

Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2017

- Diane Fenton called the recreation commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone
- In Attendance: Tonia Winn, Doris Oliver, Matthew Davidson, Jim Williamson, Cord Hall, Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy, Nicole Diloia, Mike Saylor, Diane Fenton
- November minutes were approved.
- Tonight is Cord Hall's last meeting with the commission as a town council member, Brad wanted to thank him for everything he has done for the commission and the recreation center.
- Director's report for the month of November our attendance was 8,527. We had our 20 year birthday celebration of the recreation center; we had a great turn out for the event. All the programs that we had planned went very well and were well attended. The only negative thing was that one of the food trucks did not show up but we did have Till and Grill. Everyone on the staff did a great job with this event, Brad was very pleased with it.
- Community Program: Toning and Conditioning had 17 participants, Red Cross Babysitting Course had 15 participants and the free Zumba demo had 17 participants. The Dog Obedience classes have been going well. These classes are being held at the Mayflower Building on Cambria Street.
- Senior Programs: Triad Council did an active shooter training, it was well attend with 38 participants. We are looking into doing some type of active shooter training for recreation department employees after the New Year. Cord Hall asked if we had an emergency plan put in place with Chief Sisson if something was to happen. We do have one that handles a little bit of everything: bomb threats, child missing, and hurricane weather. We have an Emergency Action Plan packet for full time staff that covers what to do in each situation. This plan has been approved and signed off on by Chief Hanks who is the emergency planner for that. The active shooter situation isn't something we have really focused on but something that will be good to prepare for. Cord Hall also asked if we had Emergency Plans in place at Harkrader Sports Complex and other locations. Brad mentions that at our locked facilities we have that Emergency Action Plans but places like Kiwanis we don't necessarily have one. It is more weather related there. The Thanksgiving Luncheon had 65 participants. We had Porter Riner, the mayor and George Evans speak during the luncheon. We will have our Christmas Luncheon coming up December 14. Special Populations started their craft class. It had 16 participants in that class, we partner with IDA for that. Our relationship with them continues to grow. This past weekend we had the Christmas dance that had about 200 participants. We also do bowling with those folks that are a part of IDA.
- Outdoor Facilities: We have been able to get everything winterized before the cold weather came through. Harkrader Sport Complex water system has been blown out and winterized and the pump has been removed. Kiwanis Park has been winterized to help prevent busted water lines. We have started putting plaques up for our Bikeway/Walkway sponsorship items along the trails and at the parks. Depot Park is closed now through March while they are doing the stream restorations. To Brad's knowledge everything is going well and is in the hands of engineering. The fence at Depot Park near the creek area has been removed and it is fairly new. We are going to use the fence at Circle Park which will meet the needs of the Master Plan of Circle Park to have a fence placed along Ellett Drive.
- Youth Athletics: We just finished up volleyball and that has really become popular. Some of the high school volleyball players have come to help with the league and help the players. Youth Pee Wee and Mite League are up and going. Mite League has already started their games and Pee Wee League will start this coming Saturday. The older age groups will start their games after the holidays.
- Adult Athletic: Volleyball is close to completing its season, everything should be completed prior to Christmas break except for the Church League. Church League will go little bit longer and should finish up the middle of January. We are accepting registration for adult league basketball. We are also working on getting the high school basketball league started again.
- They met today about the tournament date for AAU Baseball, this is worked out between Town of Christiansburg, City of Radford, and Pulaski County. The organizations that want to host tournaments in our area send in their field request and dates. This year we have a contract that they sign that the town attorney has reviewed. This is because in other areas organizations have left a field not in use and went to use a field in another area. We don't have anyone that has done that, we just wanted to make sure it doesn't happen. This past week they have met with the organizations and asked for their top five events so we could work those big events into the schedule. We have been awarded a USSSA Baseball World Series this year, we are still clarifying the dates for that but they are thinking it will be the second week of July.
- We have over 70 entries this year for the Christmas parade not including emergency responders. We have 12 staff members from the Parks and Recreation Department and 25 from public works working. This year we put a new guideline on the horses that they have to have a cleanup crew. The fire department is the Grand Marshall this year. We will use East Main Street past the post office for staging, the official end of the parade is College /Radford Street. At the end of every road there will be a heavy truck to block any entrances. The barricades will be from the post office to Burger King. The tree lighting will be at 6:55 p.m. and Ignite will be caroling down the street as well. The Christmas at the Market will open at 4 p.m. Brad mentions that those big trucks are being placed for safety reason and

is now a protocol. In the past we have announced the winner for best in show, best float and best non float, and they would be placed in the paper, website and plaque. This year Charlton went to NRV Engraving and they are making a plaque for each parade entry that wins.

