



Recreation Department

~creating community through people, parks and programs~

MAUREEN FRANK
Deputy County Administrator

Handwritten: 2011-08-04

FILED

AUG 04 2011

Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne

BY Jane Barnes
Clerk

ERIC AITKEN
Recreation Supervisor
Aquatics

August 2, 2011

CASSIE WILLIAMS
Recreation Supervisor
Youth & Aging Services

The Honorable Eric L. DuTemple
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
41 W. Yaney Street
Sonora, CA 95370

MICHAEL CHAPPELL
Recreation Supervisor
Standard Park
533-2678

RE: Response to 2010-11 Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations for
the Tuolumne County Recreation Department

Dear Judge DuTemple:

The following is the response related to the report on the Tuolumne County Recreation Department as requested and required pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05. Below you will find listed each Grand Jury finding or recommendation followed by my response to each.

Standard Park

Findings

1. The lighting in and around the restrooms needs to be improved.

Response: Agree. Additional lighting was added this spring to the Standard Park Restrooms as part of our Prop. 40 Capital Improvement Plan.

2. Standard Park has lost billboard rentals due to business closures and the poor economy.

Response: Agree. County Recreation will continue to work with the business community on renting billboard space at Standard Park.

3. The scoreboards are in need of repair or replacement as several lights are out and the face of some are broken. The playground equipment has aged and is currently under repair. Due to the high water table work has been postponed. It is roped off until approval is complete. The stairs and slide were replaced in February 2011.

Response: Disagree on scoreboard and agree on playground equipment. In regards to the scoreboard lights, we replace these lights on a weekly basis. It seems to be a goal of some softball players to see if they can knock out a scoreboard light. The playground equipment is has been repaired this spring as part of our Prop. 40 Capital Improvement Plan.

Recommendations

1. Continue with the plan to use grant money to fix the restroom lighting issues.

Response: Additional lighting was added this spring to the Standard Park Restrooms as part of our Prop. 40 Capital Improvement Plan.

2. Create a billboard that can be seen from the roadway to let the public know what facilities are available to rent.

Response: We believe that creating a large enough billboard that could be seen from Tuolumne Road would be a big risk management issue. Reaching out to the public and letting them know what is available at the Recreation Department is very important. To this end this fall we plan to roll out our new Rec1 software program that will enable residents to enroll in programs and rent recreation facilities on-line.

3. Continue with the plan to use grant money to update the playground and scoreboards.

Response: As noted above the Standard Park playground equipment was updated this past spring. Also a new shade structure is in the process of being installed. Both these projects were part of our Prop. 40 Capital Improvement Plan. A new scoreboard was just purchased 5 year ago and we do not have immediate plans to replace it.

Sonora Tiny Tots

Findings

4. Sonora Tiny Tots program provides safe, developmentally appropriate, preschool opportunities for Tuolumne County children.

Response: Agree. We are very proud of the services and educational opportunities our Sonora Tiny Tots Staff provides to our youngest residents. The skills and social interaction they receive participating in this program prepares them to be successful when they enter elementary school.

5. Playground and outdoor structures need updating.

Response: Agree. Grant funds from Sonora Area Foundation and Lowes were received this past fall for the replacement of the play equipment and the installation of a shade structure. Staff is in the process of making these improvements and anticipates the work being completed by the end of September.

Recommendations

4. Continue with program and increase funds as they become available.

Response: We concur with the Grand Jury's assessment of the Tiny Tot program. It is an excellent program and would love to expand the program as funds become available.

5. Use Prop. 40 funds to update equipment.

Response: This past winter, Tuolumne County Recreation Department received a generous grant of \$ 34,200 from the Sonora Area Foundation and \$1,000 from Lowes. All of these funds will go to replace the old playground equipment and install the new shade structure at the Sonora Youth Center where we conduct the Tiny Tot Program.

Tuolumne County Youth Centers

Findings

6. Due to the loss of an Activities Director position, cuts in the program offerings have been made.

Response: Agree. Cuts in the Activity Director and other Recreation Department positions have forced us to made reductions in the type and number of programs we offer to the public.

