

## Meeting Minutes for June 4, 2018

- Diane Fenton called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- In Attendance: Tonia Winn, Matthew Davidson, Robin Boyd, Jim Williamson, Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy, John Neel, Nicole Dilola, Henry Collins, Diane Fenton
- Minutes from May were approved.
- No Citizen Comments
- Directors Report: Total active membership for May was 6,228 and attendance was 9,293. We have over 1,000 more in attendance for May than we did a few years ago.
- Senior & Special Population Programs: Senior Motions has 26 participants and Zumba Gold has 20 participants. Special Populations Craft Class had 10 individuals. Our Triad Senior Care Fair had 154 participants, we had a good number of vendors as well. This past Friday we held the Mothers/Father's Day Luncheon that had 45 participants. The AARP Tax Aide saw 1,300 clients, they provided 268 questions and answers, the youngest client was 16, and oldest client was 97.
- Community Programs: The Red Cross Babysitting Class had 15 participants. Zumba had 19 participants and Toning and Condition had 18 participants. One of the bigger events we had for May was our Skin Cancer Screening, we worked with Dr. Chad Johnston on this and had 79 participants.
- Outdoor Facilities: We have been battling the weather on tournaments. We did lose two tournaments due to the weather but were able to get in the Memorial Day weekend that had 50 teams. We also played the Feeding America Tournament this past weekend and had over 50 teams. We always work with the Thunder organization on the Feeding America Tournament. We have another state tournament this weekend that has 60-70 teams participating. We have started working on the Tony L. Huddleston Trout Rodeo, we already have sponsors for this event. Atmos will be handling the cooking again this year. Jill's Buddy Camp will begin June 18 and last for two weeks, we have all the field trips locked in. We are planning to have a picnic with the buddies on June 11 here at the Recreation Center. Brad had mention at the meeting before about the Huckleberry project with the huckleberry bushes, the company wants us to hold off on planting them until fall because the success rate will be higher then. We did some research and reached out to extension agents in our area. They said that we would still be able to plant them so we went ahead and ordered them from another company. The girl scouts are going to plant them at the trail head outside of the recreation center, a little grassy area at the bridge, down from Kohl's at the Y in the trail, and then over the railroad tracks near Corning. The girl scouts raised \$200 to purchase the bushes and we purchased some as well. We will plant 33 Huckleberry Bushes this coming Saturday at 9 a.m. This will be an ongoing project for the girl scouts and they will water them. Walmart is going to donate a little wagon for them to be able to take the water down to them and possibly some potting soil.
- Adult Athletics: We are pretty busy right now. We have two Church Leagues, an Open League, and a Women's League Volleyball. We also have an Open Softