

Meeting Minutes for October 2, 2017

- Diane Fenton called the Recreation Commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone
- In Attendance: Robin Boyd, Tonya Winn, Doris Oliver, Brad Epperley, Matthew Davidson, Nicole Diloia, Mike Saylor, Diane Fenton, Richard Polikoff
- August Minutes were approved.
- Directors Report: Attendance for the month of September was 7,681 we were up 800 people. Active membership is up 400-500 from last year. We did assist with the Wilderness Day Festival, we setup the stage, tables and chairs. This was a very successful festival. We also had our 8 Mile Bridge Challenge Walk, we had 61 participants that walked. We had 80 signed up but some had things come up. Our staff did a wonderful job with the event and we received compliments about them. Gay & Neel sponsored the shirts, everyone that participated got a free shirt, and Blacksburg Transit did our shuttle.
- Community Programs: A couple of programs that are going extremely well are the Yoga's, Zumba, and Zumba Toning. We do have some things we are working on from a Community perspective, one is we have had an instructor retire, another class we are trying to fill as well, and we have one that has an injury and not sure if she will be able to come back. We are on the look for instructors and we have reached out to get some instructors in. We did do an Employee Health & Safety Event here, we combined with Human Resources, and we had 87 participants. That's almost 50% of the Town Employees, it was a big success. The Dog Obedience Class starts back up Wednesday, many know that the Armory is no longer in use due to Homeland Security. We went in and renovated one of the large rooms at the old May Flower Building on Cambria St, that's where we will hold our Obedience Classes now. It's such a nice space that we can hold other classes there as well.
- Senior Programs: We had a great group go to the Mardi Gras Casino in West Virginia. We also had a trip for Wine Tasting that had 10 participants. We held a Blood Drive that had 17 participants. This past Friday we did our 3rd annual Senior Fall/Safety Fair, we had 50 participants that joined us for that, we worked very closely with the Carillon Staff.
- Outdoor Facilities & Special Events: We had a few good size tournaments here in September, one that sticks out is the Southwest Virginia Elite, and they had 41 teams here on September 14. Of the 41 teams there were 4 different states recognized South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. The Southwest Virginia Elite is an USSSA organization, and it's really growing. CHS Softball Program continues to use Harkrader Sport Complex twice a week for their fall training. CMS Baseball is using Kiwanis three times a week for their fall training. We have started installing some of our sponsorship items, Bikeway Walkway items. We placed a Pet Waste Station at the trail head of the Huckleberry will be and placing another at the May Flower Building. Nick Yopp met with Public Works about putting concrete under some the Picnic Tables that we will be putting in. Walmart and Home Depot cannot provide us grants for that sponsorship program because their grant programs are 501 3c and we are not. What we are going to do is go through Bill Ellenbonger he is part the Friend of the Huckleberry, they are 501 3c so he will request it and we will send him an invoice of the item and they will pay. They are looking about doing lumber where we could build a shelter. Last meeting we talked the about Locust Trees having to come down at Downtown Park, we didn't hear much negativity about this, it was more positivity. The only comment made was about the trees that were planted but the trees were recommended by our arborist here in the Town. We have been working with Hazel Beeler on planting different trees along the Huckleberry Trail near the Corning Part. Upcoming Special Events, the 2nd annual Tony L. Huddleston Trout Rodeo that will be Saturday October 7. Wades Supermarket sponsors the hotdogs, Atmos brings their cooker and cooks the hotdogs.
- Adult Athletics: We have Church League Volleyball and Open League Volleyball going on now. We have 28 teams between Church and Open Leagues. For the first time this fall we are having Fall Open Softball League and Women's Fall Volleyball, we only have 4 teams in each of those division.
- Youth Athletics: We have tackle Football going on as well as Cheerleading, we also have Youth Flag Football. Along with those we have Fall Baseball and Softball going on as well. We have 2 teams in the AAA, and 2 teams in the Angels. Youth Volleyball Placement Practice is tonight and we have 60 participants for that. At the last meeting we talked about the Baseball/Softball organization, we have done some research and work. The Recreation Departments have a meeting setup with Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken next week. Babe Ruth ages 5-18 all softball and Cal Ripken is baseball 5-12, 12-18 is considered Babe Ruth. The nice thing about this organization is instead of 3 organizations its 1 organization. We can't make any types of changes unless the District wants to. Also at the Conference last week Brad talked to the Little League representatives about some of the concerns we had. One group within the departments that said they wouldn't consider Little League. Mike Saylor mentions that in the past our Recreation Department has been the leaders and if it comes to the point of changing the other departments would follow. The communication right now with Dixie is just not where needs to be, and that causes a struggle. Last thing Brad wanted to mention was we did go back and recognize the Girls' Softball Team at the Football Game. In our trophy case you'll see their trophy and a picture.
- Student Report: The Volleyball team has done very well this year. The Lacrosse team is still looking for a coach. The High School got a new Athletic Director, Tim Cromer.
- New Business: The discussion to rename downtown park, this has been something we have talked about with the staff and town. We couldn't do a lot because we were waiting on the land swap to take place between the Town and National Guard. The reason for the renaming came about a few years ago, Officer Scott Hylton was killed in the line of duty here in Christiansburg. There is nothing named after Officer Hylton, but Officer Griffith has a road named him. We have thought about doing something to honor Office Hytlon, Brad met with Mayor Barber, Chief Sisson, and Randy Wingfield. They feel that they should still call the park Downtown Park because it's in downtown, but have subtitle dedicated to Fallen Officers. We want to have a pedestal for Officer Hylton and Officer Griffith recognizing them. With talking with Chief Sisson it make more sense to not just recognize one but to recognize both and if anything were to happen to others include them. The Mayor asked Brad to make sure our commission was okay moving forward with this. Robin Boyd thinks it's a great idea. There is a Memorial at the Montgomery County Building for Montgomery County Officers, and the Town wants to do one just for the Town Officers, that is one thing Mayor really wanted it to focus on. Richard Polikoff asked if there was anyone that had passed while either fighting fire or on an ambulance run, there has been no one. Diane Fenton asked if the Memorial could be something for all Emergency Responders in the town and Brad thinks that is the mindset anyways. The Memorial will be dedicated to Our Fallen First Responders with all town responders. Tonia Winn mentions that they want to check and make sure that Rescue and Fire hasn't been doing this, but to Brad's knowledge

