

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

Mayor Doyle Webster called the regular meeting of the Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission for Tuesday, December 4, 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.

Minutes from the November 2007 meeting were approved.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

- Mr. Karle reported that two youth soccer teams advanced to the State Tournament last month. The boy's passers team lost in the first round and was eliminated. The boy's striker's team advanced to the elite eight before being eliminated. It is planned that both teams will be honored January 16th at City Council.
- Youth basketball started the past weekend for grades 1 through 5 and will start for the junior high and high school teams the coming weekend and in January for the instructional teams. This year 150 children are participating on 15 teams.

Cheerleading has 16 girls registered in grades 2 through 5.

The boosters provided new uniforms for the basketball teams and cheerleading squad. Staff has received excellent feedback from the coaches and players. The boosters went with a give-away uniform that participants can keep after the season. They are reasonably priced, yet they are of excellent quality.

- Mr. Karle reported that the seniors were involved in a multi-generational activity in creating and decorating ornaments for the Christmas tree outside the Municipal Building.

The book lending library is in operation. There are two bookcases filled with books donated by members.

Games Galore Day was held on November 16th. Participants were offered the chance to play many different games and enjoy refreshments. The afternoon was a huge success with all 30 participants asking for a "game day" to be held on a regular basis.

The annual Holiday Dinner was held the past Saturday evening. There were 122 seniors in attendance. Entertainment was provided by Spotlight Kidz. Everything went very smoothly and the attendees seemed well pleased.

- The Teen Group hosted the annual Turkey Shoot Free Throw Contest the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Mr. Karle noted that over seventy people entered the contest to win a free turkey.

STAFF is operating a snack and soft drink concession during the youth basketball games.

- Mr. Karle notified the Commission that the new Custodian, Bob Bacik, began working for the department on December 3rd.

A person has been selected for the Parks Maintenance Worker position and is currently undergoing the background investigation.

The vacant Park Patrol position has been filled by Jeff Kent. He began training November 29th and is now in the regular rotation.

- The Tree Lighting Ceremony attracted over 200 people on November 25th. The Springdale Elementary Chorale sang Christmas favorites, the tree was lit and of course there was a visit from Santa.
- Mr. Ramirez asked how the fence and backstop replacement project was progressing. Mr. Karle advised that they have had difficulty with getting the contractor started. They have been involved in a major project with the City of Cincinnati and did not want to start our job until they could devote their full resources. They are scheduled to begin on December 13th and barring inclement weather should have the project substantially completed by the end of January.

Items of **New Business** were:

- The following upcoming dates of interest were noted:
 - a) Teen Night – December 14th
 - b) Christmas Eve – close at 5pm
 - c) Christmas Day closed
 - d) New Years Eve – close at 5pm
 - e) New Years Day – Closed

Ms. Daniels noted that there is a junior high dance scheduled for the same night as the Teen Night. Mr. Karle said normally staff tries to avoid conflict with school events, but in this case the Teen Nights were scheduled in early August to allow them to be published in the Program Guide. Staff will consult the school calendar in the planning process.

- It was announced that the Parks and Recreation Department was honored with three “Awards of Excellence” recently by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. The honor of “Outstanding” was received in categories that included facilities, programming and marketing. These high honors are a state wide competition among agencies ranging in size from small cities and townships to major municipal departments in Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland.

The Senior Lounge Meeting Room Expansion project received an award in the category of Facilities with a construction cost under \$500,000. The Hometown Family Fourth was honored in the programming category of Family Programs and Events. The department was also honored in the category of Marketing Public Relations/Information Campaign for the Forty Days to the Fourth.

The department received awards for all three items that were submitted. Mr. Karle noted that he was very proud of the entire staff and their efforts in gaining this recognition for the City and the Parks and Recreation Department.

- Mrs. Russell commented that she had noticed that the basketball courts have been slippery. Mr. Karle stated that with a fulltime custodian on board and particularly with Mr. Bacik's experience that he was confident that the issue would be resolved.
- Mrs. Emerson asked if there was a set number of people necessary to open the Auxiliary Gym. Mr. Karle said it would be up to the discretion of the manager on duty considering the number of people in the facility. He said he would look into the matter.
- Mayor Webster updated the Commission on the recent election, the Veterans Memorial, Phase III Kemper Road Project and the Peach Street Parking Lot Project.