



MEMORANDUM

TO: Chuck Stifter, Parks and Recreation Director

FROM: Aimee Peterson, Superintendent of Recreation

DATE: December 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Recreation Newsworthy

Winter Programs (Jan-Mid March)

Staff have coordinated over 350 programs that opened up for registration last week. During the first three days of registration approximately 1100 people have registered for programs. Early revenue reports indicate 2021 winter recreation program gross revenue (\$76, 896) is very close to that of 2019 (\$82, 622).

Pop up Rec Fest

On December 1 we partnered with Project my Neighborhood to host the annual Pop up Rec Fest at the sports dome. This free event brought over 130 kids and families to the dome for nerf blaster wars. Pre-registration was required to manage numbers and capacity. This year we also partnered with Toys for Tots. Everyone who participated brought a toy for the toy drive. Two Marines spoke to the group of children and shared about the charity as well as shared their stories of being a sharp shooter in the Marines. Project my Neighborhood staff shared their anti-bullying message to the group. This event was initiated to allow public access to the dome outside of the normal sports use by the associations.

Angel of Hope

On December 6th staff hosted the annual Angel of Hope candle light memorial. The community gathered to remember those who are no longer with us. Candles were available, the Mayor spoke, a local pastor provide a prayer and the annual poem was read by Park Board Member Kelly Cunningham. Tanya Huntley assisted by Kiley Meyhoefer as well as Park Keeper Troy Pepin made sure all logistics were in place for this memorable day.

Farmers Market

As part of a \$2000 sponsorship arrangement the Maple Grove Farmers market hosted an indoor market on December 8 at the Boston Scientific campus in Maple Grove. Staff were asked to line up vendors for an indoor farmers market for their large employee base. This

was a new experience for our staff and vendors. The event went very well and staff learned a few things and are evaluating if this would be something to consider in the future. Fostering a relationship with a large corporate business in Maple Grove is very important and we look forward to working with Boston Scientific to invite their employees to our regular market at the Community Center.

December 21 will be our last indoor market in 2021. This year the market has been hosted in the Community Center banquet room. The room works very well and both vendors and patrons have commented on the success of the new space.

Skate with Santa

On December 11 Central Park hosted the Skate with Santa and the Rotary annual tree lighting. The event was very well attended and included the following program.

5:00 p.m.: Santa Arrives and Tree Lighting

5:10 p.m.: Carolers from Maple Grove Senior High

6:20 p.m.: Ice Performance by the Maple Grove Skate School

7:00 p.m.: Ice Performance by the Maple Grove Skate School

Sensory Santa

As part of our diversity equity and inclusion initiatives staff hosted our first Sensory Santa event at the Town Green meeting room. Families pre-registered for this free event. These families have children with needs that make it difficult to visit Santa in a busy atmosphere with long lines. All reservation spots filled and 14 children enjoyed 10 minutes of one-on-one time with Santa. We thank Santa Garry who donated his time for this event. Crystal Anderson was the lead Recreation Specialist who created and executed this new event.

Outdoor Rinks

Rink flooding has begun however with the snowfall and warmer weather rinks may open later than hoped. Opening dates will be promoted online once we know more.

Michelle Debace coordinates staffing at the rinks and is working on a rotation by lead rink attendants to all rinks. With staffing shortages, we are looking at options that may include reduction of staffing, light and warming house services at the three sites that do not have light timers. Boundary Creek, Elm Creek and Donahue North. We will keep the Board and public informed of any changes in our services.