

MORRISTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EVENTS REPORT
(February 11, 2010)

UPDATES/NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION

- Pet Policy changes are being recommended by staff that could be finalized/voted on at the February 11, 2010, meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board. The changes would allow for pets to be on a leash at all parks with the only prohibitions being no pets allowed within 20 feet of bleacher areas, concessions, splash pad, shelters, pavilions, playgrounds and on any athletic field. The leash shall be no longer than 6-feet and non retractable. If adopted the policy will immediately take place.
- Discussions with Hamblen County Board of Education have been ongoing about the possibility of selling Long Reel Track and King Park as part of the East High building program. Long Reel Track has grant restrictions that are tied to the National Park Service, Department of Interior, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. King Park has deed restrictions that are tied to the King family. The school administration has three years to spend the funds for the building program. Parks administration has been in discussion with TDEC about doing a conversion on the Long-Reel Track property that was developed with Land and Water Conservation Fund grant monies back in 1983. The minimum conversion takes up to 15-18 weeks and some have taken years to get approved. This process simply does not fit into the spending timeline and would be too long for the school architect design team as they would have to choose additional class room (design) construction over the conversion on Long-Reel. The school system has contacted Director Price and informed him that they would not pursue purchase of Long Reel with the stimulus funds, but would like to use another funding source to continue the conversion of Long-Reel in the near future.
- Winter weather continues to be a problem for our programming and maintenance projects. We would like to thank our public works staff for assistance in cleaning off parking lots and sidewalks in and around some gym sites. Certain sites have lots of shaded areas and the equipment used by public works allowed us to play verses missing several days. This has helped keep youth tournament games played and on time.
- The earth work and layout of the parking lot addition at Fred Miller is now waiting for clear and dryer conditions so rocking of the areas can be completed. The work by Brockwell Construction has gone well despite the recent weather conditions. After the rock is applied the paving will take place soon after when the asphalt plant is opened again. This is going to be such a great improvement for our park patrons. The 34 auto spaces and 2 bus spaces, sidewalks, and the paved walking trail that will connect the new parking lot to the trail will be a huge addition for this much used park. We have applied to use the remaining CDBG surplus of funds on the walking trail project down at Wayne Hansard. We have been given preliminary approval and we must conduct a public hearing in the near future. We are grateful to City Engineer, Jeff Branham and Tracy Stroud, CDBG Coordinator for coordinating this project.

- Director Price has begun working on the 2011 budget with staff. The budget will be due March 12, 2010. Updates to the department capital outlay for facilities and equipment also have been submitted.
- The Wayne Hansard Park Trail expansion has also gotten started. It is exciting to see the undeveloped part of the trail take shape and the entire trail imprint become a reality. Brockwell Construction has encountered some rock but it does not change the scope of the project as it was part of the bid. The 10' wide trail will be completed by late April and the west end of Morristown will forever be changed with this new trail. It will change the walking, jogging, and biking opportunities of those who live near Wayne Hansard. At this time the trail will be both rock and pavement surfaces. If we gain permission and use the surplus CDBG funds (28,358) then we can pave the entire trail. The City of Morristown's contribution for trail project is \$13,000 (20% match) for the RTP grant on a .8 mile - 10' trail development at Wayne Hansard Park.
- Other CDBG funding: The plans and bidding process has begun for restroom facilities at Wayne Hansard and Fred Miller. The Wayne Hansard Park restrooms will be located on the north-west side of the park and will serve walking trail and soccer fields. The Fred Miller restrooms will serve the north side of the park and will serve walkway, gazebo, and Splash pad participants. Again these are CDBG funds over and above our budget. **We either use these funds for their intended purposes or lose them!**
- The Turkey Creek Greenway project has challenging issues and restrictions from TDOT. The City staff is working with McGill Associates to accommodate our plans for trail development from downtown out to Fairview Margarite School. We must have construction plans by September 1.
- Liberty Swing playground project Update. The project is being coordinated by Miss Lindsey Towne to secure a handicap Liberty swing unit for Fred Miller Park. Lindsey has made some key contacts for donations and has found out the swing manufacturer has reduced the cost \$3,000. Liberty Swing project goal is \$25,000. We have \$260 donated at this time. All donations can be made to Morristown Parks and Recreation Department (Liberty Swing Project) and if you need more information please contact Director Price.