7. The Youth Centers provide a variety of programs for youth ages 8-18.

Response: Agree. The Youth Center Staff are incredible and resourceful in the type and number of excellent programs they provide to the youth of Tuolumne County.

8. The Youth Center provides an adult-monitored environment.

Response: Agree. The Youth Center Staff provide a safe and positive environment in which youth from round the county can come and participate in a variety of programs.

9. Some facilities are in need of basic maintenance and repairs.

Response: Agree. These past two years, with Prop. 40 Grant funds, the Recreation Department and Facilities Management have completed a number of repairs and upgrades to our Recreation Facilities. This coming year we will be making repairs to the following sites: Columbia and Twain Harte Pools and Sonora Youth Center.

Recommendations

6. As funding permits, bring back the Activities Director position.

Response: As funding becomes available we would like to restore this and other positions with the Recreation Department.

7. No recommendation.

Response: None needed.

8. No recommendation.

Response: None needed

9. As funds permit, make improvements for basic maintenance and repairs.

Response: The Recreation Department will continue to make sure our Youth Centers are safe and in good repair. As funding becomes available, needed repairs will be made at these facilities.

Aquatics Program

Findings

10. The pools hire 40-50 youth each season.

Response: Agree.

11. The pools are in need of safety covers and other updated modifications.

Response: Agree. As noted above, with Pro. 40 Grant funds, we have made repairs to Tuolumne Pool this past year and will be making repairs to both Columbia and Twain Harte Pools this year. Regarding safety covers, we have safety covers for the Columbia, Twain Harte and Tuolumne pools.

12. The pools are well utilized by the community. An average weekly attendance is 2800 swimmers. The pools are open May-September.

Response: Agree. The pools and the services/programs (swim lessons, recreational swim and pool rentals) provided by the Recreation Staff are incredible and are well used by the community.

Recommendations

10. Continue to keep the pools open. They provide summer work for young adults and a supervised activity for the community. Look into extending the season.

Response: The Recreation Department concurs with the Grand Jury recommendation regarding the pools. They are tremendous assets to the community and as funding becomes available we would love to extend the season.

11. Utilize Proposition 40 funds and the RZH Grant to make needed repairs and upgrades.

Response: As noted above, the Recreation Department has made repairs to the Tuolumne Pool this past year and will be making repairs to both Columbia and Twain Harte Pools this year. Also the County is partnering with Sonora High School with a grant application that if received will benefit the community as a whole.

Fire Fighter Training Program

Findings

13. The program provides a unique training opportunity to begin a career with the Forest Service.

Response: Agree. It is a great collaborative effort between the U.S. Forest Service and the County Recreation Department to provide this educational experience to the older youth population.

14. Acceptance into the program requires that a student be a high school graduate or enrolled and in good standing with their high school.

Response: Agree.

15. The program is posted online, advertised through local schools and TCPRD. Applications are available at TCPRD.

Response: Agree. One clarification that needs to be made is that the acronym used above is not correct. We are the Tuolumne County Recreation Department (TCRD).

16. The class is well attended. Offer another one-week session as the need and funding arises.

Response: Agree. The maximum class size is 30 participants. This past April we had 24 people participate in the program. As funding becomes available we would love to offer a second session of this training.

Recommendations

13. No recommendation.

Response: None needed.

14. No recommendation.

Response: None needed.

15. Continue to provide appropriate information to the public regarding classes.

Response: Tuolumne County Recreation Department will add this training opportunity onto our new Rec1 registration software as well as advertise the program at each of the high schools.

16. The class is well attended. Offer another one-week session as the need and funding arises.

Response: Tuolumne County Recreation Department will continue to assess the interest in this training program and will add an additional one-week session as the need and funding becomes available.

I trust that the responses provided above are found to be fully responsive to the findings and recommendations contained in the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Grand Jury Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maureen Frank', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

MAUREEN FRANK
Deputy County Administrator