

Meeting Minutes for May 7, 2018

- Diane Fenton called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- In Attendance: Mike Saylor, Richard Polikoff, Jim Williamson, Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy, Nicole Dilola, Henry Collins, Diane Fenton
- Minutes from April were approved.
- No Citizen Comments
- Mike Saylor had someone inquire about the Truman Wilson Park, he mentions that if we progress with a certain area of the park we need to get that information out to the public. The next step would be to do an RFP for the design of the actual park and then it would go back to council for approval. Nicole asked if the park would connect to the Huckleberry Trail and it will be connected in two areas. Henry Collins mentions that the town is looking for a special name for the road. Brad met with a playground group for the inclusive playground along with a fitness component not too long ago. If we went down this path we would look at not having a splash pad, it would be the inclusive playground and fitness equipment which is a little bit cheaper. There is a grant possible for this but there is a time limit with that grant.
- Director's Report: Brad found out today that we got awarded for the Sunscreen Grant, which comes with 20 sunscreen dispensers. If everything goes as planned, River Ridge Dermatology would supply the sunscreen and put their name on the dispensers. The goal is to have them at the parks and along the trail. Dr. Johnston, the dermatologist from River Ridge Dermatology, is actually doing a free skin cancer screening on Friday here at the recreation center, this will be the third year in a row that he has done it. We average 80-100 participants for this screening.
- Total active members for April was 6,289 and attendance was 9,581. The Easter Egg Hunt took place at Kiwanis Park, we had approximately 600 participants and 1200 guest. This was a great event, we gave away six bikes and other donations from Walmart. The 4th of July fireworks will be held at the Truman Wilson Property this year. People will be able to park at the mall as well as Walmart to watch the fireworks. We are still planning on having the event downtown from 10-4 p.m. with vendors and different bands throughout the day.
- Community Programs: A couple that stand out are Beginning Yoga, we had 27 participants. Evening Tabata has been very popular, it had 18 participants. Virginia Firearm Safety (Conceal and Carry Class) was held on April 8, it had 40 participants. We also had a Shred-a-thon that was sponsored by the Triad Group, we had 369 participants for drop off items for this. You may have heard a little bit of negativity about this event from small businesses. We have it closed to businesses for the simple fact that we fill up the trucks with material from residents. If we had businesses involved, that would turn many residents away. We are looking for a simple solution for this. When the Shred-a-thon first started it was strictly for senior citizens and we have now opened it up to all residents in the community. Brad recommended that there could be a business only Shred-a-Thon but we would have to find funding but we are open to the idea. Mr. Saylor said businesses should be willing to purchase their own shredding trucks. The overall direction of the commission was to make sure that the citizens were taken care of with the Shred-a-Thon. Business should be separate.
- Senior Programs: We co-sponsored the Annual Spring Dance with IDA (Intellectual Disabilities Agency). We had 218 participants for the dance. We just finished up the NRV Senior Games, we hosted the event this year. This is the first year we have held the event without Blacksburg, therefore we held more of the activities in Christiansburg. We had Basketball, 3 on 3, Riflery, Frisbee throw, Discus, Softball Throw, and Softball Hit. On one of the days we held events at Kiwanis Park. We had Horseshoes, Bocce Ball, Croquet and Corn Hole that day. Our staff installed the horseshoe pits at Kiwanis Park for this event. The Senior Games is a great partnership with many different groups. We had members of the Christiansburg Police Department, our recreation staff, Montgomery County Parks & Recreation staff as well as Radford and Wytheville all help with this event.
- The Radford University Men's Basketball Clinic was held in conjunction with an AAU Tournament, we had 80 participants. We held our First Annual Opening Day for Baseball/Softball. We had a little bit of everything for this day, Nick Yopp did a great job with this. Joe Raccuia, baseball coach for Radford University, was the guest speaker.
- Outdoor Facilities: We planted two new trees on the Huckleberry Trail behind Corning. We have worked with Ms. Beeler on this project for about five years. We have probably planted close to 20 trees with this project. Corning digs the holes and we plant and mulch the trees and then Ms.

Beeler takes care of the maintenance aspect of it. One thing Brad wants to do with this area is make it educational for the public by labeling the trees by name. Marty Gordon has approached Brad about planting some Huckleberry bushes along the Huckleberry Trail. Mrs. Bowers from the middle school contacted Brad about her Girl Scouts doing a service project. The Girl Scouts held a car wash fundraiser and were able to raise \$200 to purchase Huckleberry bushes. Marty was able to get in touch with the Extension Agent from the 4H Club at Virginia Tech and they were interested in being a part of project along with Brian Tickle from Walmart. Walmart wants to donate the soil, fertilizer, and a wagon for water. The company does not want to plant the bushes until fall because they feel the success rate would be less than half if they did it earlier.

- Youth Athletics: Everything is going well but the weather hasn't been kind this year. We are doing our best to get games in with all of the rain.
- Adult Sports: Church Volleyball has 21 teams in the league. Open League Volleyball has nine teams, and in Women's League has seven teams.
- The Bike Share will most likely be revealed in the middle of June. Harry Collins asked how much the bikes weigh, they are about 40 pounds. The nice thing about the bikes is they have GPS on them, if they go out of the coverage area we will know. The coverage area is the Town of Christiansburg and Blacksburg limits and a little section on the Huckleberry Trail that is in the county. The GPS will help us keep people from riding the bikes outside the limits. For example if they park their bike at Pandapas Pond they're going to get charged \$50 for parking that bike outside the limits. If they are in the coverage area and they don't lock the bike up on the bike rack that is provided through the bike share they can be charged \$10. The goal is for this to be economically suitable for the citizens. 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 one 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. We will have 75 bikes and 13 E-Assist Bikes. The Bike Barn will do the maintenance for the bikes. They are in the process of hiring a General Manager that will oversee this in our area, right now it is a part time job.

- We had an Emergency Preparedness training this past weekend that included our recreation staff, police department, fire department and rescue squad. It was a beneficial training for our staff and opened our eyes about a number of different things. One of the things we learned from this training is for communication purposes it would be a good idea to have each of the doors in the recreation center numbered. Charlton and Brad have talked about this and agree that all of the exterior doors need to be numbered. Another issue we discovered was the lack of safety in the administrative hallway. We are going to look at alternatives to help make this area safer. One of things we looked at was redesigning the office in the administrative area and using the window that is currently in the office to interact with the customers and the doors at both ends of the hallway would be locked. A person would have to scan in to be able to enter the hallway. One of the things the police department is able to do now is put our blueprints on their phones as well as have access to our cameras. We have updated our Emergency Action Plan in our department and it has been approved. All of the full time staff have a copy of the plan and they are also at all of our facilities.
- Wednesday, May 9 we are dedicating Downtown Park to our Fallen Officers at 10 a.m. Larry Nunley, one of our part time employees, built the sign for the park and Public Works has done all of the landscaping for the project.
- Student Report: School is almost over. Nicole plans to continue being the student representative through August.
- Meeting adjourned, next meeting is Monday, June 4.