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Hartsville City Council
Vial email to Sherron Skipper

Dear Council Members:

Because of an out of town commitment, I am unable to deliver this year's City of Hartsville Parks Committee report in person. I am grateful for the opportunity to chair this committee. Members are David McFarland, Julia Klimek, Tru Lawton, and Rose Williams.

I cannot say enough about how delighted I have been to work with the Parks and Leisure Department staff as it has been restructured. All are highly dedicated, enthusiastic and capable.

Attached is a report compiled by the staff and written by Beth Tripp. You will see that City parks continue to be improved, and change is being embraced with enthusiasm.

What is most heartening, however, is the continued high use and enjoyment of the parks that Council has supported so generously. People are playing in your parks. They are celebrating marriages and birthdays. People are enhancing their physical health through exercise and their spiritual wellbeing through joyful worship and prayer. Our parks are hosting visitors, who bring money into our community.

You will see in the report that additional projects are pending to make our parks even better. I seek your continued support as we move ahead together.

Respectfully,

Nancy McGee

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Chair, City of Hartsville Parks Committee



CITY OF HARTSVILLE PARKS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Parks Committee saw a lot of change within the Parks & Recreation department. Barb Steadman resigned from the Committee due to a job change. She was a great asset and we appreciate her service. Julia Klimek has joined the committee and brings a great perspective to the City. Phil Gardner retired from the Parks and Recreation Department. Craig Goodman was selected for the Parks and Facilities Manager position and Adam Bedard was hired as the Parks & Facilities Manager. Shannon Morrison served as interim director for the department from May-September. Jessica Cohen transferred to the Department from The Key to begin her role as Sports & Group Tourism Director. Craig Goodman has been promoted to Director of Parks & Recreation, which has merged with the Streets & Grounds division.

BURRY PARK:

The repairs to the Veterans' Memorial are complete and staff will provide ongoing preventative maintenance. Burry Park has added a small playground, wooden swings, bathroom structure, and accessible ramp. The Screen on the Green events were highly attended and the August 13 event was held in conjunction with the National Night Out event.

BYERLY PARK:

Byerly Park hosted several baseball and softball tournaments with the largest, Bayler Baseball, having 70 teams in September. The Byerly Foundation awarded a \$35,000 grant to the City for an outdoor basketball and volleyball court and is in the bid process. The Department also received a LWCF matching grant to purchase a tropical style playground that would complement Piratesville. Replaced the zip line pulley at Garrison's Place. At the playgrounds, staff removed rubber tiles and chips and changed to the ADA approved cypress chips. The Parks Committee suggested adding lights to soccer fields. Staff is researching mobile concession units that have air conditioning and to replace the aging unit that is in use for the football and Piratesville seasons.

to the City for outdoor basketball and volleyball courts. This project is in the bidding process.

Byerly Park tennis courts held home matches for Hartsville High and the USTA. Several tennis court lights, nets, and windscreens have been replaced. The courts have several cracks and the committee would like to see the repairs done prior to the tennis season, if possible. An outdoor Message Board will be installed to communicate court reservations and other community events. The Department has been working with the Operations Manager on finalizing a use agreement with the Darlington County School District for the tennis courts.

PIRATESVILLE

Piratesville had 21,344 guests this season. There were 115 private rentals, 6 Cove parties, and 59 season passes purchased by 62 residents and 118 non-residents. A new piece of equipment, the Fortress, was installed at the end of 2016 season. The Committee is excited for the expansion of the Splash Pad and the opportunity to target older children.



CITY OF HARTSVILLE PARKS COMMITTEE REPORT

PRIDE PARK:

A new bathroom was installed at Pride Park in November. The Born Learning Trail ribbon cutting was held October 13. The committee appreciates the help of United Way Director, Joanne DeLong, in facilitating this educational component to the park. A special thank you to the talented Livingston Thomas for his additions of the creatively painted artwork.

LAWTON PARK:

There have been 85 rentals at the Pavilion this year. The tarnished mirrors in the bridal party rooms and emergency phone were replaced. Added phones to bridal and grooms' rooms and kick plates for the doors. The facility's interior was repainted. Have purchased a restaurant grade food warmer to replace the machine that broke and feedback from caterers has been positive. A faulty a/c thermostat was also replaced. An exterior keypad system will allow access more convenient for renters and staff.

The Lawton Park tennis court project is complete which includes the addition of one versa-court, repaired one hard court, and painted the backboard. Also, added team bencher and a grassy area between the two courts with a small shelter. Junior lines were painted onto the tennis court to encourage the younger population with age appropriate dimensions. Committee member, Tru Lawton, has been volunteering with the Boys and Girls Club teaching tennis to the small groups. Mary Catherine and Craig are exploring grant opportunities to assist with USTA instructors. Naturally Outdoors partnered with the department to offer a series of paddleboard demonstrations and the feedback was great. Staff is planning a Kayak Festival for Lawton Park in the Fall. Local Boy Scout, Ryan, from Troop# 523 has selected his Eagle Scout Project to be the construction of a kayak dock at Lawton Park.