone interested in attending. Usually her classes are $6.00 per attendee.

- **Adult Volleyball:** May 4th was the first night of session #1 for adult volleyball. They will have three sessions throughout the summer and will also put on a tournament during our Hiawatha Fun Fest event on August 27th.

- **Farmers Market:** We had the first farmers market on April 24th. We currently have 35 vendors and of the 35, 27 are seasonal vendors (meaning they are planning on being there weekly throughout the season). Dawn, Kelly and Dave Saari were out there to explain the rules as well as go over the new weekday market that will start in June. We have 6 vendors interested already and will accept 12. The week day farmers market will take place in the City Hall Parking lot from 4-6pm. Dawn Ewoldt will be the manager for this market.

- **Iowa Parks and Recreation Association Spring Conference:** Kelly and Ambyr attended the Iowa Parks and Recreation Association Spring Conference in Council Bluffs, March 28th-31st. They had the opportunity to present on Professional Development for new and young professionals in the Iowa association. The presentation informed listeners on how they can improve their professional development from self-evaluation, resume building, available scholarships and certifications, committee opportunities, networking and how to advance in their carrier. They had about 30 people attend their session.

- **Parks and Recreation Website:** The website is now launched with online reservations and program registrations. Since launch we have been working out a lot of glitches and trying to get used to the new system. We have a pretty good relationship with Metro Studios figuring out the pros and cons and how to make it as user friendly for participants as possible. They have not taken on a project this big before so it has been a learning experience for everyone. We hope to get it running smoothly over the next few weeks.

Upcoming Events and Programs

- **Bike Rodeo and Parade**: May 27th from 4:30 -6:00pm in Guthridge Park
- **Concert in the Park**: Swamp Cats, Friday May 27th from 6-9pm in Guthridge Park
- **Adult Volleyball Session #1**: May 4th-June 29th
- **Youth Volleyball Clinic**: June 9th- June 30th Registration Deadline June 1st
- **High School Volleyball League**: June 9th-28th June 9th through June 30th
- **Hiawatha Adventure Camp Session #1**: June 6th-July 1st Registration Deadline May 13th
- **Hiawatha Tennis Session #1**: June 6th – June 23rd
- **New! Yoga in the Park**: Mondays in June and July from 6-7pm in Guthridge Park
- **Vino Van Gogh Painting**: June 9th at 6:00pm in the Hiawatha Community Center
- **Hiawatha Farmers Market**: Every Sunday 11-2pm in Guthridge Park until October 23rd
- **Hiawatha Weekday Farmers Market**: 2nd and 4th Wednesday's in June, July and August from 4-6pm in the City Hall parking lot.