

Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2015

Diane Fenton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone

In attendance: Tonia Winn, Mary Critzer, Doris Oliver, Jim Williamson, Cord Hall, Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy, Mike Saylor, Mike Harris, Diane Fenton, Barry Helms

Minutes from the last meeting approved

Diane Fenton turned the meeting over to Brad Epperley

January was a good month for us with deposits and attendance being up. It has been very busy in morning and evenings here at the Recreation Center.

Community Programs – Ballet had 8 children participate this session, 30 minute Arms and Abs had 20 adult participants, Core Balance and Strength had 22 participants, and P90 had 24 participants. There was also a new program, Lunch time yoga, this session with 9 participants. Looking at possibly starting a walking club during lunch time with it meeting 2-3 times a week for 30-45 minutes, it would meet and explore different areas in Christiansburg. Novice Dog Obedience was really popular this session with 14 owners and dogs, Puppy Obedience had 12 owners and dogs.

Two staff members went to the Virginia Tech Wellness Fair in January. There were 960 participants were at the fair and all of them got to see Christiansburg Recreation represented. We had a raffle for a free 6 month membership to the Recreation Center and we had 134 people register for that prize.

Senior Programs – Zumba Gold had 19 participants, Blood Drive in January had 24 participants, Winter Preparedness Presentation had 12 participants, and National Pizza Week Bingo had 22 participants. Another fun program, Trip Takers Luncheon, happened this month and our seniors have traveled a total of 3986 miles with our department this past year.

Adult Athletics – Church league and Open league volleyball have completed. Open fastbreak and Open slowbreak basketball leagues are up and running, with quite a few teams involved. Radford University Men's Basketball held a free clinic here at the Recreation Center and we had 37 children participate in the clinic. They did a great job and the children really enjoyed the clinic, we have developed a great relationship with RU Basketball. Christiansburg High School Softball, CHS Baseball, and RU baseball will be doing clinics in the near future for us.

Youth Athletics – Basketball has been in full swing with Mite and Pee Wee leagues concluding last week, and our other divisions should be finished up by the end of February. We have changed companies for our football helmets reconditioning to Riddell, they have also agreed to come in the fall and size the helmets for the participants from a professional level. We will be using two different brands of helmets this year, the Riddell and the Schutt brands, which is good because different children have different head shape and the variety for fitting purposes.

Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks – Planning the replacement of fencing at Kiwanis within the next week or so, Chuck has been working on a quote to get this particular work done. We need some fencing work completed at Falling Branch but we are going to have to see what we have in the budget to work with this year, if not hopefully we can get it in the budget for next year. Ultimate World Series and Select World Series will be doing two World Series at the same time, July 9-12th. We have talked to Mr. Babcock, who is Athletic Director at Virginia Tech, requesting the use of the baseball and softball stadium for the World Series. We are also working with Radford University as well to use some of their facilities. It would be great to get the use of these premier facilities along with Harkrader because it would help bring more teams into the World Series. Something new we are doing this year is working with Virginia Tech Club Recreation. Intramural Sports they are doing a four field facility upgrade. It will be all turf rectangular field with baseball and softball tied into them. But they currently do not have fields to play on, so they are going to come over and play Club Softball against UVA at Harkrader Sports Complex on March 1st. They will also be playing West Virginia University and William and Mary University on March 21st at Harkrader. It will be great to make this connection and keep it going with them and hopefully be able to do so when we have the Truman/Wilson Property completed, and possibly help us when we have larger regional tournaments.

Chuck Muncy was awarded the **Wayne La Pierre Award** through the Salem/Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame. This is a great honor for Chuck and for Christiansburg, he represented Christiansburg very well. He has given his heart and soul to the kids and the community of Christiansburg; there is no one more deserving.

We are part of an Obesity Grant for Bikeways/Walkways; this is the start of something really good. We are working with the Department of Health and right now we are in the first phase providing bike racks throughout the Town and looking at different crosswalks. Right now they are working on a contest for the decoration of the bike racks. We want to do our slogan, “The Only Place to Play Christiansburg, VA” and on the bike racks have, “The Only Place to Bike Christiansburg, VA”. We can apply for more funding next year and hopefully this will continue to grow.

The 5k race will be May 16th, we are working with Shane Guynn and Diane on the race and this is very exciting. We are moving forward with the planning and it is coming along great, there will be many wonderful aspects for this race. The 8 mile walk is in the planning stages (planning in April); we will meet here at the Recreation Center and have a VT bus take us over to the Blacksburg Library. Everyone will start walking there with some of our vans positioned along the trail in case someone needs transportation back.

The RFP on the Truman/Wilson Property has gone out and we had five companies put in bids. The Evaluation Committee will sit down and look at what each company has bid and pick the top ones.

College Street Park land swap deal with the National Guard Armory is still in progress. We are swapping some land we own beside the Armory that they need for parking and in turn they are giving us College Street Park which they own. We would like to honor Officer Scott Hylton, who died in the line of duty for Christiansburg, and rename the park in his honor and have a ceremony for this.

We are working on next year's budget; there won't be a big change in budget this year. Capital improvement items that we will be putting back in this year are picnic shelters, field grader for working on the fields, design of Wilson property, renovate court side restrooms, , replace tile floor in Recreation Center that is 18 years old, paint the walls, concessions and restrooms at Kiwanis, pave loop trail at Kiwanis, athletic field improvements, field rotary mower, playground equipment for pocket parks (looking at outdoor exercise equipment park near Huckleberry Trail), Kiwanis light replacements. Not a lot will be changing for our operational budget.

Barry Helms was tasked to come up with a policy for the Town of Christiansburg for the Recreation Center and the Aquatics Center that is now in effect. Everyone was given a chance to read the new policy. There will be a scheduling meeting for both departments to make sure there will be no conflicts of alike programs during the same times. This is in the best interest of Christiansburg and the community. The first scheduling meeting will be February 11th.

Meeting adjourned

Next Recreation Commission meeting March 2, 2015