

Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2016

Diane Fenton called the Recreation Commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone

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

Last month's minutes approved

Diane Fenton turned the meeting over to Brad Epperley

Attendance wise for the month of April was 8,281. For our Community Programs, Preschool Pee Wee Aerobics did quite well this past month having 8 participants. In the adult programs, Zumba had 26 participants and Yoga had 27 participants. Our Yoga and Zumba classes are doing really well. Special Interest, Rally Dog Obedience had 12 dogs/owners in that class and the Mardi Gras Casino trip had 18 participants as well. For our Seniors and Special Populations, our Senior Motions class that takes place in the mornings we have had 23 participants in each of those sessions. From March 26 through April 14 the AARP Volunteers served 303 participants with tax help. Caregivers Guide to Wonder was a new program for the department and we had 31 participants that participated in that. It's a program of guide to working with older folks that might have dementia or alzheimer's that might have the intension of walking/wondering off. The Spring Dance had 289 participants that came out for that. Last month's meeting Brad talked about Vin Etching and the Shred a Thon. Vin Etching had the biggest number of participants that we have had, having 33 vehicles that were etched. We partner with Virginia State Police, Christiansburg Police Department, and Christiansburg Fire Department. The Shred a Thon was the largest that we have ever had, they shredded 11,000 pounds of paper. They actually had to turn people away at the very end of it because the truck filled up. They are looking at doing two trucks instead of one next spring since the turnout was so big. Adult Athletics, first thing first is that Nick Yopp is back. In our Volleyball Leagues, Church League we split into A and B Leagues, we have 14 teams total for that. We also have a Co-ed League that we have 12 teams in. Church League is close to finishing up there regular season and then starting tournament play. Open League still has a ways to go in there season. Pitch, Hit & Run special thank you to Charlton McCoy for stepping in while Nick Yopp was out and running it. We had the most participants that we have had for the event, there were 24 participants. We ended up having 9 participants that will advance to the next round in Roanoke, Va. Youth Athletics, baseball games started April 21th and softball games started April 20th. All-Star tryouts have been set in the youth division.

In Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks, April 16th-17th we had a pretty good size tournament with Top Gun Baseball. There were 30 team that participated in that tournament. We have had some teams making their way up from North Carolina to play, due to the new partnership with Top Gun. One of the tournament directors there is from North Carolina and he is bringing the teams up with him. Almost all of our parks playground mulch has been replaced with the clean mulch, with the expectation of Harkrader Sports Complex and Kiwanis Park. Brad thinks we will move forward with that so all of our parks will have the clean mulch. At Kiwanis Forest Redd and his field guys used brick dust to enclose a batting cage area down there and it looks really nice. We have done some of the same things at Harkrader as well. Currently right now at Kiwanis Park we are not doing anything else at that park expect for maintaining it. Brad was advised through Barry that the lease is still in talks and nothing has occurred with that. With the advisement that Brad was given no more special projects, or anything outside of maintenance will take place until the lease is taken care of. It was approved from Barry and the Mayor about installing the new lights there. Mary

Critzer asked when the group reviewed that lease; Brad said they have had it well over a year. Most recently like a month or two ago they came back and there were some things they particularly really didn't want to agree with. Brad hopes that this is just a formality type thing and that we will get through it. But at this point we do not want to invest anymore into it until we get something finalized. Barry's last month is June, everyone is going to miss him. We are going to be hosting the District Dixie Tournament this year it was supposed to have been in Blacksburg. They were going to do it at Virginia Tech and somethings fell through there, and we offered to do it here. It hasn't been officially announced yet, but we will be hosting it here. The dates for the tournament will June 24th-29th. The first night Friday night we are going to play at Harkrader and then Saturday and Sunday will be playing at Kiwanis Park. Since we already had a travel tournament schedule that weekend at Harkrader. We will come back Monday through Wednesday and finish it up at Harkrader. When we do go to Kiwanis we will do the ozone on the big field, bring in new fence there and do minors on the small field. We will be hosting the World Series again this year; it will be July 6th-10th. Randall Morris is under a new organization this year. They are thinking that we will be pushing about 80 teams or more. The new sponsor for this year World Series is BowNet. BowNet is a company that designs these big nets that are pop nets that the kids hit into. From what Brad understands every team that participates will receive a BowNet.