Special use agreements contracts and important dates:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT/ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PARK/LOCATION</u>
February 2, 2010	City Council Meeting	City Center
February 11, 2010	Parks and Recreation Board	Parks Administration
February 15, 2010	Begin Adult Softball Registrations	Parks Office
February 16, 2010	City Council Meeting	City Center
February 20, 2010	City Rook Tournament	Talley-Ward
March 1, 2010	Athletic Fields Open For Season	All Athletic Fields
March 2, 2010	City Council Meeting	City Center
March 11, 2010	Parks and Recreation Board	Parks Administration
March 16, 2010	City Council Meeting	City Center
March 30, 2010	Easter Eggsellent Adventure	Fred Miller
April 6, 2010	City Council Meeting	City Center
April 8, 2010	Parks and Recreation Board	Parks Administration
April 20, 2010	City Council Meeting	City Center

World Series Park Monument Update. We have received \$6,674 so far toward our goal of \$14,500. World Series Monument Park will one day be the permanent home for all seven teams that have participated in Little League World Series competition. For information on how to donate or about the park please call our administrative offices at 423-586-0260. **Donations given to this point (2/11/10) is \$6,674**

- **Dog Park at Walters Park – Donations given to this point (2/11/10) is \$2,771.** Our paving and parking lot development is our major priority as the park just can't happen without an appropriate parking plan.

MAINTENANCE STAFF UPDATE

- ◆ Tennessee Municipal League (TML) Casualty Loss Control Division Survey and Recommendations for Parks and Recreation have been completed. The recommendations were from onsite visits from TML staff as they inspected all park facilities back in November of 2009.
 1. Recommends reflective covers installed on cable fence at Civic Park. (Completed 1-23-10)
 2. Recommends at West Elementary ball field score stand a new electrical plug and self closing covers are installed. Also a handrail installed for the steps leading up to the stand. (Completed 1-25-10)
 3. Recommends concrete pads are removed from landing area under slides at Civic Park Playground. (Completed 2-4-10)
- ◆ Maintenance is completing fence repairs, adding fence ties, and adjusting gates at various park facilities.
- ◆ Staff removed snow and ice from side walks at Parks office, Talley-Ward building, and Fred Miller Park.
- ◆ Maintenance and Building and Grounds have completed removal and storage of all Christmas decorations.
- ◆ Repair work has been completed on entry doors at Fred Miller Park restrooms, and Talley-Ward building.
- ◆ Installed new springs and greased the basketball rims at Talley-Ward building.
- ◆ Ordered and installed a damaged section of a tunnel slide at Wildwood Park playground.
- ◆ Replaced butterfly crossing sign at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park.
- ◆ Four of our maintenance staff members Mike Winstead, Mark Love, Shawn Asbury, and Joe Payne attended maintenance school at Fall Creek Falls State Park, sponsored by Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association.

- ◆ Repaired holes in fiberglass on the portable pitcher's mound for Denham-Collins baseball field.
- ◆ Maintenance continues to do daily restroom cleaning, and litter pick up.

ATHLETIC REPORTS

- ◆ Snow may be pretty and all, but it sure can cause a lot of problems for basketball schedules. As of this report (Monday, February 8), we have postponed 100 youth games and 78 adult games. In addition to that 106 youth tournament games had to be changed and rescheduled. Some of the changes were direct postponements because of the weather while others were because the weather changed school schedules to nights where we were scheduled in their gym.
- ◆ All youth makeup games have been rescheduled and, hopefully, we'll do the adult makeup schedule later this week. Those games will move to the end of the regular schedule.
- ◆ And as an added note, calling off or changing a total of 284 games has resulted in seemingly endless phone calls being handled by our office.
- ◆ Youth baseball and softball registrations are moving along at a snail's pace. We started taking registrations on January 25 and have registered only 67 kids through today.
- ◆ Our announcements for registration have been in the newspaper several times as well as on the radio already as well as each player from last year getting a letter telling them about registrations, deadlines, etc.
- ◆ Most of our deadlines are the second week of March with most of our tryouts coming between March 9 and 15.
- ◆ The managers meetings for the youth leagues are scheduled for March 1 & 2 and the signup for extra practices is on March 5.
- ◆ The athletic staff has started working on the practice schedules for youth teams as each will have two practices per week beginning the week after their tryouts and ending when the season starts.
- ◆ Adult practice schedules are also being finalized because we will start taking adult softball entries on Monday, February 15. All forms for adult teams have been mailed to last year's managers. We have also had several calls requesting information on the softball season.

