

Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2015

Diane Fenton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone

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

Last month's minutes approved- with the correction of Mary Critzer was present for the November 2, 2015 Recreation Commission meeting.

Diane Fenton turned the meeting over to Brad Epperley

Attendance this month for the recreation center was 8,634. This does not include Youth and Adult basketball participants, spectators or class participants. This is strictly member scans that are coming in to use cardio room, weight room, racquetball court, or track. This number has increased from last year. Attendance was up by 1,000 participants which is good. Community programs that are doing quite well is zumba gold, zumba toning, core balance and strength. Our Southern Christmas show had 23 participants. In our Senior and Special Populations Division we had a couple of different classes that did well this time. Tech Talking which is teaching some technical advancements to our seniors had 25 participants. We also did something new the past couple of month's you'll see Lifelong Learning Institute Fall 2015, we partnered with Virginia Tech and we are serving as an advertising item for them and their doing the same thing for us. It gives us a way to reach out to some of our residents here for the different types of classes that they are offering like Tracing Your Family Genealogy and other classes that we aren't able to do on our own but with the partnership we are able to, it has done quite well. There were 13 different classes; it has been something great for our participants. In our Senior Special Events we had lifeline screening with 55 participants. We have had folks come up to us and really thank us for doing this screening. The Thanksgiving luncheon had 75 participants; it was a great turn out for that. During the luncheon we had a young lady from Attorney General's Office along with Officer Delp speak on safety awareness and things to look for in order to provide a safe environment for seniors. This was the first luncheon that we included guest speakers and it turned out great.

In Adult Athletics, volleyball is still currently being played; the playoff for the open league is currently going on now. In the church league, the regular season is still being played and we have playoffs that will begin on December 22nd. Church league should be finished up by the beginning of the New Year. We did have two great clinics with Radford University. The RU Volleyball clinic had 41 participants. The Men's RU Basketball Clinic had 36 participants. We really enjoy our great partnership with RU and their athletic department. Dicks Sporting Goods partner with us by giving us basketballs, baseball buckets, baseballs and in return we receive coupons to hand out to participants who sign up to play youth sports. This year we had 374 coupons that were redeem at Dicks Sporting Goods on November 14th. Each of the coupons were 20% off.

Youth Athletics is in basketball season. We have received each teams football equipment but there are still a couple of individuals that we have not received. We have issued certified letters to those people and have asked them to return their equipment to us by December 18th and if we haven't received it by then we will invoice them for the shoulder pads and helmets for the cost of \$250.00 for those items. I spoke with Val Tweedie our Finance Director about this and she said if we got to that point her office would send them out. We did very well this year as we had close to 200 participants and only 5 that were outstanding. The one thing that we have done is collect the equipment at each teams last game. This has helped tremendously with equipment return. For basketball this season we have 8 teams in the Mite Division, 10 teams in Pee Wee Division, 2 in Girls Minors Division which we will be playing against Radford. 4 in the Boys Minor Division,

2 in the Girls Major again we will play with Radford with that as well. 5 in Boys Majors and 3 in Boys Seniors we will play against Radford as well as Blacksburg for those teams. I would love to be able to get it where we can play against our own teams in the future but the number of participants dictates this.

In the Outdoor Facilities and Parks Division; the New River Valley Weekend Tournament committee met on November 16th that includes Chuck Muncy, John Myers, and Greg Holbrook. All of the tournament requests came into Chuck and he made a list of all requests from the different organizations. The committee then made the weekend schedule according to what they thought was in the best interest of the New River Valley. We did have some request for girls fast-pitch softball, which is something we are trying to get started in this area. We had a group from ASA that has requested dates and an organization called Top Gun that does baseball as well as girls fast-pitch softball. During this time of the year is when we winterize the fields and facilities. Our Maintenance Crews have turf blanketed the football field, with the rainy weather they still need to do the turf blankets on Depot Park. They have aerated at the Harkrader Sports Complex, Falling Branch, Kiwanis Park. Our Crews are making a winter list of things that need to be done during the winter months. Items to include will be inside painting and equipment repair. Our first bench on the new section of the Huckleberry Trail will be installed on sometime this month. It is sponsored by a family in memory of their mother, across from The Old Farmhouse.

We received the winter brochure Wednesday, December 9th. The Christmas Parade is Friday, December 11th; and it is going to be one of the biggest parades we have had. There are 84 entries, each entry has multiple participants. There are a couple of new things we will be doing the night of the parade, Christmas on the Market, (The Farmers Market) has 48 vendors that will be participating. It will be open 4-9pm and it will tie into the parade, there will be a group of carolers singing. At 6:45pm we will be doing a Christmas Tree lighting at the Tree of Hope. Public Works Department and the Parks and Recreation Department has worked very hard on the project. The preliminary meeting with Erlene Barber, Charlton, Brad, and Ricky Bourne got the plan going for the Tree the Hope. Mayor Barber and Erlene Barber will be lighting the tree. Brad mentioned future possibilities of getting a live tree 10-14 feet tall and set it at town hall and have it decorated then when Christmas season is over with we would take it somewhere through-out the town such as the Aquatic Center, Recreation Center, Harkrader Sport Complex or wherever, and plant the tree. Each year we would put lights on that tree. As years pass it would grow and you would have trees through-out the town that are lit up. Most of you know that Barry is retiring in June of this coming year. The lights at Kiwanis Small field is going as planned. New bulbs have been installed on the big field and the small field will have complete replacement of poles, bulbs, and the entire system. We will have a 25 year warranty on both fields. This new system can be activated via phone with an app to turn lights on and off.

In my bikeway meeting, we talked about getting sponsorships for the Huckleberry Trail. Police constantly monitor the trail with bike patrol and those types of things. One of the items that came up was emergency call towers. We checked into them and they are expensive, about \$ 5,500 a piece plus \$1,000 to install. Another thing on the trail we don't have which might draw the cost up a little is the infrastructure, we don't have the electrical power or phone lines. The systems that we had to look at were solar systems along with a cellular phone system. Brad reached out the Kevin Byrd with New River Commission as they have a grant writer and he wanted to see if we could find some available grants. He's researched it quite a bit and came up with two possibilities. One is a very minimum possibility and the next one seems like a better possibility. We would like to get the same towers as on the Huckleberry Trail next to the Blacksburg/Tech area. If we did get the towers, we would get 5-6 towers, 3-4 on Trail, 1 at Harkrader Sports Complex and 1 at Depot Park. During the bikeway meeting, it was also discussed about seeking sponsorships for the possibility of doing other things along the trail. Chuck and Brad met about the different items that could be done on the Huckleberry Trail and they discussed about the placement of benches, towers, shelters and water fountains for citizens and animals. The bikeway/walkway committee wanted us to come up with a list and then they would take it to the next step and try to get the funding. The bench would be

\$600, shelter would be about \$5,000 with installation would be about \$6,000, call towers \$6,000-\$6,500, water fountains would be a little over \$2,000 for citizens and animal not including installation.

On November 12th we had a work session with Town Council to discuss the Truman Wilson property master plan. Gay & Neel presented concepts to Council and there was discussion. Concept E was the concept that appealed to all involved. Gay and Neel is continuing to work on the finalization of the Truman Wilson Master Plan.

Meeting adjourned. Next month's meeting will be January 4, 2016.