

Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes from Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Mayor Doyle Webster called the regular meeting of the Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission for Tuesday, September 4, 2007 to order at 7:00pm. Members present were Gene Burt, Carmen Daniels and Joe Ramirez. Also present was Parks and Recreation Director Greg Karle.

Minutes from the May 2007 meeting were approved.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

- As a follow up to discussion of Knothole baseball at the previous meeting, Mr. Karle reported that the Greater Cincinnati Knothole Supervisors Association has decided to re-align and consolidate a number of districts. Those affected were districts 2, 12, 15, 16, 18, 21 and 32. It is our understanding that the goal of the re-alignment was to group communities of similar size (number of teams) and geographical location together. With the exception of Sharonville, the areas within the Princeton School District will play in District 12 along with the current District 16 and a few other areas from the previously mentioned districts. The areas that will be grouped together as a result of the re-alignment include: Arlington Heights, Carthage, College Hill, Elmwood, Evendale, Finneytown, Forest Park, Glendale, Greenhills, Hartwell, Lincoln Heights, Mt. Healthy, North College Hill, Northwest School District, Springdale, St. Bernard and Wyoming.
- Fall Soccer began their season on August 25th. There are a total of nine teams with one team each in boys and girls passers, boys and girls wings and boys strikers as well as four instructional teams. Mr. Karle noted that due to a lack of volunteer coaches at this level we are taking a unique approach this season. There was only one person who felt confident to assume the role of head coach. We did however have a number of volunteers who were willing to assist. Ron Brooks agreed to be the head coach for all four teams with 2 – 3 assistant coaches from each individual team assisting him throughout the season. This model allowed all of the assistant coaches to gain experience and become comfortable in their roles so that they would be more confident and capable in assuming the head coaching duties next season. It also assured that all of the children were in the hands of an experienced coach (Ron Brooks) in a positive environment where they could focus on the fundamentals of the sport.
- The Men's Golf League was completed August 29th. The end of season banquet is scheduled for September 5th.
- Mr. Karle highlighted some of the adult and senior programs that had taken place during the summer. Over 80 people attended the Senior Prom. The seniors danced the night away to the sounds of Pete Wagner's Band.

In June 40 people attended the annual Picnic in the Park. Seniors enjoyed the standard picnic food and games.

The Red Hat Society is meeting monthly and going to area tea rooms. The energetic group has a limit of 20 due to space constraints of the tea rooms. They do have a waiting list.

In August 50 people enjoyed the Ice Cream Social with a "Create Your Own Sundae" theme. Participant Council members also provided home-baked goodies that were a special treat with the sundaes.

Coming up is the "On the Road Again" luncheon on September 21st with a speaker discussing the early days of travel by automobile. Also, in September, AARP is offering a two day Drivers Safety Class for seniors.

- Mr. Karle informed the Commission of personnel changes within the department.

Adult/Senior Programmer Anna Briedenbach began working with us on July 17th. She brings excellent experience and creativity to the position. In the short time with us she has quickly started new programs, projects and built relationships.

The candidate selected for the open Custodian position did not pass the background check. We decided to re-advertise and received 36 responses. We hope to begin interviews soon.

Parks Maintenance Worker Damon Shepard resigned in July. The position was advertised and 213 applications were received. The applications are currently being reviewed.

A new Fitness Instructor, George Iaboni will begin in late September. He will fill a vacancy as Rob Southall relocates out of state in the fall.

Two interns will be working in the Fitness Center this fall. Andy Hackman from Cincinnati State will be here for 13 weeks working approximately 13 hours per week. Jamie Pentaudi from the University of Cincinnati will begin September 24th, working 10 weeks for approximately 15 hours per week.

Adam Knight resigned as Teen Advisor in July. Dana Kennedy has been hired to fill this position. She has served as the adult treasurer for the STAFF group for many years and has been a prolific volunteer with SYB, scouts and as a youth coach.

- Mr. Karle stated that the pool season went very well this year. Another year of maturity for the young staff of guards and managers help make things run smooth. Day camp returned this year to Springdale Elementary with the participants taking part in swim lessons and open swim in the afternoons.

