

Meeting Minutes for April 6, 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

Approved last month's minutes

Brad went over the monthly progress report

March has been a very busy month with attendance being 10,815 patrons that scanned in, not including programs.

Home Expo had a great turn out this year with a great variety of vendors

Community Programs : P90 having 26 adults, Total Cardio had 19 participants, Beginning Yoga had 17 participants, Lunch Time Yoga has 9 adult participants, and Virginia Fire Arms Training had a great turnout with 46 participants in the class.

Senior Programs: Zumba Gold has 20 participants, the new Lima Bean Auction with 25 participants, St Patrick's Day Bingo had 27 participants, AARP Tax Aide is going to go through mid-April and as of March 30 they have seen 445 clients.

Adult Athletics: Basketball season is over with and we had 22 teams total between the two leagues. Volleyball has begun, Church league has 13 teams between the A league and the B league, the Co-ed Volleyball has 15 teams in that division (most teams we have had in this league). The Dick's Sporting Good Days had 65 coupons redeemed this year.

Youth Athletics: We have all the teams divided and our girls' numbers are up this year.

Baseball/Softballs have been ordered and coaches' background checks are in. All practice schedules have also been handed out to the coaches.

Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks: We have hosted 2 tournaments so far this season, one with 11 teams and one with 17 teams. Next tournament for this weekend has 28 teams already signed up. We hosted a Club Softball event at Harkrader Sports Complex with Virginia Tech and UVA, very nice event and they want to come back!

Brad passed the Spring/Summer brochure around for everyone to see. We are putting a full size sheet in our brochure about the Aquatic Center and where to find their brochure online and they are supposed to be doing the same for us. We are also putting together a Surf and Turf program with them that is in our brochure as well.

This past Saturday at Depot Park we had the New River Thunder Baseball/Softball Organization come and volunteered. They did a mass trash pickup (especially of the hillside beside the park that Kroger owns) and mulching of all our landscaping and really did a great job. This upcoming Saturday the Ignite

group is volunteering again at Summit Ridge Park to add in some landscaping and mulch. This will be a great help for this park as well.

The Huckleberry Bridge over Rt. 114 is still not opened. VDOT has told us that they are still waiting on the handrails; and we need close to 70 handrails. The company sent the wrong handrails the first time, which is the biggest part of the delay. Now they are fabricating the new handrails and they should be sending handrails every 3 days. Because of this delay the 5k race and the Walking Challenge are postponed until we know that the handrails will be finished. We hope for this to be done as soon as possible. James Demarko is doing an 8 mile run from Blacksburg to the Recreation Center, so we were thinking of tying that in with the 5K race (working with Shane Guynn) so that there would be something for everyone in a family to do. Possibly held on October 31 (Getting Scary on the Huckleberry) to gain more attention and get more people involved and also save a lot of effort and time.

The fence is getting finished up at Kiwanis fields; this was very needed for safety reasons. The size of the fence was increased to 8 foot and makes the parks a little bigger.

Capital Projects Budget Priority List. Athletic Improvements: An athletic field safety improvement at falling branch fields includes fencing, and backstop areas at falling branch fields. We would like to do something very similar that we have done at Kiwanis and Harkrader fields with the concrete back stops, padding, and jock boxes. Roger Safety Breakaway Bases are being put in at all of our facilities and we need to have 6 on hand to replace as they break (we have 23 total base systems in Christiansburg). Next on the priority list is paving the parking lot here at the Recreation Center, lights at Kiwanis Small Field, fitness and weight equipment, playground equipment for pocket parks (John Lemley Lane, 3rd and Flegler property), and trail development of walkways and bikeways. Somethings that of this year's capital list was taken out were replacing the tile flooring in the Recreation Center, Sandpro Toro field grader, and building picnic shelters.

Gay and Neil Engineering Firm have been awarded the RFP for the Master Plan of the Truman Wilson Property. They are a local company but will also be working with other companies during this process. They were the only one that came to the table and had a business plan, which was a huge selling point for our committees. We will be starting with a Public Meeting and Open house on May 4th, which is also our next Recreation Commission Meeting and they will come make a presentation to the Recreation Commission that night also. The kick off meeting is crucial to get everyone that wants their voice heard about what their visions for the new property.

Meeting adjourned

Next Recreation Commission meeting May 4, 2015