

Meeting Minutes for November 6, 2017

- Diane Fenton called the Recreation Commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone
- In Attendance: Tonia Winn, Matthew Davidson, Jim Williamson, Cord Hall, Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy, Mike Saylor, Robin Boyd, Diane Fenton, Richard Polikoff
- October Minutes were approved.
- Directors Report: Total active membership for this month is 6,125, which is an increase of 150 from last year. Attendance for this past month was 9,035, which is an increase of over 600. We had our Huckleberry Hustle 5K this past weekend, and we had a great turn out. The Truck or Treat did very well, we had more people this year than we ever have. We had 70 participants for the Huckleberry Hustle, we are going to look at different ways to market this event next year. After the race we served over 100 participants with pumpkin pancakes. Sinkland Farms donated over 100 small pumpkins that we used for the Truck or Treat event. We worked with Honey Suckle Studio to allow children to paint pumpkins during the event. There was a company from Oregon that was supposed to deliver pumpkins to Kroger, but they did not meet the Kroger's expectations. The company saw a flyer where we were marketing for the Huckleberry Hustle and called to see if we wanted any free pumpkins. We were given 14 bins of pumpkins. We reached out to English Meadows and Wheatland about delivering pumpkins to their residents. Each resident was given a pumpkin they could use for their Halloween arts and crafts project. We also gave away a number of pumpkins to staff members within the town. We also held a departmental pumpkin carving contest with some of the donated pumpkins. We let the community vote through social media. The police department received the most votes.
- Community Programs: This month we had 15 participants in Zumba, 16 participants in Yoga, 17 participants in Toning and Conditioning and 20 participants in Core and Balance and Evening Tabata had 16 participants. Our spin classes that we work with Peak Fitness to offer have been full. Dog Obedience classes have done well, Novice has 11 dogs for the 6 p.m. class and 13 dogs for the 7 p.m. class, and our Intermediate has 12 dogs. We set up a Breast Cancer Awareness table each year, this year we had 340 participants. We also offered our Only Place to Know Christiansburg program, we had 14 participants in this program. The program is a tour of each of the departments in the town and properties that the town owns.
- Senior Programs & Special Populations: Our Senior Aerobics has 26 participants, Senior Motions has 25 participants, and Zumba Gold has 19 participants. We offered flu shots through Walmart and had 24 participants. We worked with the New River Health District for flu shots, they came to the RSVP Pancake Breakfast as well. We had 12 participants that received shots that day. We helped IDA with their Trout Fishing Rodeo, they had 49 participants at this event. This past Friday night we had our IDA Halloween Dance, it was the largest dance we have held. We had 367 participants. Brad received a letter about how the recreation center is such a great location for this event and how much the staff does for these type of events. RSVP Supply's for Seniors Pancake Breakfast, we had 100 people involved, they made \$835 for the program. This money will cover supplies for the seniors. RSVP volunteers will stuff the bags, and they will go to approximately 250 senior citizens within Montgomery County, Giles County, Floyd County and Pulaski County. We also held a Shred a Thon this past month and had 185 cars. Halloween Bingo had 30 participants.
- Outdoor Facilities and Special Events: The Tony L Huddleston Fishing Rodeo had 65 participants this year. It was more manageable with that number of participants. There were 105 fish caught during the rodeo. We always work with Radford University to provide free sporting events for children. We offered a Radford University Volleyball Clinic this year and had 37 girls that participated in the clinic. We had 68 kids that registered for volleyball this past season. We always work with Ms. Hazel Beeler, who is a professor at New River Community College, she is working on her Masters of Gardening. We worked on a project with her and Corning planting trees in the spring and fall. We have recently planted a Crab Apple and a Weeping Elm. Each one of the trees planted is a different type of tree. She takes her students there to identify the different types of trees planted. In the future we will look into putting a tag on each of the trees to label the type of tree it is. We are off and running with our Bikeway/Walkway sponsorship program, we have started putting 6x6 signs up to recognize the sponsors. We have two picnic tables that were sponsored, one by Kroger which will go to Depot Park, one by Hurt and Profitt which will go near the Y on the Huckleberry near the Kohl's entrance. We have both pet waste and water stations that were sponsored by the New River Health District and the NRV Kennel Club. We are going to wait to install the waster stations until the spring. Our Bikeway Walkway Committee plans on sending out another letter in hopes of obtaining more sponsorships. Home Depot is going to donate the materials and our goal is to put a shelter behind Home Depot with a bench. We will need to either work on getting a contractor, Eagle Scout or even the New River Valley Time Bank. From what Brad understands Walmart is on board with a possible \$10,000 sponsorship.
- Adult Sport: We have a total of 30 volleyball teams. We have finished up our fall softball league, next up for us is playoffs for volleyball and adult basketball.
- Youth Athletics: We have finished youth football and cheerleading this past week. We did have one team that made it to the semi-finals, it was a great game that went into overtime. The youth football Super Bowl was this past weekend. We did not have any teams qualify for the Super Bowl this year but Chuck Muncy was there to represent the recreation department. The Sports Director group voted on naming the Super Bowl after Eddie Sutphin. Eddie is the Sports Supervisor for Pulaski, he has been diagnosed with cancer, made a recovery and came back to work. He was able to be there Saturday to be recognized and told that the Super Bowl was going to be named after him. Each department went in to get him a jacket and hat. We have finished flag football, youth fall baseball and softball. Our mite and pee wee basketball leagues have started. We have six teams in the Mite League and eight teams in Pee Wee League. Our goal is to finish the mite and pee wee leagues before the holidays. This will be earlier than the older age groups in order to open up gym space. Late signs up are going on for the older age groups.
- The 20th Anniversary Birthday Celebration for the recreation center is tomorrow. The celebration will be held from 3-7 p.m. We hope people will come to vote and then join us for the celebration. There are a couple concerns about parking but Brad doesn't think it will be an issue. We will have an officer out front to direct traffic. We will have participants who are

