



PHILADELPHIA PARKS & RECREATION

Parks & Recreation Staff Comes Together to Make 2016 Mummers Parade a Success

This year marked the 116th annual Mummers Parade. According to co-directors Leo Dignam and Jim Marino, the parade is a massive undertaking and would not be possible without the dedication of Philadelphia Parks and Recreation staff. This year, 110 PPR employees from a variety of work units staffed the event in numerous roles inside the PPR offices and out on the parade route. Some of these jobs included: security, crowd control, oversight of different performance divisions, food coordination, transportation management, maintenance, and management of scoring statistics. Leo and Jim expressed deep appreciation for the staff members who step away from their regular jobs for the day to make sure that all aspects of the parade run smoothly. “Overall, it went well. The staff did a really good job coordinating,” said Jim.

PPR staff were stationed on the tenth floor of One Parkway Building as well as outside along the parade route. A few employees worked the New Year’s Day tradition—stretching along Broad Street from City Hall to Washington Avenue-- for the first time this year. “It was a great experience to see everyone involved,” said parade newcomer Carline Perez, who works in PPR’s fiscal unit. “I really enjoyed the creativity, diversity and costumes.”

This event is a longstanding partnership between Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the Mummers organizations. It can be an unpredictable event, but it always works well. According to Tom Beebee, the judging supervisor for the String Band Division, the parade would not be able to exist without the dedication of PPR staff. “We could not do the Mummers Parade without Parks & Recreation staff,” he said. “Parks & Rec has done wonderful things to take care of us and make sure we have everything we need. God bless everyone behind the scenes so we can focus in on the Mummers. It all adds up to a wonderful experience.”