

Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2016

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

In Attendance: Tonia Winn, Robin Boyd, Matthew Davidson, Cord Hall, Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy, Nicole Dilola, Mike Saylor, Jim Williamson, Diane Fenton, Richard Polikoff, John Neel

Last month's minutes were approved.

Diane Fenton turned the meeting over to Brad Epperley

- No citizen comments
- Directors Report:
- First item on the report is active memberships we had 5,909, which is an increase from last year. Our attendance is down a little bit this month but it is interesting because last report we were up a 1,000. The one thing about this November is it has been fairly warm and dry and a lot of people have been exercising outside and those types of things.
- A few programs to mention, our P90 Early Bird had 17 participants for that class and Zumba Toning had 20 participants. We did a vein screening with Carilion and we had 16 participants in attendance.
- In Senior and Special Populations, Senior Motions had 22 participants in that program. Our blood drive with the American Red Cross had 27 participants. A couple other events was the National Fondue Bingo which had 25 participants. The Caregivers Guide to Wondering this year in Pulaski gave us a regional perspective and got everyone in the New River Valley area involved. We had 30 participants involved with it. A lot of the programs that we partnered with Lifelong Learning Institute with Virginia Tech gives the folks in our community the opportunity to do other things that we can't provide. Senior Special Events, we had our Thanksgiving Luncheon. It was a great turnout having 80 participants in attendance. Our Special Population Classes have done quite well this pass month. Our Cooking Class had 11 participants attend, we partnered with IDA for the Bowling League. There were 117 participants for Bowling. We also have provided two different craft classes that had 12 participants involved. We had our dance with IDA but don't have the numbers yet. Santa comes and visits along with volunteer groups that work with IDA to provide assistance.
- In Adult Athletics, our Volleyball League regular seasons have come to an end. They have started into their tournament play. Another Special Event we did a few weeks ago, was the Radford University Women's Basketball Clinic, we had 40 participants involved. It was kindergarten through sixth grade, it was a great turnout.
- In Outdoor Parks and Sports Facilities, the last time we met the playground equipment had arrived and they were getting started on installing the equipment. All playground equipment has been installed at John Lemley Park. The next stage for us is putting trash cans and areas for the picnic tables. Then we are doing winter landscaping, the weather isn't really working with us right now. The spring is when we will come back and do more in depth landscaping at the park and have a special grand opening. Pam Peyton knows a relative of Mr.

Lemley and we are going to invite them here for the opening. Tonia Winn asked if there was anything else said about the park, Brad mentioned that nothing negative has been said. The Mayor mentioned to Brad that someone said that the playground equipment was nice. To let everyone know especially the new members that when the Master Plan was done the East section of Christiansburg is the area that was need of recreation amenities, there was no parks or anything like that in that area. We had town property there and when we won the playground that was the direction we wanted to go in.

- Athletic Facility wise, we were a little late treating the fields. The reason for that is because everything was so dry we couldn't do aeration at any of our facilities because of how dry they were. We waited till the rain hit and then we came back through and did the aeration. They put turf blankets down to try and get some growth on the fields.
- In Youth Basketball all of our teams have been drafted and we have had our first games. This year we have 35 teams which is one more than last year. We have received all of our football participant equipment back in. We like to get those back as soon as possible because of the chunk of money placed in them. What we do is send staff members out to the last games and they collect the equipment at the end of the game. Our equipment has been sent off for reconditioning and they will evaluate and disregard what needs to be. After all completion they will send it back to us and it is ready to go. We changed things up with our Basketball Leagues this year, we felt they weren't getting enough practices before going straight into games. With our younger groups we provided them with six practices before they start into their games. What they actually do with their games is practice a little bit then play a game. For our older age groups they will get six practices then they won't start games till after the New Year.
- Our Winter Brochure will be coming out December 9. It turned out well, our designer that has been doing it, his company just went in a major contract with GE. And he cannot do it for us anymore due to a conflict with his position. We met with our printer and told them what we wanted and Jared helped out with passing his files along to them. Montgomery County Public Schools has gone to peach jar which is all electronic files. Brad was concerned about that because this was our only level of marketing to some by getting these brochures in the hands of the kids. Brad met with Judy Diggs and had a great meeting. He explained to her the things we had going on and why it was important to us. Therefore, they made an exception for our department, Blacksburg Parks & Recreation Department and Montgomery County Parks & Recreation Department for the brochure to go into the school system. Just for the commissions knowledge the brochure goes to every elementary child and then the Middle School it is put in the offices. Brad asked the Student Representative if it would be beneficial if they dropped off some of the brochures to the High School office, they both said it would.
- Brad received the Master Plan along with Business Plan for the North Christiansburg Regional Park formally known as the Truman Wilson Property. He has not had the chance to look at any of it, neither has Town Manager Biggs. Brad wanted to make commission aware that it is here. There will be a time set for a presentation to be given to Town Council. Brad thinks the joint meeting would be good, it just puts everything out on the table. The Business Plan has some openings in there where we can see what some of the thoughts are from Council or Commission. Trevor has been very hands on with this and Brad feels sure he will be the one doing the presentations to help all of us understand what we are looking at and what we have. As Cord mentions there could be some things that could be put in the particular

plan that could be fixed or laid out different. The one item is to just let you know that we have a new Town Manager, there may be some different visions that he might have.

