

Parks and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Tuesday, April 1, 2014, Mayor, Doyle Webster called the regular meeting of the Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00pm. Members present were Steven Brooks, Gene Burt, Carmen Daniels, Doug Stahlgren and Julie Wright. Also present was Recreation Director, Greg Karle, Megan Sullivan-Wiscup, President of the Springdale Youth Boosters and Rodney Harris, President of the Viking Youth Athletics.

Minutes from the March 2014 meeting were approved.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

- Mr. Rodney Harris, President of the Vikings Youth Athletics was introduced. Mr. Harris stated that he is a Springdale resident, community center member and parent who has a strong desire to see the Princeton athletic programs return to the prominence they once held by starting an organization that would allow children to participate without leaving the district. He shared how he was compelled to have his children participate in the Wyoming Football program because he felt the programs offered within the district were not fulfilling his expectations. The VYA organization is certified as a non-profit and has received the endorsement of the Princeton Board of Education which allows them to enter the Greater Miami Youth Football Conference. Mr. Harris said he would like to have all of the communities in the district participate by permitting the use of practice fields during the season. VYA games will be played on the Princeton football field.

Mayor Webster stated that there is concern of how VYA would impact the recreational programs in the community such as basketball, baseball and soccer. Mr. Harris said that they are focused on getting football and cheerleading off the ground by July and perhaps basketball and track next year. He said he would envision basketball as being an AAU type program, but would not commit to how that program may be structured since no firm plans have been made as yet.

There was considerable discussion about why they did not attempt to merge the two existing two football programs in the district as opposed to starting a new program.

Ms. Sullivan-Wiscup expressed her concern about the impact of VYA on fund raising efforts of the Springdale Youth Boosters. Mr. Harris explained some of the fund raising programs and sponsorship opportunities they hope to solicit from individuals and area businesses. He further explained that they are under the umbrella of the Princeton Foundation utilizing their tax exempt number.

Mr. Wilson asked if the coaches undergo a background check. Mr. Harris stated that they not only undergo a background check but also receive coaches training by the league in addition to the required concussion training.

Mayor Webster noted that the VYA football and fall cheerleading program would not have a direct impact on the Springdale recreational sports since those activities are not currently

offered, however other sports particularly basketball if offered would cause serious concern. He requested that Mr. Karle invite a representative of the Princeton School Board to attend the May Recreation Commission meeting to provide insight into the relationship between the school district and the Vikings Youth Athletics organization.

- Mr. Karle stated that the youth basketball and volleyball seasons are complete and we are moving on to spring activities. Soccer and baseball teams have begun practice and will begin league play on April 5th for soccer, April 12th for baseball and April 26th for coach pitch and t-ball. This year there are six soccer teams with seventy seven children participating (6 teams, 78 players in '13). There are two baseball teams, one coach pitch team and two T-ball teams.

Women's Volleyball completed their season with a tournament on March 26th and the Adult Racquetball League is wrapping up with tournament play through the end of April. The Men's Golf League begins April 9th at the Mill Course. There will be ten teams this year. Registration continues for Co-ed Softball.

- AARP continues with their free Income Tax Help Program on Fridays through April 11th. All appointments have been filled.

Fifty seniors enjoyed the free lunch and crème Brule prepared by the chef from Hillandale Communities. As a special treat he shared how to make the dessert.

Its baseball season and to kick it off the seniors played baseball bingo today at noon. They also enjoy the traditional baseball snacks of peanuts, popcorn, hot dogs and soft drinks.

The Cincinnati Reds team historian Greg Rhodes will be sharing stories about the Big Red Machine and the Reds of the 70's on Thursday, April 10th at the Community Center.

April is National Humor Month and the seniors will enjoy a luncheon and presentation on why "Laughter is the Best Medicine". The luncheon will be Thursday, April 17th at 11:30am.

- Mr. Karle said, after further consideration the Neighborhood Yard Sales has been changed from August 16th to August 9th so as not to conflict with the Gold Fish Swim.
- The Springdale Forest Park Lions Club held their 10th annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 15th. The event was again sponsored by IHOP. Over 200 breakfasts were served with the assistance of the Club Rec group.
- The Opening Day Parade and Ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 3rd, beginning at 9am from Value City. The ceremony will include the induction of Dan Kennedy into the Youth Sports Memorial Hall of Fame.
- Both the Aquatics Director and Assistant will return this year. Nine of the seventeen lifeguards from last year have applied. Most of those who have not, have graduated and moved on to other opportunities. Four individuals have been identified for the gate attendant positions. There are three applicants attending Lifeguard certification class that leaves five

positions to fill. Recruitment and advertising efforts have been ongoing but will be stepped up with perhaps newspaper advertising.

Painting of the pool is planned for this spring. Rain is not the only deterrent to painting. Temperatures must be between 50 and 90 degrees and the surface temperature at least 50 degrees. Once applied it requires seven days to cure.

The Sailfish Parents Board is hosting a parents only meeting on April 16th. Topic of discussion will be team finances, fund raising events, coaching staff changes and team socials.

Items of **New Business** discussed were:

- The Greater Springdale Jaycees will host their annual Easter Egg Hunt at Ross Park on Saturday, April 19th at 12noon. The event is free and open to the public.
- Arbor Day this year will be recognized with two ceremonies on Friday, April 25th. The first will be at Springdale Elementary at 1pm and Heritage Hill Elementary at 2:30pm. The Springdale Garden Club will be donating a tree for planting at each location and there will be recognition of Springdale's status as a Tree City USA.
- The department has implemented a commemorative tree donation program for those looking for a way to memorialize a loved one, highlight a special occasion or recognize a business or organization. The cost is \$400 and includes a choice of several trees that are listed as well as a 4" x 6" plaque.
- The annual 3rd Grade Health Fair will take place at the Community Center on Friday, May 9th, 8:15am – 1:45pm. All 3rd graders in the Princeton District are invited as well as private schools. This is a joint effort between the Springdale and Sharonville Health and Recreation Departments as well as the Princeton District nurse. There are over twenty booths sharing information on health and safety. As in the past the Springdale fitness staff will sponsor a station promoting healthy bodies through physical activity. Mr. Karle urged the members to attend if possible.
- Ms. Daniels asked if the Recreation Department had a policy barring sex offenders from the community center and/or parks in the city. Mr. Karle said that there are currently no restrictions. Ms. Daniels said that Sharonville is considering such a policy. Mayor Webster asked Mr. Karle to consult with Sharonville to see what their policy is that they are considering and if there is anything in particular that prompted the action. Ms. Daniels also asked if it would be possible to have the card readers read the membership barcode from a cell phone image. If so it could eliminate the need for a member to carry their card or the department to print as many as we are currently. Mr. Karle said he was unsure how it could be implemented in our system, but would look into it.