not members fill out a waiver before coming in. Some of the activities we will offer are senior arts and crafts, Yoga, bingo, Tabata, Abs and Arms, as well as Zumba. We will have ongoing activities on one court: Cornhole, Jack O Lantern Toss, Peg board, Ladder ball, and the Washer game. We have some sports activities that participants can win prizes for. They will be broken into age division (under 8, 9-12, and 13-18). Every half an hour we plan to have different activities such as Knockout Basketball, Skeet Volleyball, Quarterback Toss, In the Clutch, Dodgeball Mayhem, Volleyball Hotshot Toss, and It's Raining 3's. We will have a cake cutting at 5:30 p.m. We have 39 door prizes that were donated and we purchased a TV as our final big ticket give-away. Today we got donations for WWE tickets, and concert tickets for Justin Moore and Dylan Scott. Participants do not have to be present to win, we will have a drawing every 30 minutes. We held the event on Election Day because we thought we would have a lot of traffic and school is also out that day.

- Cord Hall mentions as far as Truman Wilson, council hasn't been as involved in the last 45 days because of the election. But after the election, with the new members being elected, he feels there will be some type of meeting held before the end of the year. The last few conversations have been about phasing opportunities with John Neel. Cord would say Phase 1 would be the multiple purpose fields. A majority of council wants to move forward with this. There is a work session planned for the end of this month to discuss this matter.
- Cord Hall asked if the recreation center has had any communication with youth football parents the last few weeks concerning EMS showing up. Brad mentions that they started showing up the last week and there was positive feedback from parents about EMS being there. Moving forward, the goal is to not go through this issue next year. Cord received phone calls about this issue, he mentions that maybe next year commission could draft a letter about the overwhelming response from football parents expressing they would like to see EMS at every game. Cord Hall mentions that council appreciates the way Chuck Muncy handled the football situation, and that represented the community well.
- Council is still in search for a Town Manager. It will not be decided upon until mid- January.
- Virginia Municipal League is what we are a member of at the state level, it's not just cities but towns too. Every year they recognize a community. They recognize a community for its emphasis on a commitment to many different ideas. One of which is to serve the population for recreation purposes. Cord mentions that we have one of the best recreation centers in the state. We hit everything from adult to youth programs and senior and special populations programs as well. Council is going to push Jill's Buddy Camp next year and he wants commission to push it too. Cord looked at the state level to see what it takes to win, we have redefined the way we emphasis programing for Special Populations. It's a commitment that the community has bought in and MCPS has bought in, providing great collaboration and it will serve as a reflection of our community. This is already on councils' mind and they're going to push this hard. The proposal has to be in by May and the winner will be announced in the summer.
- One thing Cord noticed this year in soccer is that it's an all-girls league under 8. He noticed that when they were playing all girls, instead of boy and girl combined, how they blossomed. The reason he mentioned this was because Mite Basketball is mixed. Is it possible to do that? Is it participated regionally? Do you play other counties? Brad mentions that we don't at that age level. Cord also asked when the gender separation starts, and it starts at the Minor League. Brad mentions that we could look at doing registration separately as a boys and as girls. If we do not have enough then we could combine them and make it a Co-Ed League.
- Brad mentions he appreciates Cord talking highly of Jill's Buddy Camp and it goes without saying that he's only as good as the staff is and not just for Jill's Buddy Camp.
- Student Report: SATs are beginning for high school students. They have player interest at the high school level in Lacrosse but no coach yet. Matthew Davidson and Mac Padgett got invited to Duke University for a lacrosse showcase. This past Saturday they had the talent show that was packed, a Blacksburg student won it. The new athletic director, Tim Cromer, is doing well.
- New Business: Robin Boyd asked what was going on with Babe Ruth/ Cal Ripken league. Brad mentions that the area parks and recreation departments did have a meeting with them and we are going to change and move from Dixie Softball. The issue that occurred with softball this year pushed that change. We will remain Dixie Youth Baseball for 9-12 year olds. We will be going Babe Ruth for softball and the older baseball division. The reason we did the older division was because of the open rosters. We haven't had a 13-16 year old league for a long time, but there are still some kids that want to play recreational sports. With that open roster, we could have kids from Christiansburg, Blacksburg, or Radford and that could play on a team. They would just have to find teams for them to play against and they would be eligible to go to the State Tournament to play. Girls' softball there isn't a district tournament, at that point all teams are eligible for the State Tournament. The process to get to the World Series is also a little different. The team would play in the State Tournament then go to a Regional Tournament and from there you go to the World Series. Basically everyone that attended was on board for this, we did have some that said they would absolutely not move to Little League because our equipment possibly would be turned into Little League Property. Mike Saylor said to the best of his knowledge this was untrue. They chose to stay with Dixie Youth Baseball because they haven't had many issues with them. Pulaski has come on board with us with these leagues. One thing that would be appealing to Brad is for everyone to move to Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken than to have all 3 different leagues. We are planning on sending a press release out and then we will send it out to the other recreation departments at the regional level. One of the reasons we decided to stay with Dixie for the 9-10, 11-12 was because they do individual leagues such as: 9u, 10u, 11u and 12u. Softball the ages divisions will stay the same. One thing Brad liked was we would be able to host tournaments here. Dixie said the reason they did not respond to the emails based on the situation during the softball tournament was because it could become a legal matter. This is in the past and we are moving forward. Diane Fenton mentions that she appreciates Cord Hall and his effort for the commission.
- Meeting adjourned, next meeting will be Monday, December 4, 2017.