- Robin Boyd mentions that he had seen that the softball was 220ft but every field he uses 200ft, he wanted to know if there was a reason for the extra 20ft. Brad says college basically 190ft to 220ft, if you have 220ft it gives you a little bit of play room. If you limit yourself to 200ft and they change the dimension as ball flights get easy, bat changes and those types of things, you never know what restrictions you may have. So this gives us the opportunity to work with it. Honestly that particular part of the measurement can be fixed as we get into it, this is the general layout.
- Cord asked John Neel if it would be more beneficial to have a big joint meeting with commission and council instead of the smaller groups. John says it would be great to present to everyone at one time. The only thing John wants is the commission to feel comfortable asking questions in front of Council. Commission won't have a meeting in January because of the Holiday, but Brad could see if they could possibly set up a work session in the middle of January. Then come back in February and have the individual meeting with the Recreation Commission. Cord Hall is going to let Council know that the plans are back at their next meeting.
- The last thing Brad has that he has been working on is the capital improvement plan budget. Things he will be placing in the budget so that commission knows where he is with it. Our budget is going to be a bit different then in the past. What we are doing for our capital perspective this year is doing it in a 3 year scheme and we categorize what we are putting in the budget. Whether it be essential, important, or necessary. If it is essential that means we are trying to meet some type of state mandate with safety, it is something that has to be in there or we have to have. If it is essential it is something we would like to have and we feel that it is necessary to have in order to make our department better and to provide a better public service to our community. Then the last one is important it is probably the less of the categories, it is something that doesn't have to be done this year but you would like to have it on the books within the 3-4 years. With that being said here are a few things that was put in digital marketing sign, emergency blue call tower for our parks and trails, mobile stage, and replacing curtains here at the center, this one is imperative from a safety aspect. The next items are paving a loop trail, overlay pavement at Harkrader Sports Complex. The next one is an item that has been taken out of the budget the last two years but is an important aspect and that is building picnic shelters at the parks. Then other capital improvement item is renovating the hallways and court side restrooms at the Recreation Center as they are outdated.
- Discussing the Recreation Center in the next few years, the one thing he really wants to look at is currently we have the separation of the cardio room and the weight room if you go into majority of fitness rooms now they are combined together. What ends up happening here is there is a barrier and we have people that come in and work out in the cardio room and look inside the weight room and see all these guys in there pumping iron and they don't want to go in there. It is a possibility that we could knock the wall out in the multipurpose room 1 and expand the area. The last thing we have put in there is the new chiller unit for the Recreation Center. We are not able to get everything we want that is why the categorization is good to have.

- Question from Robin Boyd about plans for bathroom facilities at Falling Branch fields. With it being school property not town property we would have to look at it through a contractual prospective, it has been placed in the budget for 2020. May need to look into it sooner if everyone thinks it is important. Cord said they have looked into a bathroom facility at another facility and it's very expensive and it would definitely have to be something funded through the town. Brad said "may try to look for bathroom structures on Govdeals where we put in structures with toilets and connect to town sewer system." Right now none of the parks have restrooms, we pay a monthly fee to have porta johns at each facility which is also expensive. Would eventually like to get bathroom structures at all of the parks.
- The dugouts at Falling Branch are becoming unsafe. Bathrooms are important but safety of kids more important. New fencing has started to be put up at Falling Branch and there are possible plans to put concrete walls and netting around dugouts but may have to go through school system so may stay with just the fencing, but definitely need some sort of covering for the dugouts. Just must be cautious because it is school property and don't want to spend a lot of money without agreement.
- Digital signage possibly town wide item with 3 different signs at major locations: Near Town Hall, Aquatic Center and Recreation Center. Used for not only marketing but community awareness and emergency alerts. Goal was having one person in charge of all signs. If we do spend that much money for the signs they need to be updated regularly.
- Grant funding in the next two years for recreation center intersection to make it more user and pedestrian friendly. May help with some of the ways we do things: exit out (left out) issues, would also like to get rid of through traffic but right now it is in the agreement that it's the right of way from Food Lion area. There is no way to get rid of that unless we are able to provide them with some other options. It is a safety concern, especially this time of the year January –March when it's so busy and dark outside and people cutting through not paying attention.
- Cord Hall suggested to have place in brochure with the recreation commission member's name and email so that they can be contacted if needed.
- Student Representative Report:
 - Art class at the high school painted a VDOT snow plow that was in the Christmas Parade. The painting background is the Town of Christiansburg with buildings and a sled going down the hill along with each school's mascot.
 - Coach Cromer from the high school resigned. He's been the coach for 15 years. New Athletic Director, James Wood has started. He wants to get involved in our youth programs and he is meeting with his coaching staff and is going to see what they want to do to be part of the recreation department.
- Judges for the Christmas Parade: Dianne Fenton, Robyn Boyd and Alan Johnson. Three categories: best float, best non float and best overall. This year there will be barricades to protect kids from running in the road. Concerns about the weather on Friday-some participants may have to drop out if it is too cold. Have a meeting on Wednesday to make a decision on whether to have to parade or postpone. Christmas Market will be open 4-9 p.m., the tree lighting will be at 6:55 p.m. and the parade starts at 7 p.m. Staff will be

walking along the fire truck with Santa handing out candy. Trying to get away from throwing candy so that it doesn't hit someone and hurt them.

- Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is February 6, 2017.