August 20, 2014

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: City Manager

Subject: Teen Services – Cooperative program with the BESD

Background

During the budget development for fiscal 2014/15 the City Council authorized $40,000 for a Teen program after school at Lipman Middle School. Since that time a joint committee of the City Councils 2 X 2 committee and the Parks and Recreation Teen Subcommittee have been meeting and reviewing a proposal from Lipman Middle School Prinicipal Jolene Erbes.

The program will commence with the start of school in August and will be evaluated by both the District and the City in late fall prior to the January start up for the winter session of school.

The program has three basic elements:

1. Homework Center – there is currently a one hour home work center. There will now be two hours a day, although most students will participate in only one hour. The other hour they will avail themselves of other program opportunities.
2. Enrichment Workshop & Classes – examples include dance, theatre, music, culinary skills, academic chess, sports, crafts, biking, hiking, etc. Specific programs will depend on availability of instructors. A program staff person will be responsible for pursuing opportunities.
3. Coordination with existing Sports Leagues – As the Commission knows the City Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of sports leagues. We will be coordinating with the Teen program in offering opportunities to play basketball and other offered league sports. The hope is that having the school based Teen Program and City sponsored league programs in close proximity and coordination will foster greater participation.

There are many ideas and questions around Teen programing. With the commencement of this program we can begin to work our way through the various opportunities and constraints. As we have learned in recent years the likes, dislikes and needs of young teens is an ever evolving area and requires flexibility and a hands on approach. This program should provide bot h the resources as well as a creative environment to adapt to new needs of the teens as well as opportunities that present themselves.

All the parties involved in development of this program see the need and value of doing a program evaluation early on. To that end we will be jointly doing an evaluation and bringing that back to the Council and Parks and Recreation subcommittee before years end.