PARK AND RECREATION REPORT

To: Park and Recreation Commission

CC: Mayor and City Council

From: Angie Cole, Park and Recreation Director

Date: May 4, 2011

Re: Park and Recreation Report

**Recreation Software Presentation and comparison**

There has been research done this month in regards to recreational software. Three software companies have been researched and compared for their capability, cost, etc. These three companies are located in different parts of the country but have been recommended by IPRA departments or participants. All of the software is customizable based on our needs and they will all be set up as a link to our website. This is useful since it will not take up space on the City’s network. All companies would make this software match our current city site, making our citizens feel more comfortable utilizing this tool. All software currently allows online registration. The other purpose for this software would be to rent our facilities. There is one company that currently offers this feature to completion (see spreadsheet), the other two have calendar views available but does not currently offer the ability to make the rental, process payment, etc. Cogran Management Systems is currently building this module and are planning for live use this summer. Costs for these programs range from $1200 - $6000 either as a one-time or annual fee. This cost could be taken from last year’s $2 increase to our registration fees. There are roughly 600 registrations for various programs each year with roughly 400 of those registrations being soccer and Blastball, in using those numbers that is $800 in revenue generated from this year in comparison to last year. Another way we would combat the expense of the software is by no longer mailing out the Activity Brochures to residents. Hiawatha residents would still be able to obtain this publication at Hiawatha City Hall, library, schools and other area businesses. The department would save $556 in mailing costs alone in addition to reducing the number of brochures printed each year. There are currently 5000 brochures printed and the vast majority of those are distributed by mail. There is also the option of adding advertising from local businesses with coupons, etc. for a monthly fee. This software could actually generate revenue with all the other included changes. These changes would also aid us to progress and compile our information in a more efficient and paperless method.

**Request by Linn County Democrats for a Non Profit Organization Yearly Use Agreement**

A request has been made by Linn County Democrats for a Non Profit Organization Yearly Use Agreement. They have paid the $300 yearly fee and there are no conflicts with the dates requested.

**Request for Fay M Clark Memorial Park use by Heartland Soccer**

A request has been made to use a portion of Fay M Clark Memorial Park by Heartland Soccer for a tournament on August 20th. Please see the information attached.

**PARK UPDATE:**

This month’s park improvements include:

* Rick applied the second round of chemical treatments to all city land including parks, city hall, library, fire, open areas and some right-of-way.
* Mowing has been ongoing pending weather.
* No Trespassing and No Weapons signs have been installed at Fay M Clark Memorial Park.
* We will be planting trees on May 18th. Hiawatha Elementary School, Kiwanis and other departments and volunteers have been asked to help. (see flyer)
* Our department helped put wood chips on the Center Point Road landscaping.
* We have been working to clean up all flower beds in the area.
* We have a family that will be making a donation to the city for a memorial bench and tree at Fay M Clark memorial park. The bench will be built by another Eagle Scout project.

**RECREATION UPDATE**

**Easter Egg Hunt**

The Easter Egg Hunt took place on Saturday April 23rd at 9 AM. We had several volunteers helping put together eggs in the morning starting at 7 AM. It was windy but we still had a good turnout with the eggs vanishing in minutes. The eggs were a bit disappointing although very inexpensive there were issues with eggs popping open and the contents spilling out. Liz Goater addressed this problem with the company and they have offered to send us 1000 free test eggs in August. Mel (the sales representative) explained the molds that they make the plastic eggs in are old and they are making new ones right now and will send us some test eggs in attempt to keep our business for next year. Until this can take place it is unclear if we will use them as a vendor for this event next year, however will still have 1000 free eggs to distribute for the 2012 hunt.

**Farmers Market**

The Farmers Market also started April 24th on Easter Sunday with over 25 vendors an excellent number of the first market and a holiday weekend. Sandy Barnard has taken the reigns as the Market Manager this year, with Susie Stuttereim stepping down to be a season vendor and still available to help and coordinate on Sundays.

**Adult Volleyball League**

A group of individuals have initiated an adult summer volleyball league. They started play on April 27 and the first session will run through June 8. Second session will be June 22 – August 3. Adults are able to come and sign a waiver, be assigned to a team and play right there on the spot. Registration fee is $10 and we currently have 11 players registered for the first session. We will be providing t-shirts to the winning team of each session.