

Meeting Minutes for March 2, 2015

Diane Fenton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone

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

Approved last month's minutes

Brad went over the monthly progress report.

February has been a very busy month with attendance being 10,789 patrons, not including programs.

Community Programs are going well with Core Balance and Strength having 22 participants, P90 has 24 participants, Total Body Cardio also has 24 participants, Beginning Yoga has 22 participants, and our new program Lunchtime Yoga has 10 participants in the class. Our dog obedience programs are doing very well with 14 owners/dogs in the Novice and 15 in the Intermediate classes. We are going to start a 40 minute Lunchtime Walking Club with the employees of Christiansburg as a trial run at the end of March, and then we will expand it to the public in the Summer Brochure. The Engineering Department is getting an updated map of all the sidewalks so that we can use it to explore Christiansburg.

Senior Programs: Senior Aerobics had 14 participants and Senior Motions had 15 participants. Tax Aide has had 289 participants so far, doing very well.

Wolfhart Hart House: Honkey Tonk Angels had 13 participants.

Youth Athletics: Basketball is completed for the season, and baseball/softball sign-ups will end March 6, with the placement practices in the middle of the month.

Adult Athletics: Fastbreak and Slowbreak basketball leagues are still going on, but close to being done with regular season and will go into tournament play. Softball Pitching/catching clinic and a hitting clinic on two separate days ended up having 5 participants in each category (more than last year). We will be having a Pitch/Hit/Run Clinic at Harkrader April 6th for boys and girls ages 7-14.

Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks: Still working on pricing for Playground equipment that is needed for Downtown Park, hope to have this very soon. Nations World Series will be at Harkrader from July 8-12th, they are projecting close to 100 teams.

Brad handed out the draft for the Huckleberry Hustle 5k. Met with Diane and Shane Guynn to get everything together and make it work. Virginia Tech graduation is the same day, but we are going to try to go ahead with the 5k, it could be something that gives everyone to do that morning. We will have a few different awards for the 5k with one being the Queen and the King of the bridge (the first female and male to the bridge). We are also doing the Eight Mile Walk Challenge; Brad has been working with Councilman Steve Hubbert on this program. We are going to take the first 70 walkers that sign up and Blacksburg Transit will have a bus for us that will take everyone from the Recreation Center to Blacksburg Library and everyone will walk back to the Recreation Center to concur the Challenge. We will also have some of our vans along the trail in case we need to shuttle people back to the Recreation Center.

We have a citizen that would like to start a library at Depot Park, love the idea and it would enhance the improvement at Depot Park. She would handle the library and make sure the books were replenished. This is something very neat that could eventually grow around Christiansburg to other parks in our area.

The Recreation Center had a very large water leak that came from our cleaning dispenser water valve that had a malfunction. Both restrooms towards the senior area were filled with water, the multipurpose room 2, water all the way out to Court C and A, all storage closets, and some of the racquetball courts. We did an insurance claim very quickly but our workers jumped on everything and did an excellent job of getting the water cleaned up very swiftly and minimized damage, the insurance agent was very impressed with the small amount of damage from the close to 800 gallons of water. A few tiles have popped up, but for over all very little damage because our workers did so much so fast.

Budget meeting: We have been asked to prioritize our proposed capital budget. We have trail development, athletic field improvements (safety precautions), replacement of tile floor in Recreation Center (17 years old), picnic shelters, design drawing of the Wilson Property, playground equipment for pocket playgrounds, Outdoor fitness equipment on land that was donated for this purpose, paving the parking lots here at the Recreation Center (not been paved since the building was Lowes), and Kiwanis Small Field lights. Also put in capital equipment for Sand Pro Toro field grader for the maintenance of the fields. We will be prioritizing the capital category as far as safety is concerned first and as quickly as possible.

There were 5 different companies/firms that bid and were interviewed on the RFP for the Wilson property. And enjoyable learning experience, we are in negotiations with one firm but cannot release the name of the company at this time. Barry Helms, Town Manager, Nicole Hair, Director of Planning; Wayne Nelson, Director of Engineering; Sarah Morgan, also in the Planning Department; Jim Williamson, Recreation Advisory Board, and Brad Epperley, Director of Parks and Recreation, are the committee members that interviewed them. The Recreation Commission will be a very important part of the Master Plan for the Wilson Property.

Mike Harris brought up the idea of having a Junior Golf League (starter golf) in Youth Sports. We have offered a Youth League in the past, but it has not had enough interest. When Brad was in Salem they offered a program like this for children to get to play, they worked with the Pro-golfer at Hanging Rock learning different aspects of golf. At the completion of the week they would have a small tournament for the children to compete in. Mike has a great idea of getting different courses involved. Some ideas were to have the Pros and some coaches that could teach the children and help them. This idea will definitely be brought up at the next directors meeting to look at and see if we can do it on a regional prospective.

Meeting adjourned

Next Recreation Commission meeting April 6, 2015