

NEWS RELEASE

ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT MAKING MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME

From: Rockford Park District
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Financial Advisory Committee Recommendations Yield Great Results

ROCKFORD IL – The Rockford Park District Board of Commissioners received a status report this evening that demonstrated the cost savings realized through a citizen advisory group that made nine recommendations to the Commissioners last February to reduce expenses or generate new revenue.

Implementing the nine recommendations from the Financial Advisory Committee resulted in expense reductions totaling \$907,392, and generated new revenues in the amount of \$600,565.75.

According to Tim Dimke, Executive Director, “The seven professional citizens who make up the Financial Advisory Committee developed the nine recommendations, which they presented to the Board last February. As District staff worked the plan and then quantified the results for this final six month report for the Board it was astonishing to see how effective their recommendations were, and how effective District staff were at implementation.”

Examples of cost reductions or revenue enhancements included in the report:

- 2,120 volunteers have contributed 44,794 hours of service to the Rockford Park District during 2009, representing a savings of \$375,112 in wages
- A first time donation station and opportunity to give back was offered at the Music Shell. Concert goers could mail a monetary donation, and \$2,000 was obtained through the mailing and donation station
- The maintenance shops at Page, Aldeen, Alpine and Blackhawk Parks were closed in December to save utility expenses. All operations have been consolidated with other maintenance shops in the District providing a cost savings of \$4,500 (wages and utilities)
- Cellular phone re-bidding resulted in \$10,000 savings per year for the service contract and \$2,500 in equipment credits
- Desk top printers and fax machines were reduced for a savings of \$5,000
- Play Coordinators and Tee masters were reduced at the five courses during non-peak times and generated a cost savings of approximately \$20,000 overall for 2009
- A five year re-bid for Waste Collection Services resulted in a savings of \$4,000 per year
- A contract for third party suppliers of electricity resulted in a savings of \$130,000 per year, and has ongoing operational savings for District facilities and museums
- A new professional audit firm was hired through a Request For Proposal that resulted in \$10,000 savings
- Re-bidding general contracted maintenance for mowing parks resulted in \$36,143 savings

The entire report is available on the District’s web site, www.RockfordParkDistrict.org

For more information, please contact: **Tim Dimke, Executive Director, 815-987-8800**

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ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT

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