

supporting staff and supervisors. The new staff appreciation program “Most Valuable You” is being rolled out next month. Education on the program will be provided to supervisors and staff in the next few weeks.

Staff received a refresher on the Tuition Reimbursement program. This program has made a great impact on the retention and advancement of current staff into more advanced and harder to fill roles.

Operations

Maintenance

Ongoing work is being done maintaining the facility as the library lobby had its failed exhaust fan replaced including the entire housing motor and fan assembly. The library’s heat pump #2 had a coil freeze up due to low refrigerant, so staff topped up the charge and a very small leak was repaired. The women’s washroom exhaust fan motor had failed and was replaced at the 55+ Activity Centre. The pool water main had backflow prevention installed that was required by CRD Water to meet code following an inspection. And finally, lobby glass panels at the Q Centre Arena that were broken by pucks, were replaced along with a cracked window in the Fieldhouse.

Preventative maintenance continues on the Q Centre Arena unit heaters #1 to #7, which all received service and repairs including full cleanings, the replacement of 3 motors and 2 belimo valves. JDF Recreation Centre exhaust fans, Q Centre Arena fan coils, the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus packs, library heat pumps, and 55+ Activity Centre heat pumps all received their semi-annual service. The 55+ Activity Centre fridge and freezers received their annual coil cleanings.

Annual shutdowns saw Centennial Centre closed for deep cleaning of the entire site, new shelving installed to expand storage in the pottery studio, new lighting in the pottery studio, and a complete restoration of the washroom floors. Along with the usual scrub, wax, patch, and paint, a ballet bar was installed in the fitness studio. The Childcare Centre kitchen was also closed, and the floors were deep cleaned.

Staffing is still an issue with maintenance and three regular full-time postings open, in addition there is an auxiliary posting open to replenish the auxiliary list.

Parks

Spring clean-up of the parks’ yard has started and as the growing season is just around the corner. Several pieces of equipment are receiving significant work in preparation for heavy use in the coming months. The mechanic is working on engine modules, rollers and bearings, and has had to shoehorn in a new cylinder head replacement on the remaining propane Zamboni for the maintenance department. One of the 3 pump motors for the irrigation system has been removed and is being rebuilt and staff are also having work done on the Variable Frequency Drive computers that control the speed of the motors.

The winter was hard on both the golf greens and lawn bowl greens. To promote growth and help them recover from disease, parks have verti-cut and fertilized. Although staff try to keep people off the ball fields, the public are jumping the fences and running their dogs on them. All the fields were deep tined for the month and will be done again in the coming weeks, this helps with recovery and drainage.

The upper play park passed the recent inspection from Island Health. Staff will be doing more regular maintenance to help with the lowered chip levels resulting from use, to continue to meet regulation.

The installation of the irrigation feed to the new skatepark is being installed by the parks crew to help offset rising construction costs. At the same time crews are starting to replace the main irrigation line that runs to the upper park. Work has started on the design phase to improve the cenotaph. WSPR is working with Colwood to determine scope, possible multiple phases of implementation to make the site more usable without requiring increased resources by WSPR.

Parks has implemented labour use forms to better define jobs, identifying needs to provide better service.

Inventory of the horticulture beds on the property is complete and inventory of all hardscapes on the property has started to help future planning and prioritizing. This includes roadways, curbs, sidewalks and speed bumps. This will aid staff when making decisions on where to allocate capital monies in the future.

To improve security, crews have started the process of changing the pad locks on the property.

Programs

Community Recreation

Starting January 30th, a new Parent and Toddler drop-in program called Active Start for ages walking-5 years will be offered. Registration is online and filled extremely quickly. The staff will lead families through many activities to encourage physical literacy, movement, and fun. It will run Mondays in the Indoor Sports Complex. The Bright Beginnings program for ages 2-3 years started up again last week and each program is full. There are a total of 24 kids registered with a waitlist.

Registration for the 10-month programs running September 2023 - June 2024 begins on Monday, February 13th for 26 spots for current families and siblings. New families' registration will start March 6th. Registration this year will be online for the very first time. The 10-month program currently has 95 families and 5 remaining spaces in the program and our Nature Preschool has 40 families with 19 remaining spaces available, which were excellent registration numbers and staff expect the same for 2023.

The daycare program is full with a large waitlist. Staff implemented the new Childcare Government Grant starting in December 2022 with a fee reduction of \$545 per child, resulting in monthly fees of \$505 per child (\$1050.00 original monthly fee). Parents are very pleased. Staff are implementing a new parent app for the daycare called HiMama. Staff are currently being trained and will start using it February 1st which allows a paperless platform providing parents real time pictures and communication with staff. Everyone is very excited to start it.

A new indoor soccer league started on January 7th on the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre indoor turf field. 42 players signed up for the league, which is provided through the local recreational sports company, Rex Sports. Drop-in reserved ball hockey began on January 26th and staff are excited to add this new opportunity to the Indoor Sports Complex and has been included in the membership pass.

“Youth Fitness Foundations”, a new program for 2023, began on January 10th. This program is designed for youth looking to live an active and healthy life by developing a fitness foundation with a focus on fun. The program develops physical literacy skills, strength and cardio conditioning, and speed and agility through exercises, games, and activities. Another new program for 2023 is set to start on January 26th, Youth Indoor Dodgeball. This program will give participants the chance to play a variety of styles of dodgeball every week. Registration is nearly full, and staff are excited to get going.

WSPR and Thrive Social Services Society (Formally Phoenix Human Services) have teamed up to provide a “Food Sense” (healthy cooking on a budget) program. This free 6-week healthy cooking program teaches adults how to cook simple nutritious meals, learn to read nutrition labels and provides a tour of a local grocery store. Families must have a child attending SD62 to participate. Registration is full with 8 families participating and Thrive is offering a waitlist for future programming. Funding for this program is via Thrive Social Services Society, through SD62, the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Province of BC.

