



CITY OF
MARATHON, FLORIDA

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MEMORANDUM

Date: February 11, 2020
To: Honorable Mayor and City
From: Paul Davis, Parks and Recreation Director
Through: Chuck Lindsey, City Manager
Subject: Parks and Recreation Monthly Report

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT
December – January 2019/20

Special Events

December

The month of December was slow for special events at the park due to the Holiday Season.

January

Conch Records Music Video Festival (January 3-5) – The turnout for this event did not go as planned. From speaking with staff and vendors at the event the average number of visitors was around 150 a day. Possible reasons for low attendance could be due to a \$20 entrance fee to the event. There was no significant damage to the athletic field except for the normal wear because of tents and stages on the fields

Florida Keys Celtic Festival (January 8 – 13) – This was the largest event this year on the new sod. There was over 50 vendor's set-up on the fields. Talking with the event organizer there was about 2000 visitors who came to the event over a 3-day period. One of the major concerns was the log toss event tearing up the fields. After the fields were cleared, I did an inspection with the event organizer and our maintenance person. There was no significant damage to the fields. In the area where the log toss took place there were small divots in the grass, but nothing significant to where grass would need to be replaced. The volunteers for the Celtic festival did a great job of escorting vendors on and off the fields prior to and after the event.

***The athletic fields were closed for two weeks (January 13 – 25) for repair and fertilization.**

Family Fun Fest (January 25) – Family Fun Fest is an annual event put on by the Parks and Recreation Department. Over 40 vendors participated in this event. Local dance studios performed along with the Boy Scout Color Guard presented our colors and the singing of the National Anthem. The high school baseball team cooked hotdogs for the visitors. Approximately 800-1000 people attended the event.

Fishing Fun – Ali Adams had the Fishing Fun event at Crane Point on Saturday, January 18, 2020. Approximately 50-70 kids participated in the event along with some parents.

OPERATIONAL

Youth Basketball – We started a six-week Start-Smart basketball program (3-4 year olds) and clinic (5-6 year olds) Saturday mornings at the high school. The program is set-up to teach the fundamentals of basketball with parent involvement for the start smart program and some advance basketball skills for the clinics. We have 8 participants for the Start Smart program and 11 participants for the clinics.

Home School PE – we are continuing with our Home School PE class on Tuesday afternoon. There were no additions to the program since the last report.

High School Tennis – MMHS started tennis practice January 20 at the park. They reserved the tennis courts Monday – Friday from 2:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Youth Baseball – we started youth baseball/softball and T-ball sign-ups. The cost for participants is free for T-ball (sponsored by Florida Marlins) and \$50 for baseball and softball. The plan is to start the season (clinics) at the end of February. I have been meeting with the Marathon Youth Club and we decided to change the format this season and use clinics for the first 4 weeks of the season. The age groups for this season is 4-6 year olds for T-ball, 7-8 year olds for minor league baseball/softball (coach pitch), and 9-12 year olds for major league baseball/softball (player pitch). The clinics will be broken down by age divisions, with each group have two clinics per week. At the end of the clinic sessions we will select teams, give them a week to practice and have opening day ceremonies, and begin play the following week. The remaining season will be six weeks in length with two games being played a week. T-ball will be a 10- week season while baseball/softball will be 12 weeks. I have set-up meetings with coaches for the league to discuss the plans for the league moving forward and to gather feedback from the group before the season starts. The baseball fields are now open after the sod was laid down and the fields were fertilized. We just purchased some equipment to break up the clay (compacted) so we can make a smooth surface for anyone using the fields. We are in the process of ordering a batting cage and hope to have it up before the baseball season begins.

Pickle Ball – we decided to have open pickle ball times here at the park on Tuesday and Thursday's from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. On average 25-30 people show up to play pickle ball on those days and during that time. The group has also decided to play on Saturday's because the group has grown so much. A person who is a member of a pickle ball association in Maryland approached me and he was interested in teaching pickle ball here at the park for anyone wanting to learn the sport. We will be meeting in the future to discuss plans for him to teach pickle ball here at the park. **The tennis courts are on a first come first serve basis.** That way there are no issues with both tennis and pickle ball being played at the same time.

Bocce Ball – there has been a group of 10-15 people coming out to the park to play bocce ball on Wednesday afternoons. Besides that not much playing is going on other days.

Spring Camp – we will be having our Spring Break camp this year from March 16 – 20. This year we will add a couple field trips for the kids.