

From: [Brian Tungate](#)
To: [Kristi Heim](#)
Subject: FW: Press Release FYI
Date: Thursday, August 05, 2010 11:05:39 AM

Will go in Board packet

From: Aaron Zemlock
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 10:34 AM
To: Don Merkes; Brian Tungate
Subject: Press Release FYI

We have been working hard to curb the problems at Hart Park. There have been numerous incidents of graffiti, vandalism, fights, and drug use/sales at Hart Park. Officers have increased their presence at the park and have stepped up enforcement of violations. Although the skate park tends to draw the most attention it is often those "hanging out" around the basketball courts or in the adjacent parking lot that are causing the problem.

This past Tuesday and Wednesday officers were called to investigate disturbances at the park which involved a number of people who commonly use or hang around the basketball courts and parking lot area of Hart Park. The incident on Tuesday involved several juveniles 15-16 yrs old. One of the juveniles suffered a broken nose, bleeding behind the eye and a possible facial fracture. Both the victim and another juvenile were referred to court on charges.

The incident on Wednesday involved mostly adults around the ages of 18-19. One individual had been beaten up and lost a tooth. Six arrests were made. One juvenile and four adults were referred for charges of Substantial Battery. One juvenile was issued a summons for Resisting/Obstructing and officer.

Earlier this year a number of ideas were discussed with the Menasha Park Board regarding ways to curb illegal and unsafe activity at the park. One of those ideas involved the immediate closure of a park or area of a park due to criminal or unsafe activity. The idea is that immediate closure will send a message that this behavior is not tolerated by the police nor by the citizens and residents near the park. Unfortunately, legitimate park users will suffer the temporary loss of the activity also. The hope is that when activities resume, park users will be more likely to contact police or tell other park users to follow the rules in order to prevent additional closures of park areas.

The rims are being removed today from the basketball court. They will be reinstalled when park and police officials deem it appropriate to do so.

Our primary concern is the safety of our park users and the safety of our residents. Until the illegal and unsafe activities stop, park users can expect this response or more comprehensive closures in the future.

Aaron Zemlock

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