We will be having Jill's Buddy Camp again this year, it will June 20th-23th and then June 27th-30th. We will plan to do just as we did last year. We are probably going to cut down our numbers of participants from last year. We are going to have 15 campers, and Ms. Wright has sent out an email for teenagers. We had some really good buddies last year, and in Brad's opinion that is what really makes that camp. Nick Yopp is working on our field trips now; we will go to some of the same places as last year. We will do the Superbowl again this year for the first day because the kids really enjoyed that. We're going to do some fishing; Nick Yopp is working with Walmart and Dicks Sporting Good to get fishing poles for the kids. Brad, Tommy Barber and another lady from Charlottesville Recreation Department are going to speak at the VRPS which is a Recreation conference. They are going to speak on the Jill's Buddy Camp and try to get more involvement from other Recreation Departments. It worked last time as that is how Charlottesville got involved. Chase Lowe that works at the Christiansburg High School, has always worked with us on building picnic tables. They had a grant where they could get lumber and materials to build picnic tables. His grant has expired and Brad told him to let him know if it was something they wanted to do and maybe we could find some funds to be able to do it. So we could keep that going and be able to put new tables out. It ends up that the gentleman that has our mowing contract through the town B&T Landscaping and Chase talked at one of our parks. And Ben with B&T is going to sponsor the materials for those picnic tables and the Christiansburg High School students will build those.

The Fourth of July Celebration will be like last year with the downtown festival. One of the things we changed up with that was that instead of 5 bands there will be 4. That allows a little more time to change in and out of bands we were kind of pushing it last year. Charlton talked to NRV Cruisers they will be attending the festival with 300 cars, to have car show. He is shooting for 20-25 vendors to attend; right now we have able 16. So far 1 food truck has committed, emails have been sent out to other ones. He also has talked to the High School about getting one of their sports team to do concessions at the football field. The fireworks will be at the High School with the same company.

Last thing Brad mention was we had a little bit of a situation that occurred in our youth baseball program. He wants to see what Recreation Commissions thoughts are on the situation. Each year we purchase uniforms for the players and those types of things. This year for softball we changed the uniforms so the girls could wear them to school. We did a new type of material something like dri-fit. We wanted to do the girls softball uniform as a trial and see how it worked. And next we would change it and do it for baseball as well. One of our minor's teams felt that our uniforms weren't up to par. Before talking to our department someone within their team took it upon themselves to go and purchase uniforms. That looks similar to the softball uniforms. Brads dilemma is that do we let them use those uniforms or no. He brings up that there is one other minor team and three ozone teams that would have the t-shirt style uniforms. Brad doesn't