they don't. After Brad gets commissions blessings he would reach back out to the Mayor, Chief Sisson, Randy and Public Relations. Our goal is do this in May because law enforcement week is in that time, at that time we would unveil the Memorial. The park will still be called Downtown Park with the subtitle dedicated to our Fallen Officer and if something were to happen to Emergency Responders add that below that. Everyone was in agreement to subtitle the Park for the Fallen Officers and if something occurred with other First Responders in the future we would revisit the idea of adding that to the sub title.

- Old Business: Richard Polikoff mentions that in the past few months he has had some friends come up to him all with young kids and ask about having some type of child care or service here at the Recreation Center. It is hard to workout having small children, and he wanted to know if there had been any talk about that. Brad mentions that in this situation it gets more difficult because with child care there is a lot of certifications you have to go through to be able to have one. The Town has chosen not to go into that route as a day care or child care facility. The Aquatic Center is starting to look at avenues of that, the problem here at the Recreation Center is our rooms are scheduled with classes and there would not be any available consistency. Richard Polikoff mentions what about doing the second and forth Sunday, bring your kids over and we will put a movie on 2-4 p.m. Brad mentions that he will do some checking on this. He knows there is a certain liability on that, and we would have to be cautious with that. Our rules state that a child cannot be here without a guardian under the age of 11 years old. We do get pressed on that rule, when Brad first got here it was 8 and under. He doesn't really want to get into that, but he does understand where they are coming from and will check on it. From his direction as the Director he does not really want to put the responsibility on our staff. Diane Fenton asked if they were any closer to hiring a Town Manager, Brad mentions that they have done some interviews but he knows nothing, they hope to have someone in place by November. We have had a lot happen in the Town, Building Inspector Billy Aldridge that has been with the town for a long time passed away unexpectedly. Brad is working on evaluations with his staff this week, and one thing they have done different this year is ask the staff to do self-evaluations before the one with supervisors. The Huckleberry Hustle 5K will be October 28 along with our Truck or Treat starting at 8 a.m. The Recreation Center and RSVP will be pairing on October 19 for the Pancake Breakfast for Supply for Seniors. Brad mentions that Cord Hall is not running again for Town Council.
- Meeting adjourned, next meeting Monday, November 6, 2017.