



Monthly Director's Report, May 11, 2010

Parks and Recreation Director, AmandaGrace H. Green

Past Events

Clare Pride Day was once again a successful collaboration between school and community to show appreciation for the local businesses and residents who have shown so much support to the community throughout the year. Clare Pride Day was held on April 22, 2010, and 420+ high school students were able to participate as part of the volunteer work force for the event to spruce up the Clare community. The City of Clare also celebrated **Arbor Day** in conjunction with Clare Pride Day, as students worked with Parks and Recreation staff to provide training and maintenance pruning to trees in Shamrock Park. An annual **Arbor Day Celebration** is one component of the nationally recognized **Tree City USA** program, for which Clare has just received its second annual recognition by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The annual **Pitch, Hit, Run** competition was scheduled at Stamina Stadium on Saturday, May 8, 2010. Due to extremely cold, windy, and rainy conditions, however, this year's competition had to be cancelled. This program will be scheduled again for next year.

Current Events

Based on the past and present parks and recreation master plan, extensive improvements to **Pettit Park Campground** are desired. Some of the desired improvements include water hookups at each electrical site, pavement of the roadway throughout the park, and extension of the current bathroom facility to include two unisex shower stall and a maintenance room. Design plans for the shower facility were recently completed and the project is not going through its internal review and approval process. The City completed its Site Plan Review a few weeks ago, and the plans will be presented to the Planning Commission for review and approval on Wednesday, May 12, 2010.

The **Weekly Teen Group** at the Library is still going strong, in which teens ages 13-18 years old are invited each Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30 pm to the Library to spend time playing games, socializing, and helping to plan other events for teens in the community. Currently, the group averages 10-15 members a week, with attendance varying each week to include new teens.

Seniors **Cards and Coffee** kicked off on Wednesday, May 5, 2010, with an attendance of 11 people, with attending commenting that they are going to be telling their friends about the group! Cards and Coffee is being held each Wednesday at the Pere Marquette District Library from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. This event is a free and fun way for seniors and older adults to get together

with peers in the community to socialize and enjoy playing games such as euchre, cribbage, and other favorites.

For the past few months, the City has been looking into the possibility of putting the **Skate Park** up the park in the parking lot area west of the old Car Quest building. The property owner was unfortunately out of town and unable to be contacted for a period of time, which held up the process. Upon the owner's return to Clare, an agreement was able to be successfully reached for the use of the property for \$50/month, with the agreement being formally approved by the City Commission on Monday, May 3, 2010. The necessary insurance issued have subsequently been taken care of, and the Skate Park is currently up and being used by youth in the community.

Future Events

Many programs are on the line up for the spring and summer season, with something to hopefully energize everyone in the community. The season will be kicking off with early **Soccer Registration** beginning in mid-May; **Summer Concert Series** which will run Thursday evenings in the months of June and July, **Summer Parks Program** for nine weeks during the summer months, **Counselor in Training (CIT)** program in conjunction with the Summer Parks Program, **CSI Super Sleuth** on June 7th and 8th, **Ballroom Dancing and Line Dancing Lessons** on Tuesdays from June 8th to July 13th, **Moms on the Move** each Tuesday June 1st to August 17th, **Water Camp** on June 16th and 17th, a new **Nature Center Program** on July 6th in partnership with the local libraries, a **Community Kickball Day** in conjunction with MMI (date TBD), **Summer Soccer Camp (with dates TBD)**, **National Night Out (Passport to Safety)** on Thursday, August 12, **Old 27 Motor Tour** in August, and summer **Tennis** lessons throughout the summer.

Unfortunately, due to copy right issues and movie license costs, the new family friendly **Monday Movie Series** outdoors in conjunction with the Library does not look like it will be a possibility after all. Library Director, Sheila Bissonnette is still waiting for the final say from the licensing company, but the outcome from discussions with other licensing staff members does not leave the situation looking favorable for our existing budgets.

Other Projects

The City of Clare Parks and Recreation Department has enjoyed a tremendous working relationship with faculty, staff, and students in the recreation program at CMU. The facility design class being held this spring has eagerly offered to assist the City of Clare with layout proposals for an additional **Softball Field at Brookwood**. While the project in its entirety would likely be done in various phases across multiple fiscal years, the project proposal would include the addition of a new field on the recently purchased property north of the existing Brookwood Field, necessary parking to accommodate both fields, and a permanent bathroom facility. CMU students presented three initial options to Director Amanda Green, of which will momentarily be shared with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and School Board for review and discussion.

The desire for an **Indoor Shuffleboard League** at the Library is still being actively pursued. Unfortunately the paint previously tried was found unsuccessful, as it easily scrapped off the sealed floor. The local paint store suggested trying epoxy paint as our next step. Additionally, a

grant opportunity is currently being pursued that could likely support the purchase of a movable shuffleboard court.

A committee has recently been formed to focus on the **Restoration of the Clare Depot**. Currently the committee is in the stage of initial discussions on what the goals for the restored depot would be. These preliminary goals include the depot serving as a permanent trail head for the Pere Marquette Rail Trail in Clare, offer public bathrooms, be a hub for the Chamber of Commerce to operate their office out of, have meeting rooms, be a potential location for the Clare Arts Council and Main Street, and have potential incorporation of future snowmobile staging areas, passenger trail loading and off loading, and farmers market facilities.

The final components of the rail trail are being put into place this spring, including plantings and signage. A new “message center” with brochure rack has been ordered and will be placed at the current trail head outside the library with a City map to assist trail users and visitors in Clare.