

Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes from Tuesday, September 1, 2009

Mayor Webster called the regular meeting of the Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission for Tuesday, September 1st 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 May 2009 meeting were approved.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

- Mr. Karle stated that Spring Soccer came to a close at the end of May. One team (girl's wings) placed 1st in the league. Baseball and T-ball completed their season by the end of June. Several teams finished above .500, but none of them qualified for post-season play. Also, fall soccer began play the previous Saturday. There are 126 children participating on 10 teams this season. Winter sports registration began September 1st for basketball, volleyball and cheerleading.

The Men's Golf League completed their season Wednesday. Their end of season dinner is September 2nd.

The Springdale Youth Boosters had a rough summer with the Women's Softball Tournament rainout coupled with the cancellation of several other major special events. Mr. Karle said that they are financially stable, but have discussed the need to recruit new members to share the work responsibilities.

The Vineyard Soccer League successfully completed their season at Chamberlain Park at the end of June. The only problem to report was the use of a PA system and loud music playing. An attempt was made to accommodate this use by directing the speakers toward the expressway instead of toward the homes and lowering the volume. This did not correct the problem and the PA was discontinued. In conversation with Mr. Diaz, the program met the desired outcomes.

- It was a busy summer for the adults and seniors. Luncheons were held monthly with attendance ranging from 55 to 75 people. Two free programs were also offered, *An Afternoon of Dance* and *Jazz in July*. Both programs were provided through the membership in Creative Aging Cincinnati. *An Afternoon of Dance* had 60 people in attendance and *Jazz in July* brought 90 people out to enjoy the classical sounds of jazz.

A new free 6-week senior exercise program called Stay-Fit began this summer. It is sponsored by Personal Touch Home Health Care. The class has averaged 28 students each Thursday and Personal Touch has agreed to extend the series through October.

Continuing with free things for our members, American Hearing Solutions sponsored free hearing screenings. Ten people took advantage of this opportunity.

The Prime Time Diners have stayed very active with approximately 20 people attending the monthly dinners. In August, 33 people traveled to The Silver Springs House to dine.

The popular *Springdale's Gone Wild* program continued this summer with a program called *Bat Walk*. Eighteen people ventured to Ross Park in August to learn about our local bat population and watch them take flight.

In September there will be a Home Security Seminar, a free Senior Tai Chi Class, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute seminar, Guided Meditation classes, Osteoporosis seminar, as well as a Bluegrass Luncheon. This is all in addition to our normal ongoing programs.

The Scoop was made a subscription publication beginning with the May/June issue. 220 people subscribed as compared with 1500 that were previously mailed. That edition cost \$859 less than the previous one. The Scoop is also available on the website and can be picked up at the Center.

Adult/Senior Programmer, Anna Breidenbach was honored recently as she had an article published in the summer edition of the OPRA Connection. This is a publication of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, our professional organization. Her article shares ideas and successes she has experienced in finding cost effective ways to operate the senior program in difficult economic times.

- Mr. Karle noted that pool season has progressed very well. The experienced staff has done an excellent job for us. Attendance has been down this summer primarily due to the unusually cool and wet weather as well as no day camp.

There have been no significant injuries or incidents at the pool.

Mechanically there have been a few issues to report. The new Strantrol System was installed in the spring and has done an excellent job of maintaining the water quality. Mid season the slide valve was replaced. Most recently the heater in the baby pool stopped working. It is not repairable, so staff is investigating pricing for a replacement in next year's budget.

The Sailfish had just fewer than sixty swimmers this year. There were many new faces and the team was relatively young, but it was good to see new people in the program. The major event of the year was hosting the league tournament in July. Over 800 swimmers from eight communities took part in the two day event. The staff received many compliments on the organization of the tournament. It's an important fundraiser to the program that only comes our way approximately every seven years. The Sailfish were very proud of their 3rd place finish.

The 123 Swim program won a Special Achievement Award from the Miami Valley Risk Management Association's Safety Award Program. The award recognizes a special achievement program or activity related to risk management, safety or loss prevention. MVRMA is an insurance pool with 20 communities in southwestern Ohio including Springdale.

- Mr. Karle notified the commission of the following issues regarding departmental personnel.

Parks Maintenance Worker, Chuck Holmes retired after 30 years of service to the department and the City on August 31st. Mr. Holmes has been a huge asset to the department and we wish him the best to luck. This position will not be replaced at this time.