- ◆ School/park user agreements are being updated as well as working on scheduling of games and practices for Morristown East baseball and softball at Sherwood Park and Whitney Auton Field respectively.
- ◆ Most of the equipment we ordered has been received. We are still missing the hats and some of the shirts, but they will be delivered this week.
- ◆ The athletic staff has been taking photos at youth and adult games and will be putting them on the mymorristown.com website (hopefully) and we will also use them at the Hall of Fame Banquet.
- ◆ We hosted the district little league meeting Wednesday night. We will have information from that meeting for you next month.
- ◆ The Morristown Disc Golf Club (60 members strong) meets and plays the second Saturday of each month in competitive league action. They begin at 9:00 a.m., at the Kiwanis Disc Golf Course at Wayne Hansard Park. The Club is looking at adding another Saturday each month and doing some doubles league play on a Thursday in the near future. Any disc golf enthusiast interested in joining the Morristown Disc Golf Club should contact Paul Barger in our athletics office (586-0260) for program information.
- ◆ Morristown Kiwanis Club 18-hole disc golf course can be reserved for tournament action. If your church, club, company, or organization is looking for a way to raise money and you are interested please contact us for information. New disc (putter, midrange and driver disc), bags, and equipment are now available at the Parks and Recreation Administrative office at 415 West Louise Avenue.
- ◆ Anyone interested in umpiring and scoring should contact athletic staff at 586-0260. Serious inquires only!

PROGRAMMING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- P.A.T.H. Update- We have started a quarterly news letter for P.A.T.H. members called “ The Pulse” it has reports on upcoming events and healthful tips for the membership. To join P.A.T.H please contact our Program Coordinator Jennifer Gentry.
- We are always taking new applicants for P.A.T.H and G.O.F.E.R. Anyone interested in helping themselves live a healthier lifestyle and assisting us offer great events to the public should contact us at 586-0260.
- We are now taking applications for rentals at Talley Ward rooms and gymnasium. To make reservations for your party or event Monday thru Friday 3-10 and Saturday 8:30 – 5:00pm, contact our office at 586-0260.

- Senior Citizens Workouts - Every Monday Jennifer leads seniors as they do 30 minutes of exercises. They stretch, do light weights, and walk. Each week they add new reps and exercises. Any senior member is encouraged to attend these sessions at Morristown Senior Citizens Center.
- Stuffed Animal Pageant had 25 people to participate, Morristown-Hamblen County Health Department and Chick-fil-a were there handing out goodies to the children.
- Easter Eggsellent Adventure will be hopping around the corner (this years date is March 30, 2010) We have event planning underway and have ordered the usual 10,000 eggs. Inventories of over 2,000 items were donated from Wal-Mart last year and we will be sending out letters to all the vendors within the week. Howard's Pharmacy has donated \$100.00. Booth registrations have been sent out and some have been returned.
- Recreation Center/Gym Hours
 - Talley Ward Center Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday 3:00p.m. - 10:00p.m.
Saturday is free play from 8:30a.m. Till 5:00p.m.
Free play unless seasonal practices/games/events are going on.
 - West Elementary Gym Hours of Operation
Monday – Friday 5:00 p.m. - 10:00p.m.
Saturday is free play from 9:00 a.m. till 5:00p.m.
Free play unless seasonal practices/games/events are going on.

TVTC	6:00 pm on 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8,
Lakeway Twirlers	7:00pm on 2/1, 2/5, 2/8, 2/15, 2/19, 2/22
American Legion	7:00 pm on, 2/18, 3/18, 4/22, 5/20, 6/17
Girls Scouts	12:00 pm on 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27,

We had 15 room rentals for January. We had 801 for free play at Talley Ward and 231 at West Elementary.

- Morristown Boxing Inc. season is winding down and solid program participation has been the best in years. The program has served on most nights over 20 participants. To check out the program visit the Talley-Ward gym area at the boxing room.
- Karate 5 DOJO is held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 7:30-8:30 and Saturday 10:00-12:00.
- Pickin' in the Park at Fred Miller Park will return the first Thursday of May 2010. For information please call our office at 586-0260.
- GOFER (Great Opportunities for Events and Recreation) is our program for our program volunteers. If you would like to help our staff promote, work, and program great community events please contact us. We have a wonderful t-shirt for all volunteers that assist us on a continuing basis. Call Jennifer for more information at 586-0260.

BIDS UPDATE

Brockwell Construction Inc.
For
Fred Miller Parking Lot Project (\$136,532)
Wayne Hansard Greenway Project (\$93,663)
Projects Grand Total - \$230,499.18

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Morristown Parks and Recreation Board will be held March 11, 2010, at Parks and Recreation office at 415 West Louise Avenue.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT
Director Craig H. Price, CPRP – Office 423-586-0260 / Fax 423-318-1544
E-mail cprice@mymorristown.com
Parks and Recreation information can be found on City of Morristown website
Mymorristown.com