think this is fair to the other teams if they don't have the same type of uniform. Brad checked into another Recreation League athletics and they did have nice jerseys but the difference is that we charge \$45 for our kids to play here. At the other Recreation League it is \$110 to play, it is a considerable difference in cost. The dilemma is do we say nope these are the uniforms we have provided, these are the uniforms you are going to use, is one option. Diane Fenton and Jim Williamson asked Brad if they called to consult before they did it and they did not they had already done it. Brad sat down with the coach the other day and he mentioned a few things. He had gotten shin guards because the plastic straps were worn out on them and he purchased his own. Brad asked him if he talked to our department about it because would have made it right for him and he said no I just did it on my own. Diane Fenton asked if this was a coach that we have had for a while, and it was mentioned that he's coached for a while. He also purchased some helmets, this coach also asked for a pitching machine. He was told he could use the machine like the others but couldn't keep with him all the time. He purchased his own pitching machine. There are three different scenarios we can do in this situation first, this is your uniform this is what everyone is wearing, and this is what you need to wear. Second, sure you can use it, you guys paid for it we have nothing to do with it, if the other teams want to get a sponsorship and pay for it on their own they can do it as well. Third they find sponsors for the other teams for jerseys for the other minor's team and ozone teams. These are our three options we can do. Mike Harris thought is that if they want to buy it that's up to that team but his only thing was it has to be consistent with the town's advertisement policy. Charlton told them we weren't approving anything until we have seen the jersey, and we have not seen it yet. From what Brad understood they did the same logos we had on our jerseys. Diane Fenton spoke up and said the only problem is that we need to be consistent with everyone, they should have come and talked to Brad. There should also be guidelines and if one has it they all have it. She mentioned that the girls kind of have been slacked for a years and its time they are getting something compared to the boys. There isn't a policy in place about the advertisement, but Brad thinks it is something we should put in place. One of the main reasons that Charlton wanted to look at the jersey before a decision was made was because of the word Yankees. There is a certain way that Yankees is written that would be trademarked by the New York Yankees. Diane Fenton opinion was if they you all approve of it and let them have it, that we should purchase the other teams jerseys, or they could get a sponsor because it isn't fair and we should have something set in stone. Mary Critzer asked if the person that got these jerseys was a volunteer and is this person is a parent. As far as the pitching machine, shin guards and helmets go the coach got those. Mary Critzer said his intentions were probably good and generous and so she doesn't have a problem with that. Mike Harris mentioned that if we purchased jerseys for the other teams we would almost have to purchase jersey for this team because it would cause problems. Or like Mary Critzer said give them the option. What the hard part is that if they would have come to us first we wouldn't be in this situation. For Brad he honestly wants our kids to look the best out on the fields. Our intent was to go in that direction next year with the boy's jerseys, softball has never had this. This was going to be the route we would go for the boys for next year. Without a policy in place Brad doesn't think we can tell them no because they went and purchased them already. Cord Hall honestly doesn't think that we need a policy for that because the department provides the uniform for the teams. Mike Saylor speaks up and says we do have policy, you show up in our uniform. Brad asked commission is he hearing that we tell the team no? Mike Harris disagrees with that. Mike Saylor says we can't have this one team go out and buy their own and make us run and buy for everyone else. And next year we were going into the direction of buy everyone new jerseys anyway. The \$45 covers hat, shirt, balls, equipment, umpire and fields but it really doesn't cover all of the expenses. The girls are a trial of what we are going to do next year and the price could possibly go up. Diane Fenton says would we rather have 12 parents or 48 parents upset. Cord Hall says if you are looking for a base line policy the kids are going to be equipped with a uniform that is presented and given by the Recreation Department if that is what we are looking to do and if that is what we need to do as a group he does not mind doing that motion. Cord Hall made a motion that has been bought to the boards attention that all players are to be equipped with a uniform that is presented and given by the Recreation Department, Mike Saylor seconded that motion. They voted in roll call, Tonia Winn in favor, Mary Critzer agreed, Jim Williamson agreed, Cord Hall agreed, Mike Saylor agreed, Mike Harris simply disagreed because there wasn't a policy that stated that, Diane Fenton agreed. After this motion and everyone voted it looks like they will be using the Recreation Department uniforms. Mary Critzer spoke up and said that we recognize that

we need to move forward with our uniforms and they just happened to be one step ahead of us. This group of individuals did say they would provide it for the other minors team. The other teams could upgrade their jerseys but they would need to get a sponsor. The original jerseys that came in were too small once Brian knew about it he contacted the vendor to correct the issue and even postponed their first game because they didn't have jerseys.

Cord Hall mentioned that town Council has sent the Kiwanis lease back to them. From the town's perspective we need that lease. The road for the Truman Wilson Property has been withdrawn from VDOT this year. Hopefully this is in the state budget for next year. With this set back it is going to push the park back about 12 months. This is a 3 million dollar road that we are trying to get help with funding from the state.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting June 6, 2016.