PARK AND RECREATION REPORT

To: Park and Recreation Commission

CC: Mayor and City Council

From: Angie Cole, Park and Recreation Director

Date: July 19, 2011

Re: Park and Recreation Report

**Review of Large Group Rental Form**

The current Large Group Pavilion form is used to accommodate companies, churches, etc that host large picnics, employee days, etc. This form is used to help know how much more to stock for paper products, trash bags, etc. We have not had a problem with clean up for these events and use the extra cost to cover the cost of the additional supplies.

**Fertilization treatments**

Fertilization treatments can be determined by the location, use, and current condition of the lawn and weeds. High use areas and newly established areas may need more chemical treatments than those already established and used less. A motion does not need to be made to not spend budget funds but can be determined by the park maintenance crew and other department heads for their areas (city hall, library, etc).

**Farmers Market rate change (seasonal and one-time)**

Hiawatha has an average rate for farmers market stalls in the area. We have not raised fees since we first established the market. We are running into a space issue as we are quickly running out of parking lot spaces to place our vendors reaching over 40 vendors on Sundays. We have an above average market with a very high traffic count and friendly services.

**Community Center rental changes (hours and cancellation fee changes)**

I would like to change the current fee from $25 to $50 to avoid the amount of refunds we issue and the hours from within 48 to within 72 hours of cancellation. Giving refunds takes a lot of our time and paperwork to complete with our department and the finance department.

**Community Center Audio/Video Fee**

We currently charge $25 for our audio/video fee which does cover the cost of our bulb replacement ($1000 for both bulbs). We have seen a big increase in our rental of this feature and could raise the fee to $40 to increase our revenue.

**Install Ball Diamond rental fee**

We currently take requests to reserve ball diamonds and open spaces of in all of our parks. In order to do this we have to put them on a calendar only after we have received their insurance forms, dates, times, locations, number of people, etc (seen on form). We do not currently use this form but I would like to implement it to collect the information whether we install a fee or not. The Hiawatha Kids League currently issues a fee for setting up the ball diamonds.

**PARK UPDATE:**

* Our 2 seasonal employees are busy cleaning park pavilions, restrooms, community center, and mowing. They fill out a maintenance check sheet each week so we can make sure are hitting all flower bed areas, etc.
* We have received permission IDOT to let volunteers work in the eye380 landscape project area. We are working to recruit volunteers to help us get that area cleaned up and maintained.
* Hog Wild Days went over well with a walk-through before and after the event.
* We will be getting quotes to repair underground wires to the basketball court since we have one light not working.
* The vandalism has decreased since my initial email regarding it.

**RECREATION UPDATE**

**Volleyball**

There are two volleyball leagues currently in session. The Kennedy League has begun, playing on Thursday evenings as well as the new adult league started on Wednesday nights. Both leagues have been successful so far, with the Kennedy League larger than it ever has been before. Permanent lines have been placed on the courts to allow these leagues to set up boundary lines during their games.

**Tennis**

The first session of tennis has started for ages 4-13. These lessons have between 2-6 players in each group and they have lessons on either Mondays or Thursdays. Coaches come to us from Westfield Tennis Club in Cedar Rapids.

**Blastball**

Blastball is set to begin July 18 with almost 200 children and close to 50 coaches. This program will also implement scrimmages for the first time. Coaches will have a meeting the week prior to practice with a short tutorial provided by the Hiawatha Kids League.

**Friends of Hiawatha Parks and Recreation**

A friends meeting was held at the end of June with members determining specifics on HiBRAI, looking at financial information, and ironing out more specifics for the annual Playing for Keeps event.

**I am on vacation until July 18th but can be reached by cell phone if necessary. ☺**