

Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, December 5, 2023

On Tuesday, December 5, 2023, Mayor Lawrence Hawkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Members present were Denise Bollinger, Scott Haungs, Danielle Little, Kathy Uetrecht, and Director of Parks & Recreation Charlie Wilson. Regina Shroyer was unable to attend meeting.

Mayor Hawkins and Mr. Wilson welcomed everyone to Rec Commission at the start of a new term.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

Sports Programming

Mr. Wilson said there will be 9 teams this season for winter sports with 79 total players. The cheerleading team is still looking for a coach. They currently have 8 girls on the roster. Mr. Wilson reiterated that Lil Vikes is an athletic based league that has made a significant impact on our team numbers, while we serve the kids who play recreationally. Games should be in full swing starting last weekend for 2nd grade through high school. Instructional games begin January 6. Mr. Wilson gave the history of team numbers - 2022 - 130 players, 12 teams, 2021 – 184 player, 19 teams, 2020 – 160 players, 17 teams, 2019 – 179 players, 18 teams.

The Basketball Skills & Drills Clinic was held on Saturday November 11. Twenty-four children participated as well as eight volunteer coaches who led players through various skills/drills stations.

Youth Spring Sports Registration will begin on January 2. At that time we will take registration for soccer, volleyball, baseball, t-ball, coach pitch and softball.

Registration has begun for adult Racquetball League and Women's Volleyball League. Both leagues begin play in early January. Danielle asked if 16 year olds could play? Mr. Wilson said he thought they could but would circle back with our sports coordinator and Mr. Wilson will follow up with Mrs. Little.

Events & Programming

Events

Veterans Day Ceremony

On November 10, we had our annual special ceremony in commemoration of Veteran's Day at the Springdale Veterans Memorial. Sargent 1st Class Todd Sams gave the Invocation, presentation of colors by our Springdale Honor Guard, and our guest speaker was Barney Landry. He did an excellent job. Approximately 150 people attended.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

On Monday, November 27, the Springdale Elementary 2nd grade choir sang Christmas carols, the Mayor lit the Christmas tree, kids met Santa and Mrs. Clause and cookies were provided. Approximately over 130 people attended.

Programming

Club Rec - Winter Extreme Games will take place on January 26 at 8:00 PM. Program is for 5th-8th graders and will entail group games and activities. Registrations Begins December 10. Denise asked about marketing, and Mr. Wilson informed the group that it should be coming out soon.

Tiny Gym Time – Open gym play time on Fridays from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – For Kids 5 & under. We have floor and game mats, and plenty of toddler toys for kids to play with and parents to meet one another.

Jammin with Joe – Private Guitar Lessons and group lessons are available with Joe Robinson 513-571-9574.

Adult/Senior Programming

Pickleball – Mondays 12:00 PM & Thursdays 10:00 AM. We are currently averaging 24-30 folks playing pickleball during these times.

Let's Eat out Program – Will meet Wednesday December 6 at 10:30 AM at Toast & Berries in Liberty Township.

Craft Day – Monday, December 11 at 2:00 PM Seniors will be making Holiday Fabric Pins.

Book Club – No meeting in December, next meeting will be January 19.

Senior Scoop – Which is a bi-monthly program guide for the months of January and February will go out to those registered to receive the scoop late December.

Springdale Senior Club meets every Tuesday at 9:30 AM in rooms ABC.

AARP Free Basic Tax Services will operated out of the community center early 2024. The community center will begin taking registration for AARP beginning January 2.

S.O.S. – Springdale Offering Support

Donations will be accepted at the Health Department to help needy Springdale families for Christmas. S.O.S. has sought to assist 100 needy Springdale families this year. S.O.S. is also managing a food drive for our needy families. Food donation bins in the Community Center lobby and invited groups to contact the Health Department to volunteer to wrap gifts and sort canned food.

