

Meeting Minutes for June 6, 2016

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

In Attendance: Tonia Winn, Mary Critzer, Doris Oliver, Jim Williamson, Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy, Mike Saylor, Diane Fenton

Last month's minutes approved

Diane Fenton turned the meeting over to Brad Epperley

The attendance for May was 8,405, which is pretty good numbers considering how nice the weather has been. Total active membership was 5,833. Some of the events from our Community Programs that did quite well are Beginning Evening Yoga which had 27 participants and Zumba had 26 participants. In our Senior Programs/ Special Populations the Blood Drive brought in 27 participants. Raising Backyard Chickens was a 1st time program that made the news. We had 19 participants for this program. We had numerous phone calls about the program. It was a great partnership with our department, Extension Office and Planning Department. The Planning Director for the town spoke on the town ordinance for the chickens and we had individuals from the extension office that spoke on how, why and the proper ways to raise chickens in urbanized agriculture. We did another section of the educating parents series. The program was Signs of Drug Use and Impairment. It had some good media coverage as well. We had 127 participants for the Senior Olympics. We did a Triad Senior Care Fair. We had 177 participants here for that event. The numbers for AARP Tax Aide were remarkable we had 1,235 total clients that 25 volunteers helped throughout that time frame. This is a really great service that we are providing for our community. Youth Athletics is wrapping up baseball season this week, Wednesday possibly Thursday June 9th are the last games. Youth Softball will be going into the week of June 13th. All-Star wise it looks like we will have an Ozone team, and Brad believes two different teams for softball, Angels and Ponytails. It doesn't look like we will have a AAA team. A number of travel players in this age group didn't play this year in recreation ball. Adult Athletics, we have Church Softball going on right now, the weather has been kind to them. Volleyball season is going well; they are in their playoff seasons now. Nick Yopp came up with a new program; he has been working with the Triangle Archery Club to start an Archery Program. When we did the progress report for last month we had 9 participants which we were excited about then but the day it started we had 20 participants for the Archery Clinic. It was a great new program.

In our Outdoor Sports Facilities & Parks, we have had tournaments each weekend. The rain has caused some delays and cancellations for us. The State Tournament that was going to be played on May 21st & 22nd had 46 teams signed up but it got rained out. They moved that event to June 4th & 5th and they played Saturday most of the day but Sunday got rained out. They are going to try and move it to the weekend of June 11th because of the number of teams. They are going to combine it with the Feeding America Tournament. We will be hosting the Dixie Baseball Tournament that will play June 24th through June 29th. This will be our all-stars teams and teams from Giles County, Pulaski County, Radford, Blacksburg, Montgomery County, and possibility Peterstown. Also during that time frame we will be doing Jill's Buddy Camp, which will be Monday through Thursday 8:30am-12:30pm June 20th -23rd and June 27th -30th. We are also hosting a Fourth of July event, we have 19 vendors. We are also doing a car show during this event and are expecting 200 to 300 cars. We will have a children's section, we have worked with Dave's Moon Walk for these activities. The Farmers Market will be open as well. We will have four bands playing through-out the day. This event will be held from 10am- 4pm, then that night we will have the firework celebration at 9:15pm at the Christiansburg High School. If lightning does hit we

would clear the stadium and the citizens can watch the firework show from their cars. This was a real successful event last year. A couple other items, we have Teen Police Academy beginning on the week of June 6th. We will be hosting the World Series July 6th-10th. Right now, we have 56 teams that are confirmed. Brad thinks we will be pushing 60 teams hopefully. The last day they will take teams will be June 18th.

The town hired a new Town Manager, Steve Biggs. He seems like a wonderful man and very supportive of parks & recreation. Brad was able to meet and talk to him the day after he was hired. We're going to miss Barry tremendously, but look forward to working with Mr. Biggs. He has done some very remarkable things; he comes from Clayton, North Carolina which is right outside of Raleigh.

The Parks & Recreation Department won a playground. Brad entered a sweepstakes a few months ago, there were 230 entries. It's an \$80,000 playground. Instead of replacing any playground that we have, there is some property that the town currently owns that we will look at placing the playground equipment. The area that is talked about in the Master Plan that is lacking parks is out near Wayside Park. We do have land out there on John Lemley Lane, and that's a possibility. Another possibility is Hans Meadow. We are looking and trying to make a decision that is best suited for the community. It has to be done by September of this year. Brad has spoken with Public Works; the only thing we have to do is site preparation and the surfacing after that. Mike Saylor asked if there was anything new with the Kiwanis Lease. Cord Hall was sent an email from one of the members of Kiwanis Club that they wanted to sit down with him and talk one-on-one about the lease agreement. He said he was more than willing to and he asked Brad if he was willing to sit in as well. He has not heard back since last week. This lease is definitely something we need to get squared away. We are waiting to hear from them, and it is a good direction to have that meeting. The Kiwanis Club is very important to us and we don't want to lose that relationship with them. We do however need to have an agreement due to the finances we invest into the facility. The other thing that Cord Hall wanted Brad to mention is that the Commission needs to try and get another school representative back on the Commission, possibly even two, a girl and a boy. If the Commission wants Brad to go ahead with this he can get with the new Human Resources when they arrive and get stuff together. A couple members from Town Council mentioned that they wouldn't mind having someone from soccer/lacrosse within the Recreation Commission. They think we have different groups of representatives within our commission and they want to know about adding one for soccer and lacrosse. Mary Critzer spoke up and asked if they knew any students that play soccer or lacrosse. Diane Fenton suggested that they should talk to Shane Guynn the Athletic Director at high school. And that role of the soccer/lacrosse member could be a student. Mike Saylor mentioned that he was not big on the idea of a special interest position because at the end of the day we need to look at the overall good of the community. Tonia Winns request is that they stay away from boy's baseball because we know historically that has been the big sport that has dominated the town and then if we have a baseball representative for the Recreation Center then there we are and there is more than just baseball. Commission suggested that when picking a student that they could do an interview process and have a sub-committee to do that, and then take it to Town Council. Brad is going to email Shane Guynn and get some recommendations for students. Brad's understanding of the specialized group is that Commission wants to stay away from that and just open it up to whomever. Last thing Brad mentioned that he forgot to say earlier with the report is that we had a Skin Cancer Screening a few weeks ago with River Ridge Dermatology. We had 131 participants for that screening; we had people out the door. It was a free screening and it turned out great.

Meeting adjourned.

There will not be a meeting in July; Next Recreation Commission meeting will be August 1st, 2016.