

Meeting Minutes for March 5, 2018

- Diane Fenton called the recreation commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- In Attendance: Tonia Winn, Richard Polikoff, John Neel, Jim Williamson, Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy, Nicole Diloia, Harry Collins, Diane Fenton
- Minutes from February were approved.
- Directors Report: Active membership at the recreation center was 6,191, attendance this past month was 10,367.
- Youth Community: Ballet has eight participants. Adult Community Programs: Cardio Weight Training has 20 participants, Zumba has 22 participants, and Beginning Yoga has 21 participants. Our Lunchtime Yoga has really grown and we have 16 participants in that, Toning and Conditioning has 18 participants, and Zumba Toning has 18 participants. Community Special Interest: All of our Dog Obedience Classes are full, we have two Novice Classes which have 12 dogs/owners in them, and Intermediate and Puppy Obedience have 13 dogs/owners. We had the Radford University Health Fair here at the recreation center with the RU Nursing Students. This a free event for the community and offers close to 50 different vendors for participants to visit. We had over 100 participants attend the fair.
- Senior Programs: Senior Aerobics has 20 participants and Senior Motions has 28 participants. These are both ongoing programs. We held a Lifeline Screening that had 55 participants. Special Populations: Our Sweetheart Dance had 159 participants attend. We also worked with IDA (Intellectual Disabilities Agency) to offer a basketball and walking club and we had good attendance for both of these clubs. We have partnered with the Special Olympics and they have qualified to go to the USA games in Seattle to compete in the National Event. They usually practice on Tuesdays at Harkrader Sports Complex.
- Youth Athletics: Basketball games will finish up tomorrow. This year we are offering a Spring Youth Volleyball league for ages 9-12. We are currently taking registration for volleyball as well as baseball/softball. A few years ago, we had a deal where the kids that played travel ball would play in the recreation league as well, but most of them have aged out. Many of the groups now are not playing both. The deal was that if they played recreation league, helped with our World Series Event or Nation's Events by volunteering we worked with them on field times for practicing. However, if they do not play in the recreation league or volunteer to help we would charge them like anyone else. For the first time ever, we are going to do have an Opening Day for our youth baseball/softball teams. During the morning we will introduce all of the teams. We will have inflatables, vendors and games for the players. We have all of our baseball/softball placement practice dates set. Our 9-12-year-old age group is still participating in Dixie Baseball, but our girl's division 9-18 will be participating in the Babe Ruth league. Our older age baseball players will be in the Cal Ripken league. Chuck Muncy attended the state meeting for Babe Ruth and was very impressed. They also had a meeting with the Cal Ripken organization and they may end up switching from Dixie to Cal Ripken in the future in the younger baseball divisions.
- Special Events: We will have Jill's Buddy Camp again this year. Nick has been working hard on getting field trips lined up for the week of the camp. This year we will be going to the Blacksburg Museum, as well as places we have gone in the past- Christiansburg Fire Department, Cox's Putt Putt, and swimming. The Radford University Softball Clinic had close to 50 girls participate.
- Outdoor Facilities: The middle school baseball and softball team as well as the high school softball team are currently using Kiwanis Park and Harkrader Sports Complex. We have had some travel teams request those field and we have tried to work with them when we can. When the Storm Restoration started at Depot Park we removed the fencing there and saved it to replace the fence at Circle Park. Our field maintenance guys are building horse shoe pits at Kiwanis Park to be used for the Senior Olympics. We are the host this year for the Senior Olympics, Blacksburg backed out. This event will include participants from Christiansburg, Montgomery County,

Radford, Pulaski, Wytheville, and Floyd. This is a regional event and the directors felt that it should be consistent with all of the departments.

- **Bike Share Program:** Brad was nominated to be chairperson of the Bike Share Committee. They have made some great strides and Gotcha is the company that we will go with for the bikes. They decided on orange bikes, so they are visible. The Montgomery County Tourism logo has orange in it and it has both towns involved and Virginia Tech has orange in its logo as well. We will have 75 7-speed bikes and 13- electrical assisted bikes. To begin with there will be two stations in Christiansburg, two stations in Blacksburg, and eight stations at Virginia Tech. We pay a percentage of the stations, Virginia Tech 66%, Blacksburg 16%, and Christiansburg 16%. The next step is working on a slogan that will incorporate the New River Valley. A part of the RFP is for Gotcha to form slogans. The committee sent ideas of things that are important to the community. Another part of the RFP is for the company to maintain the bikes 24/7 as well as balancing the bikes between the stations. Our two locations for the bikes will be here the recreation center and at the New River Valley Mall. There will be a future station located in Oak Tree. We are hoping to expand the program. Brad has placed \$30,000.00 in the budget for next year for the Bike Share Program.

