

Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes from Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Mayor Webster called the regular meeting of the Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission for Tuesday, October 7, 2008 to order at 7:00pm. Members present were Gene Burt, Carmen Daniels, Holly Emerson, Joe Ramirez, K. T. Russell. Also present was Greg Karle, Parks and Recreation Director.

Minutes from the September 2008 meeting were approved.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

- Mr. Karle noted that fall soccer is in full swing. Teams are just past the halfway point in the season.

As of Friday evening 110 children are registered for basketball (150 last year). While it is still early efforts will be made to encourage more sign-ups. Cheerleading has 15 girls registered (a maximum of 20 are accepted). Volleyball has 21 children registered, but it is still very early for this program.

- The September senior luncheon, "Sister Acts" was a great success. Many of those in attendance have requested that we have them return. This event attracted one of the largest crowds for a luncheon at 71.

Members of the Cincinnati Ballet were here to perform on September 24th. There were 4 members of the ballet company and the dean of the school in attendance. They went through a day in the life of a ballet performer from wake up, to warm up, to rehearsals, to performance. The forty people who attended found it very interesting and entertaining.

Games Galore continues to be very popular. In the past few months it is averaging 15 to 20 people. Dominos and Rummy Cube seem to be the favorites.

The October luncheon is themed Oktoberfest. Attendees will have a traditional German meal and entertainment by Laura Hazelbaker, classical violinist and fiddle player.

The senior participant's council is busy working on their holiday luncheon. They have chosen a theme of memories. They plan to have attendees bring in items that bring back memories of holidays past, like toys, cards, decorations, etc.

Boot Camp is back! The popular early morning class started back Sept. 3rd.

- Mr. Karle shared with the Commission that the person selected to fill the vacant

Fitness Instructor position did not respond to attempts to reach her, so we have moved on to other candidates. There should be a decision soon on a person to fill this vacancy.

Anna Breidenbach will return from maternity leave on October 8th. Donna Lanter has done an excellent job in her absence managing the adult and senior programs.

- Participation in the Junior Olympics was up nearly 50% this year. There were 162 children involved as compared to 110 in 2007. In fact, this was the largest number of children registered since 2000. The new events seemed to be very well received from the parents and their children. There were many positive comments. Some events may require minor adjustments but that was to be expected
- The weather cooperated and resulted in a very successful Taste of Springdale. The Cornhole Tournament attracted 31 teams (one short of the max). A Dixieland band entertained early as well as Forte, a barbershop quartet. Ooh La La & The Greasers performed in the amphitheater in the evening. There was a wide variety of local restaurants, businesses and service organizations involved. The evening was topped off with an impressive fireworks display. There was some drift of ash into the crowd and food court areas due to very unpredictable winds. There were no serious injuries or incidents to report. Mayor Webster stated that he would like to establish a deposit for vendors who would like to participate in the Taste of Springdale. The deposit would be returned if they filled their obligation to have a booth operating in the event. He further explained that some restaurants held booth reservations until the last minute then backed out, leaving us with no opportunity to fill the opening.

The wind storm on Sunday caused damage to several booths, the large tent and the Taste street banner. Quick action by our staff (calling in maintenance crew) saved considerable damage to both our property and that of the booth vendor.

- The wind storm of September 14th destroyed a number of the large banner signs at the Community Center. It is anticipated that insurance will cover that loss. The Community Center regained power that Monday at approximately 10am. Many residents took advantage of our power to charge cell phone and scooters as well as using shower facilities.

There were also a number of trees blown down at the Community Center and neighborhood parks. Parks Maintenance personnel were able to handle the majority of the damaged trees, but several required professional expertise. Parks staff has also been assisting public works on their chipping crews to deal with storm damage.

The following Items of **New Business** discussed were:

- The 25th annual Halloween Carnival will be held on Sunday, October 26th, 3pm – 5pm. There will be costume contests, coloring contests, games, crafts, door prizes, caricature artists and balloon artists. Ages through 4th grade. Admission is free.
- In an effort to provide more cost effective and efficient email information to members, the Recreation Department is using a new email management program called Constant Contact. It will manage email accounts (over 1000), bounces, new subscribers, unsubscribers and preferences. When a person signs up they can register for any or all of the special interest lists (seniors, fitness, youth etc.) Members will only receive communication on those items in which they have indicated an interest. It will allow the department to better target marketing efforts. The program will also provide up-to-the-minute reports on opens, forwards, click-throughs, deletes, etc. Staff is also looking at changing the way information is communicated to some user groups. For example, in the past communication with the teens was primarily through postcards. The more popular mode of information transfer with this age group however is text messaging. A considerable cost savings will occur with the elimination of postage and printing and it is anticipated communication will be enhanced.
- Mr. Karle noted that Channel 5 was at the Community Center on October 3rd to film a feature for the 5pm news on inexpensive ways to stay fit in your community. There was nice footage of the Center and interviews of staff and patrons.
- The following upcoming dates of interest were noted:
 - a) Halloween Carnival – Oct. 26th, 3-5pm
 - b) Election Day – Nov. 4th,
 - c) Flu Clinic/Business & Community Expo – Nov. 6th
- Mayor Webster shared with the Recreation Commission members the ramifications of the lost tax revenue that will be experienced as General Electric relocates a large number of jobs to West Chester.