

Meeting Minutes for October 3, 2016

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

In Attendance: Jim Williamson, Doris Oliver, Matthew Davidson, Cord Hall, Brad Epperley, Nicole Dilola, Diane Fenton

Diane Fenton turned the meeting over to Brad Epperley

Last month's minutes were approved.

- Two of the candidates for the Recreation Commission will be coming to meet with the commission tonight. Richard Polikoff will be coming at 6:30 p.m. and John Neel at 6:45 p.m. The other candidate has a prior commitment.
- Directors Report:
- Attendance for the Recreation Center this past month was 7,651, which is almost a thousand more than we had last year. We assisted with the Wilderness Day Festival there was over 1,000 plus involved in that activity. The Recreation Center does different items for that event, we put the stage up, let them use tables, chairs, and tents. It is ran through the Kiwanis Club but we do help them in a variety of ways. We did the 8 mile Bridge Walk Challenge that started here at the Recreation Center. We take a Blacksburg Transit bus to the Blacksburg Library and we walked the Huckleberry Trail from the Library to here at the Recreation Center. We had 70 participants that took part in that, it was a great event.
- A couple of our Community Programs that Brad mentions is our new Junior Lego League that has 4 and 6 participants. P90 Early Bird special had 20 participants, another new program that we did was Letting Go Into Relaxation which is a yoga class we had 15 participants involved. We had a huge Community and Wellness Fair, we partnered with VCOM, AARP, and as well our department. We had 510 participants that were a part of that health fair and close to 110 vendors. It was a huge success, by far the best health & wellness fair we have had. We also did an employee health fair, which was the first of this kind. We had 70 participants that came from the town department.
- In our Seniors & Special Populations Division we had a Lifeline Screening event, we had 79 participants. We had a Falls Prevention Awareness Day where we had some different vendors' setup in the court area discussing fall prevention. We had 41 participants for that particular event.
- In Adult Athletics & Special Events, our Church and Open League Volleyball have begun their seasons. We have 24 total teams, 20 Church and 4 Open. We recently did the Punt, Pass & Kick at Christiansburg High School, we had 12 participants for that. We actually had the defending national champion Kadyn Camper from Christiansburg back again this year. We are hoping she can win it 2 years in a row. One

of the biggest events that is happening October 1st is the Tony L. Huddleston Trout Rodeo. This year for the trout rodeo we had 100 kids participate, this was great event. We had so many people to help out and many to sponsor.

- Youth Athletics Division has Basketball registrations going on, Volleyball registrations have concluded. Last year we had 32 participants registered for Volleyball this year we had 52. We have 7 teams that will be participating in our Youth Volleyball Program. Youth Football and Cheerleading are into their season, probably about half way through it. Fall Baseball and Softball as well.
- In our Outdoor Facilities and Parks, there are 2 designs for John Lemley Lane, one with 3 parking spots and 4 parking spots. The mini park itself does not call for parking but that was one of the concerns from some of the residents and we wanted to make sure we had that. They asked for a sketch and our engineering department drew this up. We don't have money in the budget right now for swings but in the near future we want to install them. The playground equipment is valued you as an \$80,000 piece. Brad talked to the playground company as far as the benches, border work and a couple of those items will be about \$3,000. Cord Hall asked about rubber mulch, Brad is willing to talk with them about that. Brad has talked with the clean mulch person that had changed all the parks and he is working on getting us a price for that. The town will be doing the site, so that will be cost efficient. Brad asked the commission what their recommendations would be on the parking spaces, would they recommend the 3 space or a 4 space? Cord hall said 3 should be fine, with 1 of those 3 being handicap accessible. All present members agreed with Cord and advised Brad to move forward with 3 spaces. The goal is to install the playground equipment November 7th, all the site work should be cleared and ready to go. Then in the spring we will come back in and do our planting. Brad is working with a group right now, that wants to come and do all that planting and beautifying.
- Tonight each candidate has 15 minutes, Brad thought it would be good for each of them to come in and explain why they would be a good candidate for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. What they can bring to the table and how they can help our community. We have 2 spots that we have mention but also have a 3rd one because we never did fill one of our commission members. After looking at the applications and without hearing them Brad is definitely open to that because he thinks that all 3 of them bring something to the table.
- Richard Polikoff is originally from Chicago, went to college in Michigan. He has worked his way around the United States. Mr. Polikoff was a sports writing in Wyoming, Arizona and Arkansas. He is now a proposal writing for Virginia Tech. The reasons he wanted to get involved is he is a parent of 3 young children and they are increasing involved in the community. Also from his general experience as the country he has seen what a good Parks & Recreation Center can mean to a community and what ones are not good to a community. And he knows it's really important to have something that really reaches as many citizens as possible and really committed to improving the life of citizens. A little more specific of what he would bring to the position is any type of externalization he is very comfortable with that. He has been a writer for 15 years; he is very comfortable with writing. A large part of his job is taking complex issues and explaining them in compelling and engaging format so that people can understand why this is important and why they should support. He is a

