

**Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Minutes from November 4, 2008**

Mayor Webster called the regular meeting of the Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission for Tuesday, November 4, 2008 to order at 7:00pm. Members present were Gene Burt, Carmen Daniels, Holly Emerson, Joe Ramirez, and K.T. Russell. Also present was Greg Karle, Parks and Recreation Director.

Minutes from the October 2008 meeting were approved.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

- Mr. Karle reported that the fall soccer season was finished and basketball practices had begun. There will be 15 teams this year (same as in 2007). 135 children are registered, but it is anticipated that more will come in over the next two weeks as the high school and junior high make cuts. Cheerleading has 18 of 20 spots filled and volleyball currently has 29 children enrolled.
- On October 17<sup>th</sup> the senior luncheon was themed as Oktoberfest. The 65 seniors in attendance enjoyed an autumn meal fit for the occasion. Laura Hazelbaker provided the entertainment. She is an incredible violin and fiddle player who has toured with country legend Ray Price. She wowed the audience, playing requests from the crowd.

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> the *Afternoon at the Movies* series continued. Thirteen people came to watch "The Five People You Will Meet in Heaven". It's a great deal, movie, coffee, popcorn and the company of good friends at no cost.

Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> will bring the return of Adult Night at the Rec. Returning events will be a caricature artist, palm reader and disc jockey, as well as basketball, walleyball, Wii, and cornhole. New to this Adult Night will be a Pie in the Face (pie-eating contest with no hands) and Spud Sculptures (sculpt creations from mashed potatoes. Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door.

December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 11am, through our membership with Creative Aging, an osteoporosis exercise class called *Make No Bones About It* will be presented. Well known lecturer and exercise instructor Donnie Kalb will teach this free class.

- The part time Fitness Instructor position has been filled by Perry Mackall. Perry is a recent graduate of the University of Cincinnati with his degree in Health and Fitness where he also ran track. Mr. Mackall served in the Military Police for the US Army in Germany. He will primarily work Wednesday evenings, weekends and some afternoon shifts.
- The Halloween Carnival had 150 participants this year. This was up from the attendance last year of 90.

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

- The annual Business and Community Expo will be 10am – 3pm Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Area businesses, public agencies and service organizations will take this opportunity to highlight what they have to offer and will take advantage of the outstanding opportunity to network with other businesses and the public. Along with this event, the Health Department's annual Flu Clinic will be 9am – 4:30pm. There will be a second flu clinic offered on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 2pm – 6:30pm.
- Mr. Karle shared with the commission that The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association announced its Annual Awards of Excellence. The department received Superior Awards (the highest) in the category of Program Awards – Pre-School Programs and Events ages 0-5 for *1,2,3 Swim!* Also in Program Awards – Adult Programs and Events another Superior award was earned for *Experience Springdale*. Both of these programs were spearheaded by Assistant Director, Sharon Casselman who is to be congratulated. The Springdale Inside Scoop was awarded Meritorious in Marketing – Print Publication or Materials. Additionally the Springdale Junior Olympics received an Honorable Mention in the Program Awards – Youth Programs and Events Ages 6 – 11.
- Mr. Karle also announced that the Parks and Recreation Department has been recognized by MVRMA for a “Zero Loss Year” in 2007. MVRMA is the insurance pool to which the city belongs. The award recognizes departments that had no liability insurance claims against them.
- It was explained by Mr. Karle that the department will be implementing the Pass Management module of Rec Trac the first week of December. Members should not notice a disruption in service, as their current cards will still work. Before the implementation happens, data will need to be converted from our current membership database (Axxess) to fields that will recognize Rec Trac. This module will increase efficiency and work flow by bringing most aspects of customer service to one centralized database: memberships, facility scheduling, and activity registration. Memberships will now be on a rolling basis expiring one year after purchased. Front desk operations will be streamlined with the elimination of hand written receipts. There will be improved recordkeeping and control of access.

Along with this change the front desk will be moved with the primary public interaction point changing to the lower desk height area near the front doors. We feel this change will better serve our customers and control access.

- The department has applied for a Community Development Block Grant for a project to replace the existing play structure at Chamberlain Park with two new play structures appropriate for children age 5 – 12. The existing structure provides a limited number of play opportunities for children and is appropriate only for children up to age 8. The new play area at Chamberlain Park would put it on scale of the play areas at the other Springdale neighborhood parks. The existing swing sets would be

retained and the wood chip surfacing expanded. Mayor Webster explained that there also is a grant application originating out of the Building Department that will provide financial assistance to property owners in need to make necessary repairs to their homes. The Springdale Offering Support organization will be involved in the administration of this program.

- Mr. Ramirez noted that the website has a significant amount of dated material. Mr. Karle explained that the current program used to manage the site is antiquated and very difficult to manage. He further explained that they are currently investigating having a new template for the website professionally created. It would be in a program that would allow staff to easily manage the site to keep it current and relevant to visitors. Mayor Webster asked that the dated material be removed and noted as "under construction".

The following upcoming dates of Interest were noted:

- a) Flu Clinic/Business & Community Expo – November 6<sup>th</sup>,
- b) Basketball Turkey Shoot Contest – November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2pm – 4:30pm
- c) Tree Lighting Ceremony – November 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm