

Meeting Minutes for November 7, 2016

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

In Attendance: Rich Polikoff, John Neel, Tonia Winn, Jim Williamson, Matthew Davidson, Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy, Nicole Dilola, Diane Fenton

Last month's minutes were approved.

Diane Fenton turned the meeting over to Brad Epperley

- Directors Report:
- Attendance for the Recreation Center this past month was 8,404 that is strictly scans to use the facility. It does not include our classes and programs. That is an increase of over thousand from last year. We also have an increase in active memberships, last year at this time we had 5,687 as of this report we have 5,980. A couple of events that were huge events was our 5k Huckleberry Hustle. We partnered with Christiansburg High School Cross Country Team and we had over 100 registered participants for that event, 80 runners actually competed. Along with this event we had the Truck or Treat and had representation from VDOT, Public Works, National Guard Armory, Christiansburg Police Department, Christiansburg Fire Department, Christiansburg Rescue Squad, also as well as the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and Fenton Pump Service. We did something new this year, we partnered with Honey Suckle Studio to do arts and crafts. This provided a great network connection for us as we will be doing some paint parties with our seniors and some youth art classes as well. Radford University Women's Softball team came over and provided 18 college athletes to volunteer for the event. After we finished with that event on Saturday, a number of our staff members went to Carilion Child Safety Day and we were able to hand out a lot of our brochures, fliers and those types of things. They estimated 1,500 kids, approximately 3,000 going through that day.
- A few partnerships that have been very beneficial for us that Brad wanted to add, we partnered with Peak Strengths to provide spin classes. We had the bikes just not the rooms so we partnered and have done well with those classes. Breast Cancer awareness was another item that we participated in here at the Recreation Center, we had 350 people stop by our booth that day. A few other things, from a Community Outreach aspect is we provide flu shots here at Recreation Center. We work with a couple different pharmacies, Rite Aid and Walmart. In three different occasions we were able to get 49 participants in here for flu shots.
- In our Special Populations Programs, we had 380 participants for the Halloween Dance. We had our fall Shred-a-Thon, we had 2 trucks this time. We do that in partnership with Triad SALT Council. The seniors did their annual Walk-a-Thon, we work with RSVP on that. We had 30 participants and they walked 455 laps here at the Recreation Center. They raised \$1,345.00 for the Walk-a-Thon. This raises funds and RSVP takes care of issuing funds for homebound seniors and veterans to get items that they need whether it be toiletries, food, etc.
- Tony L. Huddleston Trout Rodeo was a huge event for us, we went from having 19 participants last year to having over 100 participants this year. It was very touching on our hearts, he worked for our department and coached for us. On October 23 we did a Volleyball Clinic

with Radford University, we had 22 participants. Upcoming events in the near future are a Women's Basketball Clinic on November 13 and we also have a Men's Basketball Clinic on December 11. Both of these clinics are with Radford University Athletic teams. We have a great relationship with Radford University, our intern this semester plays on the Women's Softball team. She did a pitching clinic with our youth girls' softball teams.

- Youth Athletics, we have basketball that is getting ready to take place, we had our placement practices the week of October 31 for the younger age groups. Our older age groups will be the week of November 14. Drafts will be done for the younger teams starting November 8 and the older teams will be November 16. Our numbers in the younger age groups are up. In the Mite Division we have 9 teams, and in Pee Wee Division there are 8 teams.
- As far as Outdoor Facilities and Park we have had a number of 5k's and running events along the Huckleberry Trail. The Marcus Ford 5K, Finish the Fight 5K, Hokie Half Marathon and then our Huckleberry Hustle 5K. Baseball tournament wise there were a couple weekends early on in October we were not able to participate due to weather. We were able to do some tournaments later on. All of our outdoor tournaments are over for the year. We are now in winter preparation, getting everything winterized at Kiwanis and Harkrader Sports Complex.
- We had a situation occur in our Youth Football Program this past week. It was a mistake made by our department and it is one we will own up to and that's what we did. It ended up with how the Youth Football season takes place we have teams that participate in our area, and play teams in other areas. There are win/loss records that are kept and the top four teams in each division will move on and participate in the Sandlot Super bowl. We had a team in the Junior Division play in the Semi-Finals, they were one of the top four teams. They played Radford and beat Radford in the Junior Division. Our other two teams, our Mite team got beat in the Semi-Finals and our Senior team got beat in the Semi-Finals. Our Junior team played in Radford semifinal game, after they won the very next day the Radford Parks and Recreation Department protested that one of our players was an ineligible player. After doing some research it turned out the player was ineligible. There are three criteria for a sixth grader to be able to play in the Junior Division. Those items are you have to be a sixth grader, you have to be under 85 pounds, and you have to meet a certain age requirement. The participant met the grade, met the weight but did not meet the age. It was an unfortunate situation. We revert back to the VHSL rules if it is not in our local rules. According to VHSL if you participate in a game and it is done so with an illegal player, then that team forfeits, that particular game or any game that they played before hand. We met with all the parents from that team about the unfortunate circumstance. We did set up an exhibition game for this team to play another junior team on Saturday, so the kids didn't have to just end on a negative note. The end result turned to a positive from a very negative situation.
- John Lemley playground items arrived on Friday and we have taken all playground items to the park. They have started installing it today on Monday, November 7 and the park will be completely installed by Wednesday, November 9 morning. The mulch will be placed on Wednesday afternoon. The park may not be opened right away because we want Public Works to do some landscaping. With the weather being as nice as it is we are going to try to get some ryegrass growing. Tonia Winn asked if Brad had heard any feedback about it. He

hasn't heard anything yet, but Melissa Powell with Public Relations did a live video back in October and there was nothing but good feedback on there.

- Students Report: The Christiansburg High School got a new Athletic Director, his name is James Woods.
- Robin Boyd is applying for the third spot for the Christiansburg Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission. He has lived in Christiansburg for over 10 years now. He has coached softball for 10 years and is still doing it. A Recreation Department for himself means a lot, he grew up with the Dublin Recreation Department and had to deal with a double Recreation Department. The Recreation Department means a lot to him, and he thinks the Town of Christiansburg is ahead of everyone else. As far as the things we have here, with the coaching and the Huckleberry Trail, the Recreation Department to him is a very important part of the community. The Department has taken Robin on as a coach, not only with softball but basketball as well. He thinks the new park is going to be great for the community especially the softball fields. He is an Assistant Coach for the girls' softball team at Christiansburg as well as coaching with a travel team. The facilities in Christiansburg are great and Robin would like to be a part of it. Diane Fenton asked Robin if he would be able to make the monthly meetings. Robin said there shouldn't be any issues. This is something he would not take lightly or he never would have applied for it. It is something that is near and dear to his heart. It's his community too and the Recreation Department is the center piece to everything and involves a lot of people. Diane Fenton asked where Robin sees the biggest need here with Parks & Recreation in Christiansburg. He said he would love to see that park built now. Robin mentions that shows that we are taking care of needs. He mentions that there has been positive changes since Brad became the Director, as he has focused more on the girls' sports now unlike before.
- Brad mentioned the goal for the Huckleberry Trail is to get it downtown. There are a few challenges the railroad tracks and North Franklin. We are looking at different ways to meet those challenges even as much as a foot bridge to go over the railroad. Something we have done in the town the past two years is we have focused on bike ways and walk ways and we now have a Bikeway Walkway Committee. The committee meets the first Friday of every month and they are a very good working group. They have worked to find needs within our community. The Huckleberry Trail is the main trail in our community we need to connect it to everything, the schools, the recreation facilities, stores, and those types of items.
- Brad attended the New River Valley Outdoor meeting and one of the goals for that group is they want to get the Huckleberry Trail to where it connects through Radford and then to the New River Trail State Park. If you took the Huckleberry Trail away from the citizens now you could really see what the value is. It's amazing that we could have 12 inches of snow on the trail and we go out there and plow that trail and within 5 minutes people are on the trail. We changed our policy and now plow the trail. In the past we did not plow the trail to allow the Cross Country Skiers the opportunity to do Cross Country skiing. The reason for the change is that trail became so popular and demanding for exercise and pedestrian transportation that we couldn't afford to hold off on clearing the trail. Now the policy is that we won't plow it while we are still working on streets in the town, but once the streets are plowed then we start plowing at the point.

- Robin Boyd is the last candidate to be interviewed for the commission. Diane Fenton would like to make a motion if it is the will of the committee that we ask Robin Boyd to be a part of our committee and let him go to the Town Council meeting tomorrow night for formal approval. Tonia Winn seconded the motion.
 - Tonia Winn- Yes
 - Jim Williamson- Yes
 - Matthew Davidson - Yes
 - Nicole Dilola- Yes
 - Diane Fenton- Yes
- Tomorrow night November 8 Town Council will be at 7pm and the new candidates will be introduced and hopefully approved.
- Effective starting Monday, November 14 we will begin a restructure within our department, it's all lateral personnel moves. Chuck Muncy that has been doing Outdoor Facilities and Parks is going to be taking over the Youth Athletics Program. Nick Yopp that has been doing our Adult Athletics will be moving into Outdoor Facilities and Parks. Brian Lambert that has been doing Youth Athletics will be moving into Adult Athletics. This will be good for our department, it will give each of them the chances to cross train and cross work.
- Richard Polikoff mentions that he took all his girls to the Truck or Treat and they had an outstanding time.
- Meeting adjourned, Next meeting will be Monday, December 5.