

**Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Minutes from Tuesday, March 3, 2009**

Mayor Webster called the regular meeting of the Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission for Tuesday, March 3, 2009 to order at 7:00pm. Members present were Gene Burt, Carmen Daniels, Holly Emerson, Joe Ramirez and K.T. Russell. Also present were Greg Karle, Parks and Recreation Director and Luis Diaz, Pastor of La Vina Church.

Minutes from the January 2009 meeting were approved.

- The Commission agreed to move the proposal for a Latino Soccer League to the top of the agenda. Pastor Diaz presented a proposal for the Vineyard Church to sponsor an 8 week soccer league at Chamberlain Park (May 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 27<sup>th</sup>). He explained that the league would primarily draw from the Latino community in Heritage Hill and the Willows apartment complex. His hope is to provide wholesome activity for the adults and youth in the community. Mr. Diaz was requesting a soccer field with lines and goals, as well as an adequate number of trash cans. He offered that the church would provide security (a Springdale Police Officer), portable restrooms, and would have all trash collected into bags for the city to pick up.

There was discussion as to why the Springdale children would not participate in the existing youth soccer leagues at the Community Center. Mr. Diaz explained that cultural, language and transportation issues are among the major factors. All agreed that ultimately it is hoped that these children could be assimilated into the community program and that the Recreation Department staff would take advantage of the opportunity to contact the coaches and distribute information to facilitate this process if that league is approved.

Ms. Daniels asked if the league was only open to those who are Hispanic. Mr. Diaz said anyone could participate but that was his target audience. The Commission and Mr. Diaz agreed that if approved, the name should be changed to the Vineyard Soccer League to avoid giving the appearance that it was only open to the Latino community.

Mayor Webster related some of the problems experienced approximately five years ago with a similar league regarding trash and alcohol use. Mr. Diaz was associated with this program and agreed that if any of those problems surfaced he and the church would be the first to react and discontinue the league.

The Commission approved unanimously for the Vineyard Church to sponsor and conduct the Vineyard Soccer League at Chamberlain Park, 4pm – 8pm, Saturdays, May 2<sup>nd</sup> through June 27<sup>th</sup> the summer of 2009.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

- Mr. Karle announced the youth basketball season is complete. In the eleven divisions where standings are kept, Springdale had two 1<sup>st</sup> place teams, and one

2<sup>nd</sup> place. Staff is still waiting on some tournament results, but so far Springdale has one champion and one runner up.

The spring sports registration process is nearing its end. Numbers are down a little this year, but it is anticipated that there should be 5 soccer teams, 4 baseball and 3 t-ball. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest for a girls softball team this year. Most of the girls from the team last year are playing in Junior High. It seems Springdale is not unique in declining numbers. It was necessary in soccer for example to combine with Winton Valley and a couple of independents to have enough teams in several of the divisions. Despite having 17 communities involved, a number of divisions have less than 10 teams (5 in boy's kickers)

Registration has begun for Mixed Couples Softball and the Men's Golf League.

- 2006 kicked off with a lot of senior member involvement. The Senior Chair Volleyball group has grown so much in the past 1-½ years that they will be splitting into two teams. They are not only growing in numbers, but also quality of play.

The new Chair Yoga class has been well received. They have been averaging 12 people each class.

The Travel Preview was held on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a great turnout with over 70 people in attendance. In addition to the travel opportunities with Joy Tour and Travel and AAA Royal Tours, the Springdale Senior Club will also provide affordable one day trips.

The Wii Game Day was held January 29<sup>th</sup> and even with the inclement weather six people played the game for two hours. The excitement about Wii has generated a couple of spin off groups, Tuesday morning Wii Golf and Friday morning Wii Sports variety.

The February Mardi Gras luncheon was attended by nearly 70 people. Participant's Council members provided decorations and masks. Pianist Ricky Nye played Boogie Woogie and New Orleans Jazz & Blues.

A Fall Prevention Seminar will be held on Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. 30% of seniors over the age of 65 experience one fall per year. The free seminar will cover how to prevent falls, personal and home risk factors, beneficial exercises and equipment to assist in prevention.

The month finished with two very successful classes of *What's Cooking*. There was a waiting list of 10 people registered for each class. The participants enjoyed the idea of a "No Fry Fish Fry", learned helpful cooking hints, as well as feasting on a 3 course meal for only \$8. Registration for the next set of classes is nearly full.

- The Teen Night on January 23<sup>rd</sup> had over 70 teens in attendance. A second Teen Night was held on February 20<sup>th</sup> with approximately 30 youth in attendance.

Princeton had a make up game with Middletown that night resulting in the low number.

The department has set up regular hours for the Teen Advisor to be in the office on Tuesday evenings. She will spend this time to meet with teens in STAFF, make calls and plan events.

- One of the best crowds yet attended the “Springdale’s Gone Wild” program on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Over fifty people heard a presentation on Birds of Prey by a Naturalist from the Hamilton County Park District. The second presentation was canceled due to inclement weather. Tonight the naturalist will present “Let’s Get Batty About Bats”.
- As a follow up to the discussion on the status of SYB, Mr. Beaty and Mr. Karle met with the SYB president to discuss the organization. There is some reason for concern since the number of active members is very low. They discussed some strategies to invigorate the group. The Youth Boosters did decide not to have the Cinema Horseraces in February citing a lack of volunteers and lack of donations from local businesses.

Items of **New Business** discussed were:

- Mr. Karle advised the Commission that one of the capital expenditures this year in the pool is the replacement of three unreliable chemical controllers with a Strantrol System. The improved technology will enhance water quality and safety by digitally responding continuously to actual water conditions and supply precise chemical dosages, reducing the potential for operator error.

He also explained that a new law took effect in December aimed at preventing entrapment and entanglements in drains at swimming pools and spas. At a minimum, the law requires that all public swimming facilities install new certified drain covers. Unfortunately some facilities around the country have been forced to close due to lack of available certified drain covers on the market and/or the financial cost of the replacement. Our staff has been following this issue for some time and fortunately the fix involved the covers only. New covers were ordered sometime ago and were installed last week

This summer Springdale will be hosting the annual N.S.S.L. Championships on July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Nine hundred swimmers plus coaches, officials and parents will attend the event. Three planning sessions have occurred and all the major components are in place. This major tournament rotates among the various participating swim clubs. Most of the regularly scheduled events have been cancelled during the championships since parking will be very limited.

Regarding the aquatics staff, out of 18 Lifeguards from last year, only three are not returning. Interviews are in process. For the first time in years, nearly the entire staff will hold the advanced training of Water Safety Instructor in addition to the Red Cross Lifeguarding certification. We hope to have Amy Radcliff back

as Aquatics Director. It depends if she is accepted to graduate school locally. The Assistant position is open.

- The Recreation Commission voted unanimously to induct Harold (Sonny) Schaffer, into the Youth Sports Memorial Hall of Fame. Mr. Schaffer was a youth baseball coach and served on the Fund Raisers for Youth Sports.

**Upcoming Dates of Interest**

- a) Springdale's Gone Wild – March 3rd**
- b) 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Health Fair – March 19<sup>th</sup>**
- c) Lions Club Pancake Breakfast – March 21st**