

Meeting Minutes for February 1, 2016

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, Diane Fenton, Mike Saylor (will be in and out)

Last month's minutes approved

Diane Fenton turned the meeting over to Brad Epperley

This month's normal meeting will be done in an expedited fashion because representatives with Gay & Neel, our consultants of the Master Plan for the Truman Wilson Park are attending tonight to show the Recreation Commission the conceptual drawing of the park. We wanted the commission to see this concept tonight, so that if we have anything that needs a little more thought or attention we can discuss it tonight. Brad is going to go through some of the items from the monthly report in a quicker fashion. First thing mentioned was attendance for this past month at 10,292 and that was with missing two days because of snow where we actually needed to close the facility due to the snow storm. It's a good number with an increase since the winter months are present. Emphasized programs were Community Programs, P90 Early Bird Special had 25 participants, Zumba had 25 participants and Beginning Yoga had 26 participants. Another Special Interest that we did was the Virginia Tech Health Fair; it was a great event for us. We were able to reach close to 1,200 participants at the fair. About half of the participants that signed up for our RU Softball Clinic came from the health fair. We actually helped Virginia Tech with the health fair by providing tables and chairs. In return they gave us their exhibitors list that we can use in the future for our own health fairs. The blood drive had 24 participants and the lifeline screening had 27 participants. In Adult Athletics and Special Events, we completed our volleyball season and we are in the process of playing men's fastbreak and slowbreak basketball. A couple special events that Nick has been working on is youth archery. We are hoping that we can get this new program off the ground and running. The other item is a youth football camp that we are going to do this year with former CHS football players that are currently playing in college. Nick is working on getting those players here to work the camp and we are also working with DJ Preston who officiates for us. He is a former Virginia Tech football player and he is going to help organize the camp. Youth Athletics is in the middle of basketball right now. Baseball and softball sign ups have just started. Those signups will go through March 4th. In our Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks the snow was a big item for us, Brad wanted to compliment our staff on what they did with the snow removal. We not only took care of the Recreation Center, but we also helped Public Works with clearing the roads. Forest Redd and Randy Lawrence who is our field maintenance employees took the lead on snow removal. Charlton and a few of the other employees came up and took care of the sidewalks and those types of items. Monday after the storm our Fields and Park Staff were on the Huckleberry Trail clearing the trail with shovels, tractors and snow blowers. It was really nice; Brad got two emails that weekend from citizens thanking us for doing the Huckleberry Trail. Our goal is to wait on the trail until all the streets are cleared and then we will do the trail. That gives participants that might want to cross country ski an opportunity prior to us cleaning the trail. Within minutes of them clearing the trail on that Monday there were people walking and running on the trail. Brad wanted to mention that Charlton and his guys did a wonderful job at the Recreation Center as well. Brad also mentioned the 10 Ways To Get Fit With the Christiansburg Parks & Recreation Department form. Brad found it in the National Recreation Parks Association and wanted to make one of our own. Morgan Fenton took it and made it our own, this is going to be distributed by personally handing out, putting on our website and other social media methods. It talks about the many

activities at the Recreation Center. Taxes started on February 1st in our Senior Populations Division, we are booked for 3 weeks at this time. A new program that we started with IDA was a cheerleading program; we had 17 participants in that class. We had 5 students from Virginia Tech that came and volunteered for that.

Another item Brad mention, he talked to Adam with our IT Department about fitness on demand. It is more about virtual fitness and no one around here has this. It's a new trend; the packages are \$199 a month. It's a big screen where you can setup class, we could do it during the day when we have downtime in the multi-purpose rooms. The instructor is part of the program and participants can take the class and we wouldn't be paying an instructor to teach it. Another neat thing is there is a possibility that you could take it as an online class. Brad doesn't want to take away our instructors because it is important to have the social interaction but this would give us another amenity. Brad got a price on the digital sign as requested by the commission which is between \$30,000-\$40,000. This year some of the items that we are putting in for the capital aspect are event and street barricades, replacement of the tile floor in the Recreation Center. This floor is 18 years old and it is on its last leg, its breaking, the glue underneath it is coming up, and it's not pleasing to the eye. We met with a liner company, and received pricing for budget reasons. The life span of the lining material is longer than tile. This type of floor is around \$80,000. We received pricing from our tile group and that was around \$75,000. Picnic Shelters \$20,000, a Sand Pro Toro Field Grader has been removed the last two years and we really need this equipment. The replacement of curtains in the Recreation Center. They are 18 years old and are starting to deteriorate. These items are what Brad is presenting to Barry. Other items include Countertops at Administrative and Front desks that are 18 years old. Athletic Field Improvements, Trail Development, and Outdoor Fitness Equipment are items we need each year. Fitness and weight equipment need replacement because it is used heavily every day. The Huckleberry Trail from Kohl's to the railroad bridge is in need of pavement overlay. We're looking at about \$40,000 to \$50,000 for this project. We are also looking at redoing our mulch in our parks with normal clean mulch that is considered specific playground mulch; we are looking at about \$15,000 to do that. Last thing Brad mention, was that he reached out to Chief Sisson and Randy Bonds and our 2 departments are going to do a free program here at the Recreation Center called Internet Safety and Social Media. We will advertise it out and have participants come here to the center. This is a way we can give back to the community as there are a lot of people out there who are scared and don't understand Social Media. The PD has done this with children and parents through the school system but many people haven't gone to those. We can take a negative and turn it into a positive and educate people. This is going to be a pre-registered class. Brad mention that this will be an ongoing item because the internet is ever-changing, kids are finding different ways, predators are finding different ways and this is a way to try an educate the community. Cord mention maybe a two part by getting Chief Sisson, Bonds and the Task Force to come in and do a session about Drug Use with minors and also to know what to look for as a parent. The Internet Safety & Social Media class will require your name, address, phone number and birth of date for registration. They will pre-register in person or by phone.

