

Meeting Minutes for June 2, 2014

Diane Fenton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone

In attendance: Diane Fenton, Mary Critzer, Brad Epperley, Brad Mecom, Cord Hall, Mike Harris, Mike Saylor

Diane Fenton turned the meeting over to Brad Epperley

Brad thanked everyone for coming out for the public meeting for the Master Plan

Brad gave an overview of the background on the process of the Master Plan development

Key members of development: NRVPDC (Brad Mecom and Kevin Byrd), Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, and Town Departmental Staff Members

Goals that have been developed:

Parks and Facilities maintenance of existing while supporting newer Parks and Facilities as the Town grows. In 2010 the population was 21,014 and in 2030 the population is projected to be 28,000. That is a 34% increase in our population, we need to look to the future and be prepared for it to serve our community in a positive fashion.

Work to provide open space and connectivity to provide ease of access for our community to enjoy the outdoors and to also enjoy the aesthetic value.

The development of Marketing and Communication so that we can effectively spread the word about Recreation happenings, and looking more towards electronic marketing.

Promote coordination with businesses, schools and support beneficial partnerships elsewhere to strengthen our resources through collective efforts.

The development of operations and programs to create more events that will reach out to more people.

Cost benefit model for capital improvements.

Utilize assets within the close proximity of the Town that will enhance Recreation programs.

Insure compliance with the State, Local, and National regulations while staying current with National and Recreational trends. Recreation is ever-changing and we need to be proactive instead of reactive.

Brad Epperley turned over the meeting to Brad Mecom (Regional Planner for the New River Valley Planning District Commission) for his presentation to go over the rest of the Master Plan and the development

Did an inventory of all the Parks and Facilities in Christiansburg that were Town owned and Montgomery County School that are within the town limits and categorized them. Overall the coverage area for Christiansburg is very good.

He looked at the demographic trends with a population increase of 34% in the next 16-20 years; this will put more strain of the existing parks and would show the need to additional Parks and Facilities.

National comparison through the National Parks Association and Christiansburg meets and exceeds the average by far. The average is one park for every 4,000 residents and the Town has one for about every 1,500 residents, the Town does very well in meeting that demand.

Developed a public outreach survey for the citizens (almost 700) to share what they feel is important. By far the Huckleberry Trail was the main item citizens wanted developed, along with a dog park, aerobics classes, picnic shelters, trails, playground and track running/walking. Also with the survey asked what citizens were participating in and how often they do so. The Recreation Center is the most utilized facility in the Town.

Some highlights of the recommendations: -extend a park to the East and Northside of Town that are smaller parks and to preserve open space in Diamond Hill Park. – Truman/Wilson site will give the Town a great opportunity to develop the needs of its citizens culturally and recreationally. This will be a great chance to develop a signature park for the Town on the property. –To have a 5k race to celebrate the opening of the Huckleberry Trail pedestrian bridge.

Citizens' comments: A gentleman shared that he thinks the commission should be expanded to have up to 20 people on it. He said the more people that would get involved in it the more input we would be able to have. Dennis Nagle introduced himself and spoke for the Christiansburg Soccer Club; he stated they are thrilled with what has happened with Depot Park and how much it has meant to them to partner with the Recreation Department to work on the park. Also they were very excited to help purchase the soccer and field goals for the Town and citizens to use.

Brad Epperley thanked everyone for their comments and shared his excitement for the future for the Parks and Recreation Department

Diane Fenton thanked everyone for the support and adjourned the meeting

Next meeting July 7, 2014