

Meeting Minutes for January 4, 2016

Mike Saylor 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 and Diane Fenton both called and there were sick that's why they were not at the meeting.

Last month's minutes approved

Mike Saylor turned the meeting over to Brad Epperley

Busy month for us here at the Recreation Center. We had the Lions Club Craft Fair, it was the biggest one that they have ever had. It was a great crowd; we had a lot of wonderful compliments about that. The Christmas Parade by far was one of the best Christmas Parades we ever had, with the partnership of the Christmas on the Market. Charlton worked very closely with Sara Belcher and the Farmer's Market along with the committee handling the tree lighting. It all went really well. We had over 200 parade entries and we ran out of staging area so Charlton had to improvise on the move, which he did a great job with. Determining the number of people was hard to tell how many thousands of people were there. Brad did want to mention that we had put in our budget the past year or two to get barricades for these types of events downtown and we haven't been successful in getting those barricades because they are expensive. This Christmas Parade showed that they are needed, as there were times the staff was going through downtown with the firetruck, and they had to stop the firetruck just to clear a 100 foot space to be able to move the truck a little farther. It is a danger to the crowd and staff and we will put the barricades back in the budget this year and hopefully this can justify approval. It was great seeing the members of Town Council at the Parade.

Community Programs, Zumba and Zumba Gold/Toning did quite well. Something we did a little different this year prior to the holidays was demo classes, which was a free class just trying to get more people involved. We have a little break there at the holiday season, so we thought we would try it. The demos were a success; the P90 demo did the best having 13 participants. Special Interest Programs did a couple things different this year as well. We did a Humane Society Tree Adoption and we did end up getting one adoption; we also got 25 items to donate. We did a winter food drive; we had 90 items that were donated. Seniors and Special Populations was busy. First our Specials Populations had the Christmas dance. We had 288 participants and then we held a craft class having 11 participants. Our Senior Special Events Christmas Luncheon

had 88 participants, it was a packed house. Tammy as always did a fabulous job with her staff and the food. Open Enrollment with Medicare partnering with Aging on Agency ended December 7th. The counselors with Aging on Agency met with 186 participants and they saved those participants with Montgomery County a total savings of \$423,806.00. At PetSmart people were able to give money towards a stuffed animal, this year that number was large. In partnership with PetSmart along with local law enforcement officers we did behind the scenes work and called one of the county schools and were able to deliver 80 stuffed animals to a local Elementary school for children that were in need. We also went to English Meadow and Kroonje and delivered them one by one to the rooms of their residents. This was a very rewarding thing for our department to do. The folks in those retirement homes looked forward to the company. In Adult Athletics, co-ed volleyball has completed its season; church volleyball should end of this week. We have adult slowbreak and fastbreak basketball that will be beginning soon here in January. In fastbreak we have 9 teams and 7 slowbreak teams. We also did a Women's RU Basketball clinic, once again using our resources with Radford University, and it ended up being another successful event for us, there were 29 participants involved in the clinic. Saturday, January 30th there will a RU Softball clinic weather permitting. Youth Athletics, are still currently in Pee Wee and Mite League basketball and they are close to finishing up with their games. Minor and Major which is the older group will be starting January 7th with their games. We have continued to secure the first lane of track with the number of participants and spectators to create a safe environment. There's not an easy solution, it's the busiest time of the year. We have so many people working out on the track then so many people trying to get to their basketball court. Last year we came up with the plan of doing the stanchions. We had very little issues after doing those last year so we are going to do them again this year. Brian is sending out an email to Blacksburg and Radford Recreation Departments making them aware of our arrangements. We are doing what we can to make it as safe as possible. Another safety item we have done is the mobile goals; we ordered them a few years ago to make it safer for our employees and not having a goal fall down on a participant. This is our third year with those and they have worked really well for us. Youth volleyball has completed its season; we had 4 teams involved. One item Brad mention was prior to him getting here, the staff had worked on youth athletic handbook. Here recently we began looking into that handbook and started doing re-evaluations of it. Looking at some of the things we as a staff need to update. We are working on this currently and hope to have that updated soon.

Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks- the lights are installed at Kiwanis Park. Brad met with the contractors of AEP as well as Musco. They walked the project and everything appears to have been done neatly in a professional manner. They will be coming back in another month or so once the weather warms up a little bit and will be doing light levels on the fields to make sure the lights are reaching the light levels they said they would. We will be starting in January once we have some nice weather landscaping and seeding it so we can get some grass growing back there. It didn't affect anything on the field as it was all outside of the field, but we need to get those areas landscaped and such. In December, we met with our storm water specialist John Burke and Jim Lancianese with Public Works as there are some areas in the creek that need some attention. Brad also mentioned the winterization to the facilities and fields. We do have turf blankets down at Depot Park as well as the High School football field. Depot Park will have a stream restoration project and it will affect some of the use of Depot Park at some point. This project will

begin November 2016. There could be a time during November 2016 that the walking track won't be accessible. Our Baseball/Softball tournaments will begin March 5th weather permitting; we will have our first tournament at Harkrader Sports Complex March 26th. We do have some different groups that were awarded dates this year. Kaydn Camper from Christiansburg that has been involved with our Punt, Kick, and Pass event has advanced and won the National Championship in Indianapolis Sunday, January 3rd. We plan to put her achievement on the back of our next brochure cover.

Cord Hall mentioned that Council is very pleased with how things with the parade went and they received numerous emails on a great job. The lease for the Kiwanis Club is coming back up and when we get that we will provide that to the commission. It should be completed within the next couple of months. Its great relationship we have with Kiwanis but we also want to protect the investment we have. We are investing quite a bit of money into the programs and the fields at Kiwanis Park. The Truman Wilson Park detailed concept are coming up and we should be receiving by the end of the coming month. The concept will be more in detailed and we can actually pass around and can see a fine-tuned detail. It will bring it more to life.

Brad is meeting Friday, January 8th with architectural engineers with OWPR which is the sub-contractor with Gay & Neel. They are doing this to look at cost estimates and those types of things. What types of building and designs we are looking at. Brad is more inclined with consistency, and having our buildings to look somewhat the same as current facilities in the town. We plan to have Wayne Nelson, Jerry Heinline and Barry Helms at that meeting on Friday. Cord Hall mentioned that Town Council is going to recognize Kaydn Camper at their next meeting. We market our information that is going on in Parks and Recreation by email, website, social media and boards. Getting a digital sign out front is an idea; it gets the information out, and is great advertisement. If the commission feels that Brad should put in the budget for a digital sign, he can do that. Brad thinks the digital sign could help with marketing and providing information. The one nice thing about it, it doesn't have to be used just for information it could be used for public safety and those types of things. The commission has asked Brad to get a price estimate for the digital sign; it would be good information to have. Here in a couple of weeks we will have an intern that will be starting with us, he is from Radford University. Brad interviewed him before the holidays; he seems like a very nice young man. He has been working at the new Student Recreation Center at RU, so this is the last phase of his career at Radford University, the internship. He's going to be coming here and starting with us in the middle of January. Tonia mention at the end of the parade there were some slow parts to it causing issues that would support the barricade needs. Charlton mentioned that each parade participant is given where to unload at the end of the parade. He also mentioned that from the time we hit the square to Burger King the firetruck with Santa stopped 12 times because the crowd was not giving us enough room to continue. Getting more lights for the parade next year and getting LED lights for town lights can make it brighter and safer. The barricades will benefit many needs of the town.