- Brad attended the National Recreational Parks Association conference this past September. Brad sent in a proposal to lead an educational session this year on Jill's Buddy Camp. He has been working with Dr. Barber on it, he is the founder of this camp. They spoke at the VPRS Conference. Charlottesville came on board after hearing this presentation. Brad's goal is to spread what we are doing with Jill's Buddy Camp throughout the country. They will find out March 2018 if they were accepted or not.
- There is a work session scheduled to discuss North Christiansburg Regional Park. The next step is how we are going to phase it. Are we going to continue with the way the plan is and how we are going to fund it. The park itself is not cheap but there are other ways we can find to finance it, but we need a clear direction. The longer it stalls the less likely it is going to happen. Cord Hall asked at the November commission meeting for a meeting that the commission could meet with council and they agreed on December 12 5-6:45 p.m. John Neel and his group will be doing the presentation. This had been delayed because of the election. In the meeting on December 12 we hope to put ourselves on a timeline to figure out what the next step is. There are a number of phases that have been talked about. There is a lot of talk about getting rid of the splash pad, Cord highly disagrees with this. It is a big cost but it is also a draw for families. The other questions is how it is going to be funded. The big phase will be the middle portion with the splash pad and turf fields. Cord thinks we need to look into getting revenue as the phases come up. Cord would like to see council lock in this decision because it is a contract that they made with the residents of Christiansburg. They have invited the new member of council, Merissa Sachs, to be present for this meeting as well so that she can be involved in what is going on. There are still opportunities to get grants but you have to have a path to be able to move forward with this. There has been discussion of changing the 5 acres of the outer parcel and cutting that parcel in half and putting the revenue back into the park. There is still a strong commitment of council that wants to do that. There has been a budget amendment to put 1 million into the park. In Cord Hall's last meeting with council and part of the commission and he wants the firm commitment of yes on the Christiansburg North Regional Park. We haven't come this far to stop now. We do not want this 30 acres going to someone else.
- Many of you may have received phone calls about a part of the Huckleberry Trail being closed for about three months now. There was an issue with compaction that was done by the contractor. At that point the engineering department was involved, it has now become a legal matter. The next step now is digging up the area that was not compacted and we can at least put stone there so we can get it back open. It will not be paved because the pavement plants are closed due to the cold weather, but at least it will be back open. We want to make it right and have the trail back open to community. Jim Williamson asked where exactly the problems are. There are few different areas where the trail connects at Forelmont to Food Lion some sink holes have formed and there are some areas near Food Lion that have the same issue. This is the newest part of the Huckleberry Trail. The next stretch of trail will hopefully be out for bid by the spring time and that will come down by the high school practice football field and come up by the soccer practice field/ band field then will cross over the road area then go along North Franklin and we will have rails along the side of this. The trail will go through there and come around where Independence is and it will go down in front of the school area then go down near Oak Tree. They are working on getting funding right now for this section and there is also funding that has been approved for Depot Park back to the Aquatic Center, they will have a bridge there. During the work on the stream restoration there will be a roadway from the Skateboard Park to Depot Park. It will be an access point that people can use that will go from the Aquatic Center to Depot Park plus a trail to Kroger. Then we will go down Water Street right off of Depot Park with a trail then connect to Franklin that will get you downtown.
- Student Report: The Art Department just finished painting two plows that will be in the Christmas parade Friday. One of the plows has a different snowman for each school. They are still looking for a lacrosse coach. Brad asked Matthew if there was anything that they could do by putting fliers out here at the recreation center for advertising a coach.
- We will not have a January meeting, next week's meeting will take the place of January's meeting. The next Recreation Commission meeting will be in February. Cord Hall mentions that there is a new position that will be advertised to plan all downtown special events and that will help out the recreation center. Cord also asked if the student representatives could work into the announcements the high school basketball league to get it going again.
- Next meeting will be February 5, 2018.