Brad Epperley turned the meeting over to Trevor with Gay & Neel to discuss the Master Plan for the Truman Wilson Property.

Concept E became the preferred concept that the committee favored. That concept was taken to Town Council work session that some of the Rec Commission members attended. This concept had three multi-purpose fields, softball field, lots of passive use area, parking, amphitheater, signature playground, splash park, sand volleyball and a dog park. There will be two storm water ponds on the property as well. This concept is more in detail for the commission to look over. Cord mentioned that those fields are large enough to hold any type of field activity from the largest soccer fields necessary down. There will be one large artificial turf carpet. There is a way to connect the trail in the open area with some picnic shelters. One thing that came out of the planning was some buildings such as picnic shelters, restrooms, office for staff and a place to rent for parties. Another building that was discovered that we need was two story press box that would serve as two functions. It would serve as both a game day softball field and adjacent multi-purpose field providing restrooms, storage, and office space on the ground floor. Then upstairs would be a press box looking out both ways with press box functions. This is the only two story structure proposed on the property. The

shelters will have water, power, lighting and some type of lighting control. The mind set is if we have events going on in the evenings those teams might be waiting an hour or two and that would be a place they could go if they were available. All three multi-purpose fields will be lighted. This is the final concept and we are almost to the finish line with the plan. We reduced the number of volleyball courts to add the splash park. Tonia mentioned the concern about the amount of space with only having one restroom. She suggested having a restroom closer to the signature playground. Having it where it is will provide for all the facilities. Brad suggested they could flip flop those restrooms over near the playground area then have the other building near the splash pad. Part of that would make a lot of sense because you are renting it out for a party you could have that room there beside of the splash pad. Tonia asked if the restrooms were going to be just stalls and the plan only calls for restroom space. One point that was made, that if you only have two stalls and no changing room it would hold the restrooms up. Trevor said in the Master Plan these items can be resolved at the design level, with maybe the building growing or even a small changing restroom on the other side. Brad ask if the contour of the ground will allow, could it just be one building that is larger with bathrooms on both sides? With a changing area there and on both sides. Trevor said, if we need to add restrooms or more capacity we could, Brad thinks we need to do this as well. The changing area at the Recreation Center isn't that big and works well here. Cord mention that it was going to be used heavily going from playground to splash pad. Tonia suggested having a bigger family changing area rather than just a female or male side. Everyone was on board for the signature park for children of all abilities because it was such a unique idea. As far as accessibility it is going to be perfectly flat. Trevor definitely wants the kids with special needs to be able to come to the park and enjoy the splash pad as well. There is not a dedicated concession setup at the softball park; it would be something like Kiwanis with a mobile trailer. It will be discussed about having charging stations and wifi at the park. The Steering Committee has been discussing this and what is needed to provide wifi. Cord mention that the layout of the park looks great. None of the fencing is shown on this early concept plan but it will be addressed in the final Master Plan. The biggest safety area for the fencing would be near the playground. They want to make it fenced in but don't want you to feel like you're fenced in. Parking meets the needs of day to day functions of the park with 50-75 range spaces per field. There is parking near the dog park, maintenance area even an additional parking lot that can serve the passive area. The restrooms and parking are both designed for day to day functions. Gay and Neel has a complete draft of utilities for the Master Plan of the park, and they did traffic studies. They are about to begin the traffic studies beyond the park. They also did the technical drilling on the park back in January. They have done all of the field work and should have a draft soon. Gay & Neel is hoping for confirmation from the steering committee to be able to present it in March to Town Council and the public. They are hoping to have all of the feedback and approvals they to need in the first two weeks of February. By the end of March they should be providing public information for the Truman Park. Gay & Neel are waiting on all the blessings they need from everyone. They should have some data on the marketing side by April-May, from the Pros Company. The Recreation Commission said the concept looks good with the changes of the restrooms and changing areas at the splash pad. This full development including the road is estimated around \$20 million. The Recreation Commission approves the conceptual drawing with the changes to the restrooms and changing areas at the splash pad.