

Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes from Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Mayor Webster called the regular meeting of the Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission for Tuesday, April 6, 2010 to order at 7:00pm. Members present were Gene Burt, Carmen Daniels, Joe Ramirez and Julie Wright. Also present was Greg Karle, Parks and Recreation Director.

Minutes from the March 2010 meeting were approved.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

- Mr. Karle stated that there will be 5 soccer teams in the spring, which is down one from 2009. Games begin April 10th. There will also be a total of 7 baseball/t-ball teams (4 baseball, 1 coach pitch and 2 t-ball), up one from 2009. Baseball is scheduled to begin April 17th and t-ball April 24th. He noted that there have been some problems with scheduling (District 2), so they may move the start date back. T-ball and coach pitch will again be independent (not through Knothole) with Glendale, Hartwell and Wyoming. Assistant Director Matt Beaty plays a significant role in administering this league through rule development, scheduling and maintaining standings.

Staff is hopeful that there will be enough teams for a Mixed Couple Softball league this year. The Men's Golf League is scheduled to begin on April 14th. There are the same number of participants as last season but there will be six new faces joining them.

- The March "Springdale's Gone Wild" program on insects was attended by 40 people. Next up on April 12th is "All About Skunks" presented by local wildlife expert Cody Hillenbrand.

The senior luncheon in March had a St. Patrick's Day theme and attracted 50 people. The menu featured soup, salad and a baked potato. In April Raison D'Etire will provide a return performance titled "Swing Canaries." The threesome pays homage to other musical trios like the Andrews Sisters. The luncheon will be on April 16th.

Chair Volleyball begins their season this month. There will be two teams again this year. In March, the preseason meeting and referee training was hosted by Springdale. There were over 60 people from a large number of communities. They were very impressed by the facility.

AARP will finish their Income Tax Help program on April 9th. They will be offering a Drivers Safety Program for seniors (over 50) on April 22nd.

There will be an exciting new program called Job Club beginning Wednesday, May 5th. Kathy Nienaber of Super Jobs will present this program free of charge. Those seeking employment or underemployed should take advantage of this opportunity to learn strategies for finding jobs, writing resumes, interviewing, negotiating salary, etc. They will meet weekly from 3:30pm – 5:00pm at the Community Center. This program is sponsored through SOS and Super Jobs.

- Mr. Karle noted that the maintenance staff completed the refinishing of the racquetball court floors and the studio. Nearly \$2000 was saved by completing this project with labor from the maintenance staff versus an outside contractor.
- A teen night was held on March 14th with 40 teens in attendance. The next morning they assisted the Lions Club with their annual Pancake Breakfast bussing tables and serving guests. Much positive feedback was received. The two teen nights at the pool have been set for June 11th and August 13th.
- Parks Maintenance Worker Ken Shroyer was successful in his application for disability retirement. This position will be filled with a part-time Parks Maintenance Worker. Applications will be accepted through April 16th.

Administrative Assistant Debbie Carpenter will retire April 30th. Four internal applicants were interviewed and a decision will be made soon on the appointment.

All summer employment positions have been filled contingent on background checks. A very experienced aquatics staff returns with 15 guards from last year and two new ones. The Aquatics Director will be OJ Messina who served as Assistant Aquatic Director last year. The new Assistant will be Katlyn Mukuda. She is a NKU graduate with degrees in education and theater. Her background includes experience lifeguarding, teaching lessons and managing the City of Sharonville Aquatics Center. Parks Maintenance will return five of the six seasonal workers from last year. An orientation meeting is scheduled for May 1st for all seasonal staff to review policy.

Items of **New Business** discussed were:

- Mr. Karle stated that he would like to revisit the policy for recommending youth sports teams for recognition at city council. He said the policy as understood is that teams are to be recommended if they achieve an accomplishment beyond their league regular season or league tournament. Examples have been teams placing in the NNESSA Soccer tournament or advancing to the Knothole City Tournament. It should be recognized however that not all programs have opportunities beyond those within the league. He noted that the goal should be to ensure that we are being consistent with the recommendations. He shared references from November 4, 1997, April 4, 2000 and May 2, 2000 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. He said a request has come forward from a basketball team that went undefeated and won their league tournament be honored at council. It is important to note that this season two teams finished undefeated and won the tournament, two others finished in first with one loss and won the tournament and two others finished in first with one loss but only placed in the tournament. One of the volleyball teams also went 24-0 and won their tournament. Additionally, last year there were two basketball teams that went undefeated and won the tournament as well as a volleyball team that went 17 – 1, winning the league and tournament. After discussion the Recreation Commission voted unanimously to maintain the current criteria.

- A request has been received from Sonya Velez-Rodriguez of the Vineyard Church to host in conjunction with the 7th grade Spanish class from Cinti. Hills Christian a festival/carnival at Chamberlain Park on Saturday May 1st 1pm – 3pm. The event will be open to the public, but they are specifically attempting to reach out to the Hispanic community in the Willows and Heritage Hill. There will be 12 to 14 activities with carnival type table games such as Go Fish, Ping Pong Ball Toss, Duck pond, etc. as well as face painting and arts and crafts. There will be soft drinks, hot dogs and popcorn free of charge. There will be no rides and everything is free of charge. They would like to have recorded music playing to provide a more festive atmosphere. Mr. Karle shared his concern with the music disturbing neighbors and the organizers said they would keep it at a moderate level, directed away from the homes. This group has hosted a similar event for a number of years called a “Community Block Party”. There have been no problems in the past and they have done an excellent job of cleaning up after the event. The Recreation Commission approved the event with the stipulation that the music is kept at a level so as not to disturb the adjacent neighbors and that the music is off by 3:00pm. It was also noted that portable restrooms be supplied at their cost for the event.
- Mr. Karle shared with the Recreation Commission that the staff recently completed a study of the time it now takes to process a membership. Previously it took approximately 14 minutes to complete a membership renewal to the Community Center. Amazingly it now takes only about 2 minutes to renew. New family memberships can be completed 10 minutes quicker than with the previous system. Factoring out the time saving multiplied by the number of memberships, the latest Rec Trac module will save over 350 hours per year. These upgrades not only allow us to more quickly serve our customers, but also free up time so customer service staff can perform other duties or staff hours can be reduced.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

- a) Opening Day Parade and Ceremony – April 24th**
- b) Arbor Day Ceremony – April 30th**
- c) Elections – May 4th**
- d) Third Grade Health Fair – May 6th**
- e) Cost Containment Day – May 7th**