

Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes from Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mayor Doyle Webster called the regular meeting of the Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission for Tuesday, October 2, 2007 to order at 7:00pm. Members present were Gene Burt, Carmen Daniels, Holly Emerson, K.T. Russell and Joe Ramirez. Also present was Parks and Recreation Director Greg Karle and Assistant Recreation Director Sharon Casselman.

Minutes from the September 2007 meeting were approved.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

- Sharon Casselman provided a report on the pool season. Attendance was up in 2007 by approximately 2,000 visits with 12,191 swimmers admitted. The two new large umbrellas were a bit hit. We hope to add another shade feature on the deck in 2008.
- Mr. Karle requested input from the Recreation Commission on the policy regarding smoking in the pool compound. Ms. Casselman explained that the current policy allows smoking in the seating area of the concession only. A concern has been expressed that because this is both the only areas designated for smoking, as well as the only area where food is permitted, people who are eating have no choice in being exposed to second hand smoke.

Ms. Casselman suggested that the deck area could be set aside as the area where smoking would be permitted. She stated a concern that if there is not some option to smoke in the pool compound, smokers would move to outside the entry gate exposing more people to the smoke as they walk past them and in close proximity to the tot lot and young children. There was also a concern that smoking parents would be more likely to leave their children unattended if they had to go outside the gate to smoke.

There was much discussion on the issue. The general feeling was that permitting smoking on the deck would make that area unpleasant for non-smokers. The commission voted unanimously to not permit smoking in the pool compound.

- Ms. Casselman also requested an opinion from the Commission on the pool's policy that prohibits a child from wearing a life jacket in the pool. Ms. Casselman explained the safety consideration and a survey she had compiled from other similar aquatic facilities. She also shared her recommendation to allow the use of life jackets on children in the shallow step area of the pool only. The department would have several jackets on hand to borrow, but a US Coast Guard approved PFD would be acceptable if approved by the manager on duty at the pool. The commission approved the policy unanimously.
- AARP 55 Alive Driver Safety Program was held at the Community Center with 16 members in attendance. Most insurance companies will grant attendees an auto insurance discount with the completion of this course.

The “ON the Road Again” luncheon was held on September 21st. Over 50 people attended. The speaker received a standing ovation and numerous requests for her to present again.

The hearing screening was held on September 26th with 18 individuals getting their hearing tested for free.

The chair volleyball team, the Silverstreaks recently participated in the Senior Olympics tournament. They did not place, but had a great time competing. They improved greatly through their first season.

Coming in October is an “Apples All Around” luncheon featuring the director of the Johnny Appleseed Society.

Ms. Casselman presented the results of a senior survey conducted by the department. Approximately 1040 surveys were sent out with the Scoop newsletter, 105 responses were received. The primary purpose of the survey was to determine the need for evening/weekend programming for seniors. Many seniors are still employed fulltime, limiting their availability for daytime programs. We also hoped to gain information on possible new programs or activities, as well as feedback on our present offerings.

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

Five candidates have been identified and have cleared an initial background check for the custodial position. We hope to begin interviews soon.

A narrowed list of candidates for the open Parks Maintenance Worker position has been developed. We hope to refine that list further to assemble a pool of eight or nine to interview.

Customer Service Assistant Lori Sellars has submitted her resignation from her part time position. We have hired Tami Reminga to fill this position. She is a longtime Springdale resident and works full time for Cincinnati Financial. She brings strong customer service skills to this critical frontline position.

- Mr. Karle reported that 110 children participated in the annual Junior Olympics this year.
- Mr. Karle noted that the Taste of Springdale event went very well. The weather was excellent and no doubt contributed to the sizeable crowd. The Cornhole Tournament filled up with 32 teams entered. It was estimated that approximately 100 people were there for the tournament, accomplishing the goal of attracting an early afternoon crowd. The vendors reported excellent sales. There were no problems to report.
- The final capital project to be completed this year is the replacement of backstops at the Community Center and park boundary fences at Underwood Park and the Community Center. The contract was awarded to Queen City Fence Company. Staff

has met with them and is carefully coordinating the planned removal of trees and the fence replacement with forty-six neighbors affected by the project. Work should begin in mid-October.

Items of **New Business** were:

- Mr. Karle reported that the Fall/Winter Program Guides are now in homes.
- 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) Springdale's Gone Wild – Coyotes in Our Area, October 10th, 7pm – 8pm.
 - b) Teen Night at the Rec. – October 19th, 9pm – 11:pm
 - c) Halloween Carnival – October 28th, 3pm – 5pm
- Commission Member Carmen Daniels asked if the Recreation Department's website had been updated. Mr. Karle stated that it is not where they would like it to be yet. It is hoped that with the very busy summer of special events behind us that staff can devote more attention to this project.