S.O.S. Santa 5K/1M Walk Fundraiser & Christmas Vendor Village

On Saturday, December 2, at 9:00 AM, we had 95 participants for the Santa 5k race. Jake Sweeney's DJ bus played music for the event. As runners completed the race, they were given an ornament completion medal to hang on their Christmas tree. Folks were able to get their picture with Santa and the 501st legion authentic star wars. Between the Vendor Village and Santa 5K fun run/walk S.O.S. raised \$4,487. All funds went to support the needy families in Springdale.

All went really well with the vendor village. There were approximately 47 vendors selling their crafted goods. Scott brought up the possibility of allowing vendors to set up the night before or earlier in the morning and allowing folks pick their spots in advance, especially those who use electric. Mr. Wilson stated that we would consider his suggestion. However, in our planning efforts, we did not feel comfortable allowing folks to setup and store their items in our building over night when other vendors will be coming and going. He shared a story that outlined another vendor that dealt with theft at another location during setup.

Personnel

The department is accepting applications for customer service, recreation attendant, teen advisor, and aquatics director.

Letters are going out this week to last year's aquatic staff in recruitment efforts for lifeguards, concessions and front gate. Mr. Wilson stated that we start recruiting heavily for summer staff because the number of part time and seasonal employees increases from 30 to nearly 70 during the summer. Mayor Hawkins mentioned he had spoken to a resident about our rate of pay for lifeguards, and the Mayor mentioned it might not be a bad idea to review other locations rates of pay in comparison, create a table for administration review to remain competitive for lifeguards.

SYB Winter Sports Pep Rally and Youth Sports Memorial Hall of Fame Induction

Is scheduled for January 5th at 6:30 PM. This Memorial recognizes those who have volunteered as a coach, SYB, or Sponsor who has made an impact on youth Sports in Springdale. Mr. Wilson has reached out to the following inductee's family members to get their bios in youth sports and community involvement. He mentioned to the rec commission group they are encouraged to attend.

- Keith Perkins
- Charlie Hormann

State Capital Grant

The City applied for state capital grant funding to revitalize the community center playground and outdoor basketball courts and tennis courts with the intention of replacing two tennis courts with four pickleball courts. Mr. Uhl, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Sanders went downtown and presented on Monday. \$456,817 is needed to complete both projects.

Items of **New Business** discussed were:

Membership Gift Certificates

Mr. Wilson announced that the Community Center is marketing memberships to its residents in time for the holiday season.

Community Center Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve - 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Christmas Day - Closed

New Year's Eve - 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

New Year's Day – Closed

Underwood Park and Cameron Park Revitalization Project Presentation 2024

Mr. Wilson completed a presentation and displayed renderings that were approved Marjorie Underwood Randolph and husband Jim Macinko who donated \$599,500 to revitalize Underwood and Cameron Park. In summation, The Springdale Parks & Recreation Department will revitalize both Underwood Park & Cameron Park. We plan to repave the parking lots at each park, add new playground structures, and family picnic shelters. In addition, new walkways will be added that make these park features more accessible for our residents. Danielle mentioned if the city would be interested in donating the playground structures to surrounding communities. Mr. Wilson said he would check with administration and see if that is something that we can work out.

Mayors Report -

Mayor Hawkins thanked everyone for joining Rec Commission and gave a brief explanation of duties and expectations. The Mayor gave an update on Dunkin Donuts that their remodeling is done and is officially open. He did a ribbon cutting ceremony recently, where Dunkin donated money to Princeton cheer and Sprinkles the Dunkin Mascot attended. The Mayor also announced that the City will be hiring Katie Smiddy as its new Finance Director and that the City is very lucky to have her on board.

Questions over the aging pool and the budget came up. Mayor mentioned that the aging pool is a big priority for him, and we are trying to figure out a solution. The Mayor went on to explain the budget process the City goes through every year in order to have it complete by December.

Mr. Wilson announced the next meeting will take place Tuesday, January 2 at 7:00 PM.