This year was a great year, they worked together and applied for a grant. The initial cost of the Bike Share Program was 250 thousand dollars. We got a grant for 200 thousand dollars. This year's cost for us was \$7,000.00. The committee is going to go over prices for the bikes. The hopes are to unveil it sometime in April or the beginning of May. Brad is not sure if they will unveil all of the bikes or just some of them. One of the things Brad suggested was that through Memorial Day weekend either have it as free weekend or a reduced rate to get the community involved. There will be an app that will allow people to pay if they don't have a credit card. The E-Assist Bikes are going to go through a company named Jump. We have gone back and forth with them about those bikes because they said the only color they could do is red. It was in the RFP that the committee would be able to choose the color, therefore they are going back to paint the bikes orange. It may be a little bit longer on the E-Assist Bikes since they have to go back and fix the paint color. Brad and the committee's feelings were that if it takes a little bit longer to get them right then that's what needs to be done. These bikes will have gps on them to track miles and trips. There will be opportunities to obtain sponsorships for this, and if we are able to get sponsors, then it will drive the cost down.

- **Jill's Buddy Camp:** Brad will be going to the school board meeting to present on Jill's Buddy Camp and to present the Special Education Department with a plaque for all of their hard work. Brad will leave Wednesday evening to go to the State Special Education Advisory Council and will present on Jill's Buddy Camp to explain what it is and how the educational systems can work with recreational systems to make things work. Dr. Barber, Brad will also speak at the National Recreation Parks Association which is in Indianapolis. This will be in September and will include all recreational professionals.
- **Recreation Commission member Doris Oliver is resigning as member of the commission.** She has some health issues going on. She has been a part of the commission for over 20 years. We will post this position like we have in the past.
- **Budget:** Brad has sent in his budget and had his presentation with Randy Wingfield and Val Tweedie. The budget Brad proposed was for 2.6 million dollars, it was only about a 2% increase from last year, the majority of that was capital items. The capital items that were put in the budget for this were a mobile stage unit. Our current stage is old and provides a safety issue. It will be beneficial to get a new mobile stage if we are going to host more special events in the town. The new stage would be the same size or a little bigger than our stage now. Our sound company Midway Production is now a representative of Stage Line, so we would have someone close to us to work on the stage if needed. Equipment wise, it was put in to replace a rotary mower. A yearly item that is put into the budget is to

replace fitness equipment in the recreation center since it's used so frequently. Items we cut out were the conceptual layout at Kiwanis Park and scoreboards there as well. We have talked about getting sponsorships for the scoreboards at Kiwanis. Another piece of equipment that was placed in the budget was a scrubber for the recreation center. We did cut a low boy trailer to haul equipment with. CIP Project: Park improvements, this will cover landscaping at the parks. Harry Collins asked about signs for the park, the signs will fall under the Way Finding Signage through Public Relations. We also are cutting the heating and air in the indoor batting cages. Athletic Improvements: Includes-safety, fencing, backstops, bases, etc. That is normally a yearly item. Picnic Shelters were dropped to \$15,000.00. Another big item was to renovate the hallway and courtside restrooms. They are 20 years old and outdated. With the renovations we talked about getting the lockers with a key that you use for the day instead of having patrons rent them by the month. We also had a paved looped trail at Kiwanis Park, but that was also cut. The thought was, if we wait to get the drawing for the new section we could wait until the next year and tie it all together.

- Depot Park is back open from the stream restoration. There will be a few closures that take place since the paving companies aren't open right now. Once they are open they will pave the trail there. There will be two trails, the first one will be temporary where they are driving with trucks for the project and that trail will go to the skate park. The permanent trail will be placed at a later as they have money approved and budgeted for design of the trail that will go to the Aquatic Center.
- The Home Show is this weekend, we will be shutting down the facility at 2 p.m. on Friday. This is a big event for Christiansburg.
- Brad received an email from a council member in regards to our brochure, they were requesting that we look into going from a paper copy to an electronic one. Brad told the council member he would bring it up to the commission. When Brad first got here the recreation center was purchasing 7000 brochures and it has now been dropped to 3000 and is put online. He thinks it is important that we are still getting the hard copy out to people as well as having it online. A lot of the programs we offer are for seniors who don't have the internet. The hard copies of the brochure goes out to the schools, are available at the recreation center, and are used to hand out at special events. The recreation commission unanimously decided it wants to keep getting 3000 hard copies of the brochure. On the back of this brochure we are going to have a Farmer's Market flyer and honor Bill Aldridge. We are also going to recognize the wrestling team on the index. Harry Collins asked about getting a sign for recognizing champions. Brad mentioned that we would need to make sure it wasn't just for sports but academics and band as well. Commission thinks it would be a great idea to do something like that.
- The new Event Coordinator will start March 26. Charlton will be working closely with him for the first year. After that, all the special events will go through the Event Coordinator. This person will also be the Farmer's Market Manager.
- Student Report: Nicole Diloia mentioned she thought the Bike Share would be beneficial to the high school. She also thought it would be a good idea to get students to volunteer for landscaping and to use their wood shop to build items. Brad mentions that we have an Eagle Scout that is building a picnic shelter at Downtown Park. The Wrestling team won the 3A Wrestling State Championship for the 17th consecutive year. Brad asked if people have been talking about the school improvements. Nicole says the grades below her are excited about the improvements.
- We will have to move the fireworks for 4th of July to the former Truman Wilson Property due to the improvements of artificial turf to the CHS football field. Effort Day is another event that will be effected by the field improvements. It will be held at the recreation center this year on July 14.
- Meeting adjourned, next meeting will be held Monday, April 2.