Parks Maintenance Worker, Ken Shroyer recently had surgery and will be on sick leave for approximately 3 months.

In May, a new Fitness Instructor, Sam Gleason was hired. He is enrolled at Cincinnati State pursuing a degree in Health and Fitness Technology and is a certified Personal Trainer.

This summer the department had the good fortune to have an intern work with us in the Fitness Center named Phyllis Calhoun. Ms. Calhoun is completing her Masters Degree at the University of Cincinnati. She became involved not only in the management of the Fitness Center, but also taught some excellent classes and seminars, such as *Coping with Stress*, *Strictly Abs.* and *Phyllis's Fitness Sampler*. Ms. Calhoun worked 35 hours per week for 10 weeks and completed her time with us on Monday.

The Parks & Recreation Department was recently awarded a Safety Award by the Miami Valley Risk Management Association recognizing four consecutive years of zero losses 2005 – 08. The full time staff will be treated to lunch compliments of MVRMA.

- A brief report was given on the major special events of the summer.

a) Veterans Memorial Dedication

The Springdale Veterans Memorial was dedicated on May 24th. A nice sized crowd witnessed very moving speeches and a solemn ceremony on the historic day.

b) Women's Softball Tournament

Unfortunately the tournament was canceled due to rain.

c) Community Pride Yard Sale

The annual Community Pride Yard Sale took place on August 8th. There were 52 booths rented. A Salvation Army truck was on site to collect unwanted items at the conclusion of the event. Food and refreshments were sold by SYB. Mrs. Emerson said she had recently attended a community yard sale in Sharonville that was held indoors at their community center. She suggested that it might be worth considering for a winter event that would not be weather dependent.

- Mr. Karle reported the following facilities and maintenance issues.

Gymnasium Courts #1 and #2 were refinished the last week of May. The finish was not satisfactory and the contractor was required to return at their expense to re-sand and apply an additional coat of urethane.

The staff has been busy this year finding ways to reduce energy costs. Adjustments were made to the exterior lighting, allowing it to operate by a photocell as opposed to the mechanical timer that was in place which caused the lights to be on longer than necessary. Also a timer was employed to turn off the parking lot lights at 11pm except for those necessary for security.

Steps were also taken to eliminate unnecessary operation of the Community Center water heaters. Three of the four 100 gallon heaters are cycled out to save energy.

The outside concession stand had adjustments made to the plumbing to allow staff to fully winterize it, eliminating the need to heat the building during the winter.

The manual thermostats in the Auxiliary Gym were replaced with controls that place it on the computerized system in place in most the building. It allows us to turn off the units during unoccupied times of the day and overnight.

All these efforts are coupled with the staff making a conscious effort to turn off unnecessary lights and temperature adjustments to the HVAC system.

The maintenance staff has been painting the trellis in front of the building this summer. They hope to complete the green and orange metal this year and the white detail next summer.

In an effort to more efficiently operate with a reduced maintenance staff, soccer teams will practice and play their games at the Community Center this fall. This will allow Parks Maintenance to maintain half of the fields utilized in the past. As an additional benefit, the fields in the neighborhood parks will be given a much needed rest.

Wood chips have been added to playgrounds in the neighborhood parks and at the Community Center.

- The departmental website is now up and running.

The annual Fun Guide was sent to homes in June. This has been reduced to a once a year publication as the department moves the core of its communication to electronic media. With this edition postage costs were reduced by mailing it only to resident households registered with the Tax Department and non-resident members. This saved printing and mailing approximately 1000 pieces.

Items of **New Business** discussed were:

- The annual Jr. Olympics will take place on September 12th. The format and competitive events put in place last year will be maintained. A number of donations have come in to support this program, minimizing the use of City funds.
- This year, the Chamber of Commerce has decided to make some changes to the Business Expo. It will take place on Sunday, October 11th in the main gyms. They will incorporate a Taste concept by having area business provide food to the public for a small charge. The Chamber will be selling beer, soft drinks and water. As an added feature, the Bengals vs. Ravens Game will be projected on a big screen so those in attendance can enjoy the game.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

- a) Winter Sports Registration began – through September 30th**
- b) Goldfish Swim – September 5th**
- c) Pool Closes for season – September 7th**
- d) Labor Day – Holiday Hours 1pm – 9pm**
- e) Junior Olympics – September 12th**
- f) Lions Club Cornhole Tournament – October 3rd**