

March 10, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Lisa Sprinkle, Marketing Coordinator
Re: March Staff Report

Executive Director (Dan Olson)

- The Legislative Breakfast was well attended this year. Representatives Ammons and Hays and Senators Rose and Bennett were present. Additionally, Jason Anselment and Peter Murphy from IAPD were in attendance. Although the hold on the state budget was the main topic of conversation, there was discussion about the longer term benefits of park and recreation agencies. We thank Champaign Park District for hosting this year.
- We have set May 22 at 3:00 pm for the KRT Groundbreaking Ceremony. Please join us at the Tatman Commercial Building at 201 S. Industrial Circle, Urbana, IL.
- We held our third in a series of three, KRT Construction meetings for adjacent landowners and other interested parties. We gratefully thank Greg and Ryan from Farnsworth Group, George and Louis from the IDNR, as well as others for hosting the meetings.
- Other meetings hosted or attended: Local Directors, CAC, St. Joseph Village Board, Mahomet Run for the Library, Champ. Co. Soil and Water Conservation District, Kickapoo Rail Trail Construction, Land of Lincoln PETS training, and Central Illinois Director's Roundtable.
- There are two major construction projects currently underway. Improvements to the sailboat launch area have been active for about a month and will take several more months to complete. Much of the work is being done by staff. The Pro Shop roof repair is a joint effort between a contractor and staff. That project will also continue for a couple of months.
- Earlier this year, we worked with the County Clerk's office to establish an early voting polling place at Lake of the Woods Pavilion. Early voting has concluded. Election judges said the flow of voters was steady. One advantage to early voting locations is that any registered voter in the County can use them. There is no longer a need to be at your precinct on election day. This allowed some staff to take advantage of voting at Lake of the Woods, prior to their commute home.
- We still invite Commissioners to send further comment on the Interpretive Plan until Wed. March 16, 2016. Yours (and public) comments from the February study session and regular meeting were captured and incorporated into the draft of the plan.

Deputy Director/Grants (Mary Ellen Wuellner)

- A grant from the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois was approved in the amount of \$4,000 to cover the installation of an accessible sidewalk at the Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden. Construction staff will construct the walk, which will provide access from the east entrance of the garden to the enabling garden.
- An application was submitted on March 1 to the IL Department of Natural Resources for federal Recreational Trails Program funding in the amount of \$200,000 for Phase 2a of the Kickapoo Rail Trail. The trail segment would extend from Main Street, St. Joseph (the end of Phase 1) to Seventh Street in St. Joseph – a distance of about 1/3 mile.
- On February 23, I attended a workshop sponsored by Illinois Humanities on the agency's recent organizational changes as well as its new programming and grant offerings. I will work with the Museum and Education Department to discuss future opportunities that might be available to the district through Illinois Humanities.

- Marajen Stevick Foundation grants are now available through the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois. Due by March 31, grants must address one of the following:

1. The elevation or enhancement of the quality of life for senior citizens

2. Reading and writing programs that promote or foster excellence in public and private schools at primary, secondary or post-secondary levels

3. The aesthetic enhancement of the physical environment of Champaign, Urbana and surrounding communities.

No specific project has yet been identified as a grant request, but I will keep the board apprised if we do submit an application.