patient guy, at his job he is working with people throughout the university almost like a reporter trying to find out the whys. Cord Hall asked if he would be able to make it the 1st Monday of each month to the Commission meetings as well as the 2nd or 4th Tuesday of each month to a Council meeting (if needed). He would be able to attend those. Cord Hall asked Mr. Polikoff when he would be able if he was appointment to the Commission and he said almost immediately. Richard Polikoff asked commission how they go about finding out what the community wants. Cord Hall tells him that their information is public knowledge and they're going to let you know. You will get some calls once in a while and they will let you know when something comes up or what's important. Brad said a lot of it is what Cord is saying many times the public will come to us with new Recreation trends, new programs and we will look into those types of things. The other side is we really try to stay up to date within our staff as well. We try to somewhat be a trend leader instead of a trend follower, finding new ways of recreation. We are always open to comments from anyone in the public. It is mainly word of mouth of people getting back to us, we also recently did a Parks & Recreation Master Plan. We had well over 700 surveys turned back in. We are in process of developing a Master Plan for the Regional Park. We wanted to get the Master Plan of the department first then move into the direction of the actual park. If we see a need the department fills that need. Almost 5 years ago our parks were not to the level that they are today. Every park has had a hand laid on it somehow through Ignite or some group that has served through the Recreation Department to upgrade it. Our commission is a very active commission.

- John Neel has lived in Christiansburg for 17 years; he attended Virginia Tech and got a Civil Engineering degree. He works at Gay & Neel Inc, it is a Civil Engineering firm and he also owns the Learning Ladder. As of part of both of those businesses John gets in things within the community whether its development project such as they worked and designed the extension of the Huckleberry Trail and Renva Knowles Bridge. Also they are working on the North Christiansburg Regional Park with the town. They also get involved with other communities doing work there, so he gets to see other things they are doing. To potentially bring some of that back and the thoughts. From the child care center he sees a lot of new parents and people living in Christiansburg their needs, wants and their desires that they are thinking about for their children. That is the generation that will be coming up and going to go through the Recreation Center and the Aquatic Center programs. John ends up interacting with a bunch of people from different areas of the community. He is also is a member of the Christiansburg Soccer Board. He has coached his daughter in Soccer Club, recently helped with the Softball Program here at the Recreation Center and the Volleyball team. He and his wife are active they like to ride bikes on the Huckleberry Trail also interactive in the Recreational sport stuffs. He is engaged in a lot of different aspects of the community. He is also a member of the Kiwanis Club and the New River Home Builders Board. Cord Hall asked John if he would be able to attend 1st Monday of each month for Commission meetings and 2nd or 4th Tuesday for Council meeting (if needed). For the next 8 weeks he has Recreation Volleyball, he is going to work on getting the schedule pushed back for his games. Cord asked him where did he see the biggest area of need for Christiansburg at this time as far as parks are related. As far as park related, John mentions he thinks it is important to gain the overall support of the citizens to make the commitment to build the North Christiansburg Regional Park when the time comes.

- They is still one more interview with a candidate in November, Doris Oliver mentions that she thinks they both are articulate and we can use both of them with their qualities. Cord thought it was a great idea to meet with them to learn about each of them. Both of the candidates are excellent candidates.
- Cord Hall feels strongly and makes a motion if it is the will of the Commission to approve recommendation that both individuals be a part of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission and ask for their attendance for formal appointment at the next Town Council meeting which will be November 8th. Jim Williamson seconds the motion.
- A unanimous decision in favor of the motion by all commission members in attendance.
 - Jim Williamson- Yes
 - Diane Fenton- Yes
 - Cord Hall- Yes
 - Doris Oliver- Yes
 - Matthew Davidson- Yes
 - Nicole Dilola- Yes

Absent

- Mike Saylor
- Tonia Winn
- Brad is going to reach out to the candidates and let them know that they have been accepted based upon the Parks & Recreation Commission, pending approval of Town Council for November 8th. We would like for them to come and be a guest at our November 7th Recreation Commission meeting.
- The Stream Restoration at Depot Park is going to be put on hold. The funding opportunities did not match the price of the actual project. It looks as if we will be postponing this for another year. Everything came back almost double of what they thought it was going to be.
- The new park on John Lemley Lane is going to be called John Lemley Park.
- New Business:
- Cord Hall mentions if there is some way to add a subject between new business and old business for our student representatives a chance to update us as what is going on are such as school happenings and different community events. To keep the commission up to date, and as concerns come up. The commission wants the students input and what they are thinking. The student representatives are the resource. Brad says we can place Report from Student Representatives under the Report from Director.
- Meeting adjourned. Next meeting November 7th, 2016.