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August 2021



Monthly Insight into the Elizabeth Park & Rec District

EPR connections

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District Moves to Upgrade Online Registration System

The Board of Directors recently approved the purchase of a new online registration system for the District. After years of operating on the Max Galaxy platform, the District is currently preparing for a transition to a product called Civic Rec. After reviewing several options, staff selected Civic Rec for its ease of use for customers, its compatibility with cell phone and tablet use, its robust functionality, and of course, total cost. The system will provide greater connectivity between program components, enabling much increased efficiencies in assigning players to teams, league management, program and team communications, scheduling, and reporting. The new platform will also allow users to submit online facility permit requests, which staff can then review and approve.

District staff have been configuring and front loading the system with data for the last couple months, and look forward to launching the new platform in late August or early September. We hope you like it!

Program & Event Updates

Adult Kickball 2021

Gather your crew and sign-up now for our fun fall adult co-ed kickball league. Games are played in Evans Park on Friday evenings. Cost is \$250 per team. Season starts August 20! Register online or call the park office for assistance.

Youth End of Summer Bash – August 21

The Annual *End of Summer Bash* for community youth is scheduled for August 21 at 10am and will be held in Evans Park. Make plans now to join District staff and Board Members for a wet and wild day of fun in the park. The giant slip-n-slide will be set up, inflatable bales will be bouncing, and we'll be holding the County's largest water balloon battle of the year. This event is intended for youth and families of all ages and is free for all!

Fall Youth Sports Registration Closes August 10

Youth Soccer

Our soccer program is co-ed and serves youth between the ages of 4-12. Games are played on Saturday mornings and practices occur during the week. Season starts September 11th. Volunteer coaches needed. Check website for registration info.

Youth Flag-Football

Our flag football program is co-ed and serves youth between the ages of 4-12. Games are played on Saturday afternoons and practices occur during the week. Season starts September 11th. Volunteer coaches needed. Check website for registration info.

Rec Center Project Update

The rec center design committee has made a number of recommendations to the Board of Directors, who expressed support, and the design of the facility is progressing on schedule. The committee is working toward a \$15M construction budget and has had to make some difficult decisions in prioritizing desired amenities. Aquatic features has risen as the most desired and important space within the facility, and the design will include a zero-depth entry play area, a leisure pool, two to three 75 foot lap lanes, a lazy river, a water slide feature, and a hot tub. The aquatics area is projected to occupy about 12,000 square feet. The committee envisions an outdoor patio adjacent to the indoor aquatics area and a building design that allows the walls to be opened up during the summer months.

The second major feature of the design to date is a gymnasium. The gym will be used to support existing District programming such as youth and adult basketball and volleyball, and will also present opportunities for diverse new programming and events including fitness classes, indoor pickleball, dance, art shows, and so much more. The gym may also be available at times for private permitting by outside groups for events such as a club-team practice, a dodgeball tournament, or a large retirement party.

Other amenities / spaces being included within the design are a program / meeting room, fitness space, space for childcare, and all the needed support spaces such as mechanical, staff offices, lobby, storage, and locker rooms / restrooms. A rock climbing wall is an alternate element the committee hopes can also be included within the budget.

It is expected that draft design concepts will be available this fall, and the rec center design committee and Board of Directors look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments. The concepts will be shared on our website and through a series of open house events, where residents can review the plans and provide direct feedback. We really want to get this facility right for the community, so be sure to let us know what you like, what you don't, and what may be missing.



Working on our fishin' skills at the Youth Fishing Clinic – June 12th

Message from the Director

A Community Rec Center – We can do this!

When I began working for the District in May of 2016, there was talk by the Board of a hope for a recreation center sometime in the near future. I liked the thought, but I really did not think the District was anywhere near being in a position to pursue such a facility. I was hopeful we could put the District on that path, but figured it would be 10-15 years out, and after my tenure was over before the District was in a strong position to take on such a lofty goal. As the undeterred Board set the aggressive agenda forward and staff got to work however, I quickly began to see a path toward that ultimate goal. Over the next few years, District finances were strengthened, property was purchased, strategic partnerships were restored, and public trust was regained. Now, in July of 2021, we currently have an architect designing a facility based on a citizen led visioning process, and plan to ask voters less than 11 months from now to fund construction. District residents will need to vote to increase their taxes for this to actually happen, though I believe that when the cost and benefits are all weighed out, the majority will support a relatively small increase (about \$100 annually for the average home) for the opportunity to have a high-quality recreation facility such as the one being designed within the community. I figure we need about 3000 votes of support next May, and I will be working hard over the next several months to get yours.