

Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2018

- Diane Fenton called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- In Attendance: Tonia Winn, Matthew Davidson, Robin Boyd, Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy, John Neel, Richard Polikoff, Diane Fenton
- Minutes from March were approved.
- Directors Report: This month we are up to 6,246 total active memberships. The attendance for this past March was 9,625. The Home Expo turned out very well, there were a lot of vendors this year.
- Community Program: We are looking for a new Ballet Instructor due to ours passing away. Zumba had 20 participants, Beginning Evening Yoga had 27 participants and Evening Tabata had 18 participants. We had our 2nd Annual Elementary School Field Trip on March 28 and 29. This trip is designed to introduce the children to the recreation center and encourage them to be more active. Each court is broken up into different activities: basketball, volleyball, an obstacle course and workout classes that we offer.
- Senior Programs: We work with Virginia Tech on the Lifelong Learning Institute programs and one of the classes we held here at the recreation center was Ukulele: The Happiest Instrument. This class had 15 participants. We also had St. Patrick's Day Bingo that had 18 participants. We also co-sponsored a St. Patrick's Day Celebration at Meadowbrook that had 35 participants attend. Special Populations: We work with IDA (Intellectual Disabilities Agency) on events. They generally have 200 participants for the bowling program each night, we also help with the walking club as well as the basketball program. The TRIAD Salt meeting was held at English Meadows this month. Decorations were made for each resident's door with the help of the residents. It was a very interactive program that had 71 participants.
- Youth Sports: Spring Volleyball, had 48 participants to make six teams. Most of the girls playing volleyball are playing softball as well, these two sports are scheduled on different days to allow the girls to play both sports if they would like to. Richard Polikoff asked why our program cancellations were decided by school cancellations when it comes to inclement weather. Brad said that it is our policy because if it is too dangerous for people to be driving during school then it's too dangerous for them to be driving to our programs. Another question was what time the recreation center opens when schools are closed due to weather. Our policy says we will open at 8 a.m. but it depends on who's working and who can get here safely. We will open earlier if we can. We have over 240 participants and 19 teams for baseball and softball this year. We have changed organizations in softball from Dixie to the Babe Ruth Softball League. We may consider changing to the Babe Ruth League in baseball down the road. This year we are doing an Opening Day event to kick off the baseball/softball season.
- Adult Athletics: We are finishing up the Slowbreak and Fastbreak Basketball season. Church and Open League Volleyball will start soon, there are 21 teams. We also have a Women's League this year with seven teams. We are currently accepting registration for the Church and Open Softball League.
- Athletic Special Events: We teamed up with Dick's Sporting Goods again on March 16-18. We had 420 people that took advantage of the 20% coupon.
- Outdoor Facilities: Baseball/Softball has started, but the weather has been a problem. The batting cages at Harkrader Sport Complex took a hit with the snow storm. The weight of the snow collapsed the poles of the batting cage, if they cannot get them back up they will have to bust the concrete up. It has been turned in on insurance and we are waiting to hear back. The Christiansburg High School Baseball team lost their batting cages as well due to the snow. The snow storm also postponed an AAU Basketball Tournament that was going to be held that weekend that had 84 teams, we will make that tournament up this weekend. They have over 60 teams that have signed up for this makeup tournament. We already had the Men's Radford University Basketball Clinic scheduled for that weekend as well. We are going to shut down all the courts during the tournament from 1-4 p.m. Any of the kids that are playing in the tournament can register for the clinic. The Opening Day for Baseball/Softball will be Saturday, April 21 at Harkrader Sports Complex.
- Bike Share Program: This program is going very well. The decision was to have orange bikes for the program. They came up with the joint name, Roam NRV, it will be the main bike share name. The goal is to reveal the program sometime in May. The price for memberships and daily fees has

been decided. An annual pass (12 months) \$60, with a 120 minute ride time per day. If you go over the 120 minutes it would be \$4 extra an hour. A 1 month package would be \$20 with a 90 minute ride time per day. A day pass which is 24- hour unlimited access, is \$10, and single ride would be charged by 15 minute increments (\$1 per 15 minutes) or \$4 for an hour. The age limit for the bikes will be around 11-12 years old.

- There will be 13 E- Assist Bikes and 75 of the other bikes. There will be two locations in Christiansburg, here at the recreation center and the New River Valley Mall. The location at the mall is still being talked about. It will be at the trail entrance, near NRCC or near the movie theater. The locations where you can buy passes are the recreation center, aquatic center and town hall. People can buy passes with their credit/debit card with a scan type of thing at the bike racks that will unlock and lock the bike back up. There are different things that can be done from an incentive stand point to balance the bikes and to keep them within our region. The E-Assist bike, if it goes outside the geo-fencing the electrical part of the bike will shut down. The normal bikes don't have anything like that on them but they do have GPS, if they go outside of the region the person will get an alert and be held liable if they don't return the bike. There are also incentives to make sure the bikes go back to the bike locations, for example if they don't put it back on the rack they could be charged \$10. They do have a part-time job posted for the General Manager and Gotcha will be paying them. Virginia Tech will have 67 % of the stations located there. They can use those bikes to ride over to our area as well.
- Special Events: The Easter Egg Hunt had a huge crowd, and it was a great event. Brad is glad that we moved it to Kiwanis Park; he said it was much safer for the kids. Kiwanis Club provided bikes for each age group and Walmart donated prizes to raffle off for the children. It was such a successful event. We also did wristband this year for the age groups to make sure the children were in the right hunt area. John Neel mentions that he thought the event was great.
- Brad has applied for a grant that will provide sunscreen dispensers at the ballfields, trails, and parks. The grant will provide sunscreen the first time. He has also talked to Chad Johnson, a local dermatology that will supply the sunscreen once it runs out. In turn, we would allow him to put his name on the dispensers for advertisement.
- Diane Fenton asked Brad how his presentations went with Jill's Buddy Camp. He said it went great and that everyone was impress with the program. The next presentation he will give on this topic will be at the NRPA Conference in Indianapolis. Brad and Dr. Tommy Barber will speak at that one along with a representative from Charlottesville Recreation Department. When they spoke about the program at the VRPS conference that's when Charlottesville came on board.
- Student Report: Lacrosse had good first win for the boy's team. Band and Chorus finished up with their concert/end of year event. Construction has begun on the field and track at the high school.
- Robin Boyd asked if the department had thought about putting security cameras up at fields. Brad said they have talked about it but don't have the infrastructure in place to get there. With that we wouldn't be able to get it back to our system without it costing a lot money. We have mentioned doing a trail camera, but in season we would have to check it regularly and there will be a lot of traffic. There is a company that is going to place fiber going down 460 which we could benefit from by having a connection points. They withdrew the Blue Light Towers from the budget this year and put an RFP in to do an investigation into hot spots on the trail. This would give them a good idea where to place the towers.
- Meeting adjourned, next meeting Monday, May 7, 2018.