

## Meeting Minutes for November 3, 2014

Diane Fenton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone

In attendance: Mike Harris, Diane Fenton, Mary Critzer, Doris Oliver, Jim Williamson, Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy

Minutes from last meeting approved

Citizen, Dennis Nagle, was also present to give an update on Christiansburg Soccer Club. Teams at the 10-13 age group levels compete against teams from Danville, Lynchburg, Roanoke, Rockbridge, and all of Southwest Virginia. Just finished regular season and won 4 of the 8 divisions that their teams competed in. There are also 8 more divisions for ages 14-17 years old; we just don't have the field space to compete at that age level. They share the fields very well with the Recreation football program and lacrosse, but all three sports struggle to find field space. The lack of multi-use fields in Christiansburg is a critical need and would be very helpful to the community. The soccer club had 750 children playing this year, could have taken more but had to cap their numbers because of field space. The Soccer Club has made contributions to the community to help with the fields and goals. Multi-use fields would help in this area and help all children in their different sports interest. Brad thanked him for coming and let Mr. Nagle know how much the Recreation Department appreciates everything they have done and let him know the RFP is being done on the Wilson property that we hope will help in the planning of more rectangular multi-purpose fields.

In the past Julie Skinner has hosted AAU basketball tournaments here at the Recreation Center, but she is no longer doing New River Elite Basketball anymore and she has been working at the Spectrum in Roanoke and all of her tournaments are being played there. Every challenge is an opportunity and that is how we are looking at this situation. In partnership with the VT Volleyball coach the Recreation Center will be a host site for 2 Junior Olympic Volleyball tournaments in January and May. Their last tournament they ran used over 1500 hotel rooms. Also one of our organizations that we use for baseball, Mountain Top Sports (Nations baseball), is also involved with basketball too. They are going to attempt to run basketball tournaments with us also. A lot of the children that play baseball also play basketball and with the Nation tournaments they were bringing in between 30-70 teams. This will be a process to get this going, but could be worth it in the long run.

New scoreboards in the gym will be going up November 12; this will be a two day process. They will be put in new locations of the gym. We will be using the space where the old scoreboards were located to put our logo along with which court it is (A, B, C, or D). We will also use some of this space for selling sponsorship. Not sure of the pricing for the sponsorship but will be working on this fee.

Chris Whitley from Comcast Cable is selling advertising for commercials on television. Our video that Jared made for us is perfect he said and for our area advertising on TV. is surprisingly cheap. We need people to know what we are doing and keep them informed of everything we

can offer. This could be worthwhile to look into this type of advertisement for our department and offerings.

Brad shared the highlights from the October monthly report:

- Special events
  - We had Ghouls Gathering and also had trick-or-treaters on Halloween with good turnout.
  - Confirmed with Shane Guynn that the 5k will be May 16<sup>th</sup>. We are going to set up a small working committee that will work on sponsors and promotional items like that.
- Youth fishing fun contest had 51 entries. Had a free volleyball clinic with RU Volleyball with 19 participants. Reel kids casting competition partnered up with the Christiansburg Police Department for their Fall Festival and had 22 participants.
- Youth Athletics
  - We are having a post season football this year for the first time. Top 3 or 4 teams are playing in a playoff for the championship and the other teams are scheduled together based on equal competition levels. Every Recreation Department came together to do this.
  - Basketball placement practices are starting November 10<sup>th</sup>. Teams will be picked before Thanksgiving and start practice the first week of December.
- Community Recreation
  - We have used a substitute for one of our main instructors because she was having medical issues. We unfortunately had to cancel some classes, but she is back now and doing better.
  - Citizenship in the Community had 11 participants, 30 minute arms and abs had 22 adults, starting a new 30 day challenge (sit up challenge for the first month) this will be a fun way to get people working out.
  - Novice Dog obedience had 11 dogs in one class and 12 dogs in the other class. We had 12 participants in CPR training this month.
- Senior Recreation
  - Senior Aerobics had 23 participants, Fall Luncheon turned out great with 41 participants, blood drive had 19 participants, flu shots had 23 shots with the Rite Aid Pharmacy, and the SNAP program had 13 participants, Diabetes Education Session had 16 participants. Walk-a-Thon had 83 walkers with 602 laps which is 75.25 miles, worked with the Agency on Aging to buy supplies for seniors.
  - Breast Cancer Awareness day had 380 come by the table set up to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness.
  - Shred-a-thon had 6000 pounds of papers shredded, 219 people that came through.
- Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks

- Everything is finished with baseball and softball for this year. Had a lot of great tournaments this year with one of the organizations bringing in a lot more teams.
- Should have enough money raised this year to start the Jill's Buddy Camp, which we are really excited to get started.
- Huckleberry Trail is getting close to finishing the bridge and opening it up. When the opening date is determined we would like to do an opening type ceremony. With the trail counters provided by NRVPCD we have been able to see our numbers from the Recreation Center to the bridge of the Huckleberry. We have had as many as 130 people per day. Overall the use has been great and once the bridge opens up we think the numbers will go way up. We will be putting up benches and trash cans on the new section of the Huckleberry like we do on our other parts of the Huckleberry Trail.
- Brad met with Steve Knolls with AEP and with our new light system in the gym. He said the current numbers are showing at least a 20% savings from the old lights.
- An idea for the Recreation Department to be able to partner with the Aquatic Center is an Iron Man type competition. We do not want conflict or controversy between two departments within the Town; we want to work with them to develop things from a positive standpoint. Barry is going to be making a policy and we will move forward from that. We would love to do Surf and Turf program with them, land based here and water based there. We need to work for the better of Christiansburg.

Next meeting December 1, 2014