PARK AND RECREATION REPORT

To: Park and Recreation Commission

CC: Mayor and City Council

From: Angie Cole, Park and Recreation Director

Date:

Re: Park and Recreation Report

**Cedar Valley Research and Recovery Yearly Use Agreement for Community Center**

CVRR would like to renew their Yearly Use Agreement for the Community Center. They have paid the yearly fee and also rent the audio video equipment for each rental. These dates are open for their use. A motion from the Parks and Recreation Commission to the City Council is needed for approval.

**Horizons and Meals on Wheels Yearly Use Agreement for Community Center**

**Local Meal Programs Respond to Funding Cuts** Cedar Rapids – Local meal programs for the elderly are facing a 10% cut in the number of meals funded by state and federal dollars administered by the Heritage Agency on Aging (Heritage). Heritage serves as the local coordinator of services and passes through the approved state and federal funds to providers. The reduction is a result of recent state and federal funding cuts for the fiscal year beginning July 1.  The area’s two largest congregate and home-delivered meal providers for the elderly, Horizons, A Family Service Alliance and Witwer Center, are working together to minimize the impact of these cuts on seniors.  More than 26,400 meals provided by Horizons and Witwer Center are impacted. "Heritage, along with many other organizations that serve the frail and at risk in our community, has had to implement difficult funding cuts beginning in FY12.  Our partnership with Horizons and Witwer is greatly valued and their ongoing advocacy on behalf of seniors in our community is critical," said Ingrid Wensel, Director of Heritage Agency on Aging. – Horizons Press Release June 2011

The Hiawatha Community Center senior dining and Meals on Wheels programs are now ran by Horizons. With this change we need to update the Yearly Use Agreement for the Community Center. History and current structure is that the groups using the Community Center during the day are not paying a rental fee.

**End of year reports:**

Enclosed is year-end reports for Volunteers/Participants, Park Mowing and Chemicals, Soccer/Blastball, etc.

**2012 Activity Brochure**

Enclosed is a copy of the 2012 Activity Brochure DRAFT. New items since your last draft include: the adult volleyball program – since this program had almost 30 adults last season we decided to open this up to the public as a Hiawatha event and attempt to make this program bigger for Hiawatha. Also the Hiawatha Discovery Camps are new; they are facilitated by Linn County, but will be using Guthridge Park and Hiawatha Elementary School for their locations. This is an excellent way to gain exposure of our parks and open spaces and teach children the importance of healthy living and eating.

**Cogran – Recreation Software Demonstration**

We will be providing a demonstration of our software during the meeting. Our new software will be linked to our Hiawatha website. It will be marketed in the Activity Brochure, Facebook, and Newsletter.

**Report:**

**PARK UPDATE:**

I am recommending the swing set located on 6th Avenue be removed as it does not meet safety standards regarding current height restrictions. I will be speaking with Gary Rogers, City Administrator regarding funding for a new swing set with an estimate of $1365. This price includes shipping but does not include playground surface (chips).

Parks department has been working on updating our safety compliance with lock out- tag out procedures, equipment, and training.

Rick and Ted have decorated our park signs and outdoor trees, put up City Hall Christmas trees, and patched and painted the Community Center in anticipation of our busy holiday season.

**RECREATION UPDATE**

Hiawatha is hosting the IPRA Professionals Forum on Wednesday, December 7th. This Forum was offered for free to Parks and Recreation professionals through the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation. Topics included “Bids, Sealed Bids, & Competitive Quotes”, “Sales and Marketing” and round table discussion on “Working with Boards & Councils”, “Online Registration”, and “Supervising Staff of Different Ages”.

One the main topics for marketing was “branding” our department. On the year end reports you will see a sample letter head that could be used for all or our memos/reports to that when it’s seen people relate it to our department. From this we could create a smaller logo to be used as well. This is a draft and up for discussion.