

Director's Report for Pottsgrove Recreation Board

June 15, 2023

Swimming Lessons:

Summer Swimming Lessons had a total of 21 kids registered and runs through August 26, 2023. The fall session starts September 5, 2023 and we already have 11 signed up.

Community Band

Community Band had their last concert at Sanatoga Park this past Sunday. I was there and I saw Bill there as well. It was a great concert, and everyone was very appreciative of the ice cream I brought.

Adult Volleyball

Adult Volleyball will begin September 5. Joan said everyone is excited to get back to playing. Again, we are trying to bring in more players. Participants were asked to bring a friend with them to give it a try.

Youth Sport Classes

The Summer Sports Programs are going well at West Pottsgrove Township. We have 7 kids in the basketball class and 8 in the multisport class. The kids are having a lot of fun. I was there the evening the 3-5 year olds were doing wiffle ball it was fun to watch them as they navigated running the bases. One little guy didn't quite understand running to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and home. He would start to run toward his friend on third base while he was on first. Marcus does a wonderful job redirecting them and I'm not sure where he gets the patience from but it is amazing to watch.

We will continue these programs into the fall and so far we have 4 for basketball, 1 for multi-Sport, and 2 for Flag Football. These programs do not start until September 29th so there is plenty of time for more to register.

Youth Volleyball

I am bringing Youth Volleyball back. One of our Summer Playground counselors is on the High School Volleyball team and was excited to head these classes. She was a good counselor and I have no doubt she can do this too. I will also have a second counselor with her to help. We already have 2 registered but have several parents reach out since the last class we did so I know we will have more. That won't start until the end of October so there is plenty of time.

Summer Playground

We had 175 children registered, with an average of 130 scheduled for each week. We were able to keep the kids in smaller groups by grade into 6 groups and this worked out very well. Our only issue was having 5th & 6th graders together, so next year if we are able to be at one school again we will do the same, however I think combining 1st & 2nd graders will work out better.

The five weeks went fast as usual, and the kids had so much fun. While it wasn't without its challenges, especially with drop off and pickup times, the counselors did a great job of working together as a team. The first week went so well we thought it was going to be an

easy five weeks. Week Two was a different story, we had several fights in the 5th & 6th grade groups and had several behavioral issues to handle that week as well. We used our discipline policy and by week three a couple of kids were dismissed due to physical aggression towards others. These were children who in my opinion really didn't want to be at Summer Playground.

We also had an incident at the pool during week 3 when one of our children who was a shallow end swimmer went down the slide in the deep end. The lifeguard immediately jumped in to bring her to safety. She was 100% ok, and no medical attention was needed. Mom was called and she was very understanding of the situation. We made sure ALL counselors were aware of the incident and stressed the importance of their jobs, especially at the pool. We also reminded all of the children, especially those who wore an orange band (which showed they were shallow end swimmers only), which areas of the pool they could safely swim. The rest of our swim days were uneventful.

Overall having everyone at one school made things easier for most. Some counselors have expressed they liked it better at two schools, but the majority agreed this was a better situation. I especially liked having the kids separated by grade. I think this helped a lot. If we are able to use Lower again next year, I think it would work well. The head custodian mentioned that she heard the district was going to change up programs each summer by moving programs around, but she would love to have us back next year because it did go well and they know what we need and it makes it easier on everyone. I agree with her, but we will see what happens when it comes time to start planning.

With that being said I already have a few things setup for next year. The children have requested to go to "Space Camp" again. So, I have tentatively scheduled that for June 25th next year. We can change the date if we need to when it gets closer. I also have an artist who does art classes and painting sessions with kids and adults and she is excited to come two days next summer to do a painting with the kids. I thought this was a fun idea. I will also be talking with her after Labor Day about possibly doing some Art Classes in the evenings during the school year for both kids and Adults. I will have more information about that later.

Next meeting will be **Thursday, September 14, 2023 @ 7pm - Zoom**