Fitness and Weights

The fitness department was excited to see it’s first New Year’s rush in over two years following the COVID-19 pandemic closures. Weightroom admissions and headcounts were the highest since pre-pandemic stats, with over 70 patrons in at peak times. Fitness programs also saw a spike in attendance with many indoor cycling and drop-in classes full with record high attendance (30 participants). Over 87% of registered fitness programs ran successfully. Youth fitness programs also showed a strong start with the new Youth Fitness Foundations course running successfully for the first time. Youth weightroom orientations continue to increase in demand with 4 additional group orientations added to supplement the existing offerings.

Several new pieces of fitness equipment were added to classes and the weightroom in time for the new year, including a new Olympic lifting platform and set of bumper plates to help meet the demand for dedicated lifting space and equipment. This equipment has been well received with steady usage and appreciation from patrons.

A ‘Total Body & Stretching’ staff training workshop was offered to WSPR and regional fitness staff to increase training and development opportunities and continuing education credits needed to maintain annual certification requirements. The workshop was a success with 11 fitness staff attending.

Aquatics

The winter 2023 swimming lesson season is successfully underway with almost full enrolment in all swimming classes. Happy to report that the group of newly trained swim instructors and lifeguards have done an excellent job so far.

The weekend leisure and fun swims have been busier than anticipated, regularly reaching roughly 200 swimmers. Since adding additional lifeguards, staff are no longer experiencing capacity limit/waiting issues in the lobby.

Due to interest from the public to work at the JDF Pool, staff have created an open posting for aquatic staff until the end of February. It is anticipated that 6-8 aquatic staff will be added to the team before the start of spring break with two separate intake dates. The vacant acting aquatic program assist role

was filled at the beginning of January. Emily Newton, one of the most experienced and well-respected team leaders has successfully taken this opportunity until the end of summer.

Arena, Events and Golf

The golf course had a good January with the mild weather. There were over 1,200 rounds by January 25th. This makes the month the 8th best January since 1999. The Pro Shop staff and food and beverage staff have started to plan for an influx in youth purchasing food and drink items from the Pro Shop, as an expectation of new patrons from the skatepark is expected.

The skating team participated in the intermunicipal Learn to Skate training at Pearkes Arena on January 22nd. There was a good turnout of current and future skate staff from all the recreation centres in the region. This program has given skating lessons consistency throughout Greater Victoria.

January 20th – 22nd saw the return of the Pacific Cup to the Greater Victoria region. 122 teams in men's and women's divisions consisting of age categories of 19+, 30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+ and 55+. The JDF Arena and The Q Centre Arena were booked solid Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with tournament games. This tournament kept local accommodations and restaurants hopping over the three days.

Attendance has picked up at both Grizzlies' and Wolves' games. The past few games for the Grizzlies have been around 600. The Wolves had an Indigenous game that saw 450, and a JDF Minor Hockey appreciation night in the JDF Arena had 350 in attendance.

The food and beverage team has been working on an RFP for the Fieldhouse kitchen which would consist of a rental and a caterer onsite.

The bookings department has sent out the request letter for spring and summer rentals, and are working hard scheduling events for the year including the potential Beyond Van Gogh exhibit.

Inclusion, Diversity and Equity

The JDF Senior's Association has reached a membership of 1,014 members, which is closing in on the pre-COVID numbers of 1,200.

WSPR was a successful in securing \$15,000 from the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) "Reaching Each and Every One: A Community Sport Intervention Program". Funding will be used for skatepark programming that removes barriers and increases sport access, participation and retention rates for equity deserving groups, in particular Black, Indigenous, racially diverse, 2SLGBTQQIA+, low-income and newcomer populations, as well as people living with disabilities. This will be a pilot project and act as the foundation to future programming at West Shore Parks & Recreation.

The program will be titled 'Equity Across the Board Skatepark Programs'. The goal is to create a location and programming for youth where everyone can fully participate and have equitable opportunities to succeed by building a skateboarding environment that is accessible, safe and welcoming for all participants, especially those underrepresented in skateboarding.

The regional LIFE Program has begun for 2023 with 34 members. We are seeing steady uptake on this program and a return to pre-COVID use. Staff have been working on developing a report to track this assistance program through the Intelligenz recreation software.

- *Grant Brown, administrator verbally added to the report:*
- The City of Langford has passed the budget. Presentations are being made to the City of Colwood and the Town of View Royal next week.
 - The Outdoor Pickleball Courts RFP is ready and will be posted in March. In September, the board will be presented with the options.
 - The Café RFP will be ready next week for posting.
 - A meeting with the Tennis Club of Canada is tentatively scheduled for March or April. The organization is interested in looking at possibly putting a temporary bubble over the tennis courts during the winter months.
 - A grant application has been submitted for projects involving clean energy and if successful will be used towards replacing some of the air handling units.

The board commented that the \$15,000 grant that will be used towards skatepark programming is a great start to this new amenity.

IN CAMERA

10. **MOVED/SECONDED** BY DIRECTORS ANDERSON AND OLSEN THAT THE MEETING MOVE IN CAMERA.
CARRIED

THAT there is a need to have a meeting closed to the public and persons other than the West Shore Parks & Recreation Board of Directors, and staff and those identified under section 1. (2)(b) negotiations between West Shore Parks & Recreation and a third party.

WSPRS STAFF (GEOFF WELHAM, RON DIETRICH, AND APRIL LUNCHINSKI) AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC LEFT THE MEETING AT 6:27PM.

ADJOURNMENT

11. **MOVED/SECONDED** BY DIRECTORS ANDERSON AND GUIRY THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 7:38PM.
CARRIED