



Monthly Director's Report, June 15, 2010

Parks and Recreation Director, AmandaGrace H. Green

Past Events

The **Weekly Teen Group** was held each week at the Library, in which teens ages 13-18 years old were 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. Since its January kick off, the group averages 10-15 members a week, with attendance varying each week to include new teens. The group has currently ended for the summer months, and will continue again once school starts in the fall.

CSI Super Sleuth on was held on June 7th and provided youth in the community a chance to look at how police can solve crimes by providing them firsthand experience in preserving finger and footprints from a crime scene. As usual, this program filled up and was a delight to the many participants.

Current Events

Early **Soccer Registration** began in mid-May and is currently underway. Last year's soccer season brought in a total of 349 participants, the largest group ever for this youth program. Currently, a total of 66 participants are signed up, with registration going now through August 6th 2010.

Summer Concert Series is underway is once again running every Thursday evenings in the months of June and July. This year's nine week season is filled with a continuous mix of music such as folk, bluegrass, country, rock, polka, celtic, and much more.

Summer Parks Program kicked off this past Monday, and is offering youth ages 5-12 a variety of activities from sport, arts and crafts, group activities, and a variety of other programs to fill the summer months. This program is a ten week program running now through August 27th, with two intermittent weeks off for soccer camp and the county fair. This year's attendance is unfortunately down from last year, so additional marketing methods are being looked into to increase participant rates and continue a successful program. Teens in the community can apply for the **Counselor in Training (CIT)** program in conjunction with the Summer Parks Program, as a way of gaining leadership skills.

Ballroom Dancing and Line Dancing Lessons is a new program being held Tuesday evenings at the Shamrock Park large pavilion for ages 10 years old to seniors. Dance instructors are able to work with variable age and skill levels to ensure an enjoyable and rewarding session. Participants are encouraged to attend the whole program to get the most out of their dancing experience, but participants are also welcome to drop in on class for specific dates if that meets their schedules better.

Moms on the Move is a ladies walking group being held each Tuesday June 1st to August 17th. Participation has generally been low on this program for the past few years, with usually only 2-5 ladies attending on any given week. Therefore, a rebranding campaign is being developed in order to hopefully rejuvenate participation in this free program.

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 completed and the project has gone through the review and approval process. The project bid deadline also recently passed on June 11, 2010, and the bids are expected to go to the City Commission for approval in the near future.

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. **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** June 21-24, **Passport to Safety** in conjunction with Summerfest, and the **Old 27 Motor Tour** in August.

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. Additionally, Green has been in touch with the Saginaw Bay Region's DNRE office to obtain information on the properties of proposed softball diamond site and to get a determination whether or not the property is officially classified as "wetlands" and the resulting implications of that potential status. This review will be further looked into in late summer once the spring/early summer rains have a chance to dry up from the ground.

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. The map has also been produced in a smaller brochure size that highlights the trail, other Clare parks, and camping at Pettit Park.