

Parks & Recreation Commission
Tuesday, September 2, 2014

Tuesday, September 2, 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, Carmen Daniels, Doug Stahlgren and Julie Wright. Also present was Recreation Director Greg Karle.

Minutes from the May 2014 meeting were approved.

Items of **Old Business** discussed were:

- Mr. Karle stated that fall soccer practices have begun and games start September 6th except for the instructional teams which begin on September 20th. There are a total of six teams this season, same as last year. A total of 80 children are participating in the soccer program, down five from 2013. Registration for youth basketball, volleyball and cheerleading began on September 1 and runs through the end of the month. Mr. Karle noted that some of the teams in the basketball league are discussing a move to another youth basketball league. There are concerns regarding the distance some teams would travel for games and the overall structure and organization of the new league. After lengthy discussion the Commission recommended that Springdale do it's best to maintain as many teams as possible in the current league and only if necessary send teams to the new league.

The Golf League completed their season and celebrated with their end of season dinner on August 27th. The Co-ed Softball completed play the last week of July.

- Nine children participated in the City Service & U program earlier this month. They all enjoyed visiting the various departments in the city and getting a behind the scenes look at what our employees do. On the final day they had a pizza lunch and were awarded completion certificates from the Mayor, t-shirts and a personalized collage of their week.
- There was a great turnout for the Buckeye Search and Rescue Dog program on July 31st with over 40 people in attendance. They witnessed a live rescue (Charlie Wilson lost, tracked and found) along with other demonstrations. ICRC filmed the event and those interested are able to watch it if they were unable to attend.

The Springdale's Gone Wild program hosted a Naturalist from Great Parks of Hamilton County in August presenting a program titled Bugs, Bugs, Bugs. Many little critters were brought and shared with the audience.

The August luncheon was "Lunch with Grandpa Dick" on Thursday, August 28th. Cincinnati native Dick Buchholz known to many a Grandpa Dick entertained as he played guitar and sang everything from Sinatra to Seger, mixing rock-n-roll with a little county and blues.

The Cincinnati Museum Center will present the September "This & That" program with The Golden Age of Television on September 11th.

Adult/Senior Programmer Donna Lanter and Fitness Center Manager Jay Dennis are working on programming for "Active Aging Week" which is the last week in September. This program is led by the International Council on Active Aging and is designed to promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle

for adults and seniors. They will be putting together a series of activities the week of September 22nd that includes social, educational and physical fitness activities. The planned activities include; a Line Dancing Demo, Brain Games, Intro to Walking Sticks and a Balance Class.

- The pool closed for the season on August 17th. Despite a very young staff of lifeguards and being two short of the normal compliment it was a very safe summer with no significant accidents or injuries to report. Attendance was lower than normal due to the unusually wet and cool weather.

There were a total of 317 youth swim lesson registrations and 19 adult registrations, which is encouraging to see so many people learning this important life skill.

Approximately 100 people attended the Family Fun Day at the Pool and the annual Goldfish Swim attracted over 150 people despite the cool and overcast weather. The 1002 goldfish were released into the pool for children 12 & under to catch by hand. For the first time in our memory, all the fish were caught.

The new aquatic class Cardio Splash was so successful a third session was added due to its popularity.

The Sailfish swim team completed their season as runner up in the Northern Suburban Swim League Championships.

Items of **New Business** discussed were:

- The Ballet Camp had three sessions this summer with fifty-eight children participating. This was double the number from last year. This bodes very well for the ballet classes that begin in September and in anticipation of increased numbers an additional class will be offered on Wednesday afternoons.

Rock Solid fitness class had a very successful run in June with 15 – 20 participants per class.

- Part-time Parks Maintenance Worker Josh Ramirez has resigned to accept a full time position. The department has begun advertising for a replacement.

Two Customer Service Assistants have recently resigned; Michelle Taylor and Debbie Hanson have given their notice. Tonya Cook, one of our customer service staff, who has been in a sub role, will be filling Ms. Hanson's schedule and another candidate is undergoing the background check process.

Doug Kachele recently resigned from his Park Patrol position due to conflicts with his fulltime job. A candidate has been identified and is currently in the background check process.

The department has an intern this fall named David Klenk He is a senior at the University of Cincinnati studying Health Promotions. He is interested in learning about the Fitness Center as well as the general operations and programming at the Community Center. The internship is for 400 hours which must be completed between August 18th and December 13th having him here approximately 25 hours per week.

- The new dump truck cab and chassis was delivered from Kerry Ford the first week of August. It has now moved on to Kaffenbarger for the up fit of the bed and accessory equipment and should be completed in time for the snow plow season.

The Parks Maintenance staff recently completed a project to re-grade baseball field #3 to allow water to properly drain from the field. Additionally 45 tons (30 yards) of ball field dirt was added to fields #2 & #3.

- The Neighborhood Yard Sale was August 9th, 9am – 2pm. Residents were encouraged to participate by holding a sale at their home on the specified date at the recommended times. We advertised via street banner, email, posters, newspaper and craigslist advertising.
- Cintas had their mobile shredding unit at the Community Center on Saturday, August 23rd 10am – 1pm. All materials collected are recycled.
- The annual Junior Olympics will take place on Saturday, September 6th. Registration begins at 10am with events 10 – 11:30am. There are eight competitive events for boys and girls age 12 & under. Volunteers are needed,
- Plans are in place for the ComeUnity Bash event. There will be a series of three bands performing on field #4 beginning at 3pm. The Cincinnati Circus will return with their exciting Big Show performance and well as numerous family games. New this year there will be a climbing wall featured. The very popular petting zoo will be on the multipurpose court as well as food and refreshments to purchase from local service groups. As dusk falls on the Community Center complex six hot air balloons will be displayed and light up the night sky. Marketing has begun

Staff is finalizing plans for the Family Mud Quest event that will take place before the Come Unity Bash. The ½ mile course will feature many of the same obstacles with a few new ones added for variety. The non-competitive event will empathize fun, teamwork and helping each other finish. Team members who complete the course will receive a commemorative tee shirt. We are increasing the maximum number to participants to 120 this year.

- The SOS organization will be hosting a walk-a-thon on Saturday, September 27th as a fundraiser that assists area families in need during the holidays. Play It Again Sports is sponsoring the event. Participants who raise a minimum \$20 in donations will receive a free SOS Walk-a-Thon t-shirt. The walk will take place around the Community center complex. 10am – 2pm.