Two large umbrellas were added to the pool deck to provide shade and to create a visual impact. We plan to include another shade feature in the proposed 2008 budget.

Two of our traditional events drew large crowds this year. The Ladies Day at the Pool was attended by over 20 women this year. All appeared to have a great time. The Goldfish Swim took place the final Saturday of the pool season and was attended by over 150 children and their parents.

The Sailfish swim team has stabilized in numbers with approximately 50 swimmers. The positive is that they have many young children entering the program for the first time. They finished runner up in the small team division at the league championships.

- Many of the major special events of the summer were highlighted by Mr. Karle. The Hometown Family Fourth was a totally re-designed event for the Fourth of July holiday to make it more family friendly. There were good crowds despite threatening weather. There was much positive feedback and no problems to report.

The annual USSSA Women's Qualifier drew 23 teams this year. Perfect weather contributed to a great weekend of softball.

The Cincinnati Civic Orchestra performed in the amphitheater to a crowd of just under 100 people. It was oppressively hot that evening contributing to a smaller than expected crowd.

The Community Yard Sale was sold out to capacity at 60 booths. Channel 5 was onsite 7am – 10:30am airing live segments, Channel 12 also shot footage. It's estimated that we had 300 – 400 people in attendance. Sales were very good. SYB had concession sales of over \$600. Unfortunately Salvation Army did not show up with their truck as was arranged. Staff spoke to each individual vendor and urged them to take their unwanted items to Goodwill or deposit them in the dump truck that we had on site for disposal.

The Springdale Summer Cruise In, as were many events this summer, was hampered by less than ideal weather. Threats of rain and hail forced the concert inside to the gym and no doubt reduced the number of classic cars in attendance. Despite that, we were very pleased to have over 80 classic automobiles take part in the cruise in. Positive feedback was received from those who attended and took part in the event.

Mayor Webster inquired if the department had considered or obtained prices to provide a cover for the amphitheater. He further stated that a cover for at least the stage area could provide some protection from the sun and allow performances to continue if there is less than ideal weather. Mr. Karle said it had been considered many years ago, but he would research designs and costs and report back.

- The renovation of Field #1 was completed in the spring. The field was reopened in July for use during the Women's Softball Tournament.

The bid opening for the Community Center Boundary Fence, Backstops and Underwood Park fencing has occurred and the project should be awarded at the September 5th City Council meeting. The Queen City Fence Company has been

recommended as the lowest and best bidder. They are experienced in athletic field fencing, completing large projects for West Chester and Colerain Townships and the City of Cincinnati. The department has communicated with the bordering residents to minimize inconvenience to our neighbors.

Items of **New Business** were:

- Mr. Karle reported that the Fall Winter Program Guides are now in homes.
- The Commission was reminded that the Taste of Springdale would be taking place September 15th. Close to twenty area restaurants are participating. Entertainment will begin at 2pm with Forte, a four piece vocal group, at 4pm acoustic guitarist Matt Martini and at 6pm classic rock and roll show band Devona and the Demo's will take the stage.

Staff has put together a Cornhole Tournament that begins at 2pm. We hope to attract an early crowd with this event. There will be shuttle buses running throughout the neighborhoods. The evening concludes with a fireworks display at 9:00pm.

- Two new programs will begin at the Community Center. Electric and bass guitar lessons will be offered on Tuesdays 7pm – 8pm. Tai-Chi will meet Thursdays 7:15pm – 8:15pm
- The following upcoming dates of interest were noted:
 - a) Junior Olympics – September 8th volunteers are needed
 - b) Winter Sports Registration Begins – September 8th
 - c) Taste of Springdale – September 15th, 2pm – 10pm
- Mr. Burt noted that the walking path at the Community Center is in need of repair. He sited cracks and areas where the surface is uneven. Mr. Karle said pricing has been obtained for said repairs and they will be proposed in the budget.

Mr. Burt also noted that the duct work on the ceiling above gymnasium courts #1 and #2 appear to be dusty. He was concerned that people walking or running on the track may have difficulty with the dust. Mr. Karle said he would look into a solution. This spring the maintenance staff cleaned as much as they could safely reach but that he would readdress the issue.