



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STAFF REPORT
MEETING DATE: July 14, 2014

Title: Presentation and possible discussion on community involvement with the Parks and Recreation Department
Petitioner: Tracy Domingues, Parks and Recreation Director
Presenter: Tracy Domingues, Parks and Recreation Director
Recommendation: None
Financial Impact: None
Business Impact (Per NRS 237) <input type="checkbox"/> A Business Impact Statement is attached. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Business Impact Statement is not required because this is not a rule. <input type="checkbox"/> A Business Impact Statement is not required. This is a rule but does not impose a direct and significant economic burden on a business, or directly restrict the formation, operation or exemption of a business. <input type="checkbox"/> A Business Impact Statement is not required. Thus is a rule but emergency action is necessary to protect the public health and safety (requires a unanimous vote of the City Council and cannot be in effect for more than six months).
Agenda Item Brief: This presentation will acknowledge several community groups, businesses and individuals that support the Sparks Parks and Recreation Department through volunteer assistance, donations, grant funding and in-kind services which have positively impacted the quality of life in the City of Sparks. This community support specifically addresses Strategic Goal #4 as it relates to encouraging citizen involvement and volunteerism.

BACKGROUND:

The Parks and Recreation Department continues to encourage the community to get involved through a variety of programs. With assistance from service clubs, scout troops, Eagle scouts, businesses large and small, local foundations, citizens and non-profit organizations, the City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Department has been able to maintain valuable community assets. A program called PARTNERS IN PARKS AND RECREATION has paved the way for groups to come forward with support for Sparks. It also provides a great opportunity to give something that will benefit all ages and abilities. Contributors are recognized throughout the year, including acknowledgement in the Sparks Parks and Recreation seasonal activity guides and online.

More than 20,000 hours of volunteer service were provided through Partners in Parks and Recreation last year, which is the equivalent to almost 10 Full-Time (FTE) positions valued at \$600,000 in salaries and benefits. These are positions that could not be funded in current economic conditions.

Community efforts directed to the City's 590+ acre parks system alone have been invaluable in allowing the City to keep the river clean and our parks open and inviting to visitors and residents. Numerous community projects were completed this past year that targeted park needs that may have otherwise gone unmet. Examples include:

- Mars Petcare refurbishment of the dog park at the Sparks Marina included repainting the entire fence and fixing panels that had been in disrepair and compromised our ability to keep the park open.
- Many Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts completed their program projects through our parks system by accomplishing much needed weather sealing of wood play structures which lengthens the life of the equipment.
- More than 28 park sites (an all-time high) were adopted by community groups as part of the longstanding Adopt-A-Park program. This number represents 48% of the parks system. The planter work and trimming conducted by these groups is virtually nonexistent in general maintenance scheduling due to higher priority maintenance.
- Through the volunteer assistance provided by collaborative efforts with organizations such as Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, community cleanups have helped keep illegal dumpsites under control and programs such as Adopt-A-Spot have kept medians and sides of roads clean.
- Summit Christian Church conducted two large-scale cleanups bringing 500 volunteers into the parks this past year.
- The addition of park amenities such as the grant-funded Neos equipment recently installed at Recreation Park would not have been possible without the support of the Rotary Club of Sparks and E.L. Cord Foundation.

In addition to the support we receive for parks and facilities, there are also numerous volunteers who provide their time and talent to teach children valuable life skills through youth sports programs such as basketball and football, and there are is a core of citizens who give their time to help with special events. In order to provide programming for all abilities, organizations such as The Nell J. Redfield Foundation – along with the E.L. Cord Foundation – have stepped up to provide support that allows people with disabilities to take part in a range of recreational outlets.

ANALYSIS: None

Recommended Motion: None

Prepared and submitted by:

Tracy L. Domingues, Parks and Recreation Director

Approved:
Stephen W. Driscoll, City Manager