

Parks and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, March 3, 2020

On Tuesday, March 3, 2020, Mayor Doyle Webster called the regular meeting of the Springdale Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00pm. Members present were Rob Hormann, Lori Merz, Josh Monson and Mike Sickinger. Also present was Parks and Recreation Director Greg Karle.

Minutes from the February 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

- **Sports Programming**

Mr. Karle noted that the youth basketball season was complete except for one instructional game this weekend. Four teams finished in 1st place; 3rd grade boys, 4th grade girls, 7th grade boys and varsity boys. Two teams were runner up; 3rd grade girls and 8th grade boys. In tournament play, 5th grade boys and 6th grade boys (Walker) were champions and the other 6th grade boys (Svach), 8th grade boys and JV boys were runner-up. Springdale hosted the 8th grade boys and 5th grade boys tournaments.

Spring sports registration continues with late sign-ups. There will be six spring soccer teams (3 boys and 3 girls). There is an increase of one team over last season. There will be three volleyball teams, which is the same as 2019. We plan to have a girls u10 softball team, one coach pitch and at least one t-ball. There are 112 children registered this spring at this point. In 2019, there was a total of 124. Soccer and volleyball practices start the week of March 9 and games begin the first week of April. Softball and baseball practices begin a bit later.

There will be a youth volleyball clinic on Saturday, March 28, 10:00am – 12:30pm. The free clinic is for children in 3rd – 6th grade. The Princeton Head Volleyball Coach, her Assistant, and several high school players will be running the clinic and skill stations.

Women's Volleyball has two more weeks of league play and then a tournament on March 19.

Co-ed Softball registration began on March 1. Games will again be Tuesday evening's beginning in late April.

The Men's Golf league has an opening for one new team this year. The season begins April 22 at the Mill Course. The start date was moved back three weeks in response to feedback from the participants.

Club Rec

Club Rec will have a new event “Madness in March” on Friday March 13. Participants will display a wide range of skills over multiple team challenges in sports and scary situations.

- **Adult/Senior Programming**

In February, we had our second Saturday version of “Crafting with Grandchildren” creating fun, colorful valentine cards and emoji refrigerator magnets for friends and family. Eighteen children and their grandparents shared memories, had snacks, and spent time together on a Saturday morning.

Valentine’s Day was celebrated with a Healthy Heart Walk around the track. Twenty plus members joined in for a 20-minute walk (many walked much longer) and had a Valentine chocolate from Ester Price.

AARP Income Tax prep assistance has been a huge success again this year. All of the available time slots for this year have been taken and staff have been referring inquiries to other locations. Over 350 individuals have receiving assistance.

Looking to March, we have chair yoga on March 4, a special new release movie about a British Family on March 11, This and That “Hidden Gems of Cincinnati” places to go around our beautiful city. Bunco on March 23 followed by Opening Day Baseball Bingo on March 26.

- **Maintenance & Facilities**

The Parks Maintenance staff has been busy with interior work at the Community Center. They have replaced the lighting and ceiling tiles in the Arts & Craft Room that were donated by Lowes. Additionally, the hallway and computer lab have been upgraded to LED. The upgrade not only improves the quality of the lighting but is also much more energy efficient.

The outdoor restrooms and drinking fountains in the parks will be de-winterized as soon as the threat of a hard freeze is over, hopefully this week.

All four Seasonal Parks Maintenance positions have been filled.

- **Fitness**

Fitness Center Manager Elizabeth Johnson returned from maternity leave on February 17. She had a baby girl Lilly Catherine Johnson on January 6.

The guest policy initiated for the Fitness Center has been going well so far. There were 16 guests in January and February.

- **Cinema Horse Races**

Cinema Horse Races were this past weekend. It was reported that there was a larger crowd this year with over 200 people in attendance.

Recreation Software

After further research staff, is very close to recommending the purchase of WebTrac which is the web based software of RecTrac. This product is a bit more expensive, but it will provide a smooth transfer of our existing data and will interface with our current card readers and membership card system. Additionally, the training process should be simplified since the WebTrac software looks and functions in a very similar fashion as RecTrac. RecTrac was founded in 1985 and has a strong track record in the recreational software field. Many of the other providers are newer to the market, and we would have a concern about their long-term stability and customer support. It is projected that online registration could be available by September of 2020.

Items of **New Business** discussed were:

- **Aquatics**

Staff has been busy interviewing Concession Workers, Gate Attendants and Lifeguards for the summer. Four to five additional Lifeguards are needed to be fully staffed. Both Aquatics Director Sharon Brooks and Asst. Aquatics Director Ben Carnahan will be returning. They are both taking a Lifeguard Instructor course in March which will enable them to provide certifications and renewals of staff as well as in service training throughout the summer. Laura Speed has accepted the position of Pool Concession Manager, and she and Sharon Brooks will be attending the Health Department's ServSafe class in March.

Swim Lesson registration begins for members on April 1.

- **Marketing**

Staff is working on the 2020 Program Guide that is mailed to homes in late April or Early May.

The Principals at Springdale Elementary and Heritage Hill School have been contacted and both have agreed to assist us in marketing youth activities on their electronic signboards.

- **Primary Elections**

The Community Center will be the polling place for several precincts in the Primary Elections on March 17.

- **Meeting with Area Realtors**

Area realtors will be meeting at the Community Center for an educational seminar on April 9. We will use the opportunity to highlight the Community Center and recreational opportunities in the city, as well as, distribute Resident Guides and Recreation Program Guides.

- **Open Gym Policy**

Mr. Monson requested that the Commission discuss a concern expressed by a member regarding a lack of open gym time and concern that the visitor policy is not consistently enforced. Mr. Karle stated that during the November through February time period, there were 19 youth basketball teams and one cheer squad practicing and playing their games at the Community Center. They are given two one-hour practices per week and on average, at least half have a home game on Saturday or Sunday. It has been our policy to attempt to maintain at least one open gym at all times. This year, there were only three hours per week where there was no open gym available. The Community Center gyms are available 95 hours per week; 92 hours of those hours have at least one open gym during basketball season.

Regarding consistency of guest policies, members are permitted one guest per member. The guest must leave when the member leaves. During time of heavy use, staff reserves the right to limit or disallow guests. In the interest of good customer service, the staff does use discretion in applying these policies.