

**Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Minutes from Tuesday, April 3, 2007**

Mayor Doyle Webster called the regular meeting of the Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission for Tuesday, April 3, 2007 to order at 7:00pm. Members present were Gene Burt, Joe Ramirez and K.T. Russell. Also present was Parks and Recreation Director Greg Karle.

Minutes from the March 2007 meeting were approved.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

- Mr. Karle reported that there are 14 youth sports teams with 169 participants this spring. Soccer has four teams, T-Ball has 3 teams, baseball has five teams and girls softball has 2 teams.

The commission discussed the decline over recent years of youth participating in community sports. Several factors were noted including the population demographic of an aging community and the prevalence of computer and video games as the game of choice for many children. It was also noted that many more options for activities exist today from many different sources. Mayor Webster suggested that future program guides or flyers advertising sports registration include a list of communities who participate in the leagues so parents have a better idea as to the travel commitment they are getting into. There was also discussion of the increase in the Hispanic population in Springdale and how to address their needs. It was suggested that staff consider that future program guides and information be available in Spanish and distributed with assistance from the elementary schools.

The Mixed Couples Softball league has five teams entered and begins their season April 24<sup>th</sup>. The golf league has 12 teams entered

- In February and March the Community Center was a site for AARP income tax assistance for seniors. Volunteer training was held in January. Forty appointments were offered each Friday in February and March with 360 returns able to be filed during that time.

The Creative Stamping Class continues to grow, attracting adults of all ages. The meeting date was changed from Fridays to Mondays to accommodate some attendees who needed child care in order to attend class. A scrap booking class has been added and we hope to experience similar success.

Monthly senior luncheons continue to be well received. Valentines Day was celebrated in February with a four piece Jazz combo from Princeton High School. In March seniors celebrated with the “wearing of the green” for St. Patrick’s Day. Entertainer Jack Frost played all the favorite Irish tunes. Coming up in April will be Major General Sterling Price, aka David Koonce reenacting a Civil War General.

Planning is underway for our first Senior Prom (for senior citizens) to be held the evening of May 12<sup>th</sup>. Staff and volunteers will transform the Auxiliary Gym into a glittering ballroom with the well known Pete Wagner Band playing their standards.

The first senior trips took place recently. Joy Tour and Travel hosted a trip to Beef 'n Boards in Indianapolis and the Springdale Senior Citizens Club hosted a trip to the Cincinnati Museum Center.

Free coffee is now offered in the Senior Activity Room Monday through Friday compliments of Oak Hill Cemetery and Spring Grove Partners.

Corn Hole is now offered on Wednesday evenings for adults. It will be on a drop in basis. We may consider a league in the future if the interest dictates.

- The STAFF group assisted the Lions in their pancake breakfast. They served and bused tables. It was a great opportunity for them to help out another community organization.
- The Third Grade Health Fair took place Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. There were stations related to children's health and safety. All third graders in the Princeton School District attended as well as most private schools in the district.
- Mr. Karle noted that the Adult/Senior Programmer interview should begin soon. Marty Garges is still with us until her home sells or the new person is on board and trained. He also informed the commission that the Community Center Custodian Shelley Payton has informed us that he intends to retire May 31<sup>st</sup>. He has been with the department for 9 years. The position will be advertised beginning Sunday and will be posted on the City of Springdale website. Staff is currently interviewing candidates for seasonal employment including lifeguards, gate attendants, pool concession workers and seasonal parks maintenance workers.
- The Spring/Summer Fun Guide was distributed to the commission. Mr. Karle explained that it should currently be arriving in homes. He noted that it is the largest guide the department has created with this edition being four pages longer than in the past. This is primarily due to growth in programming opportunities.
- Mr. Karle updated the commission on the major special events happening this summer. He explained that plans for the Fourth of July event are coming together well. There will be family oriented entertainment to include face painters, jugglers, stilt walkers, balloon artists, air brush tattoos, sand art, a living statue and much more. Two hot air balloons will provide free rides. Staff is working on an event called "Chalk It Up" where families can create a work of art from chalk on the multipurpose court. A 14 piece big band called "Lee's Junction" will perform 7:00pm – 9:15pm., and the evening will conclude with a fireworks display.

The Cincinnati Civic Orchestra will perform in the amphitheater on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm to 8:30pm. This will be part of their summer concert series. They will perform selections from “America’s Greatest Composers”.

The annual Women’s Softball Tournament is scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the Community Yard Sale on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

A new event this summer will be the “Springdale Summer Cruise-in. It is planned for Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm to 9:00pm. It will be open to pre-1975 vehicles. Plans are in process for a 50’s & 60’s rock and roll band to play in the amphitheater.

Items of **New Business** discussed were:

- Mr. Karle informed the commission that Carolyn Pearson has requested that her husband Larry’s induction into the Youth Sports Memorial be postponed until next year. She and her family would greatly like to attend, but had an out of town trip planned. Mr. Karle also explained that he had not been successful in reaching the families of the two individuals Gene Burt had recommended for the memorial. It was decided that if contact could be made in the future that their induction could occur at that time.
- Tickets are now available for the Springdale Night at the Reds Game. Tickets cost \$10.00 each for the game on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Springdale Elementary Chorale will sing the National Anthem and the Springdale Police Color Guard will display the colors.
- The following Upcoming Dates of Interest were noted:
  - a) Easter Egg Hunt – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 12noon at Ross Park.
  - b) Easter Sunday – Closed
  - c) Wildlife Program – April 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm, “Nighttime Senses”
  - d) Arbor Day Ceremony – April 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm
  - e) Opening Day Parade and Ceremony – April 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00pm
- Ms. Russell stated that she was concerned that the Recreation Department did not provide enough activity for and communicate information adequately to residents who are young adults and middle age. Mr. Karle noted the various methods of communication currently utilized including the program guide, e-news, email, flyers, direct mail etc. There was discussion related to offering volleyball at different times of the year, particularly the summer months. Also ideas were shared on attracting new participants to such programs. Mr. Karle noted some of the new programs that have recently been added and stated the staff’s commitment to trying to offer any activity that has sufficient interest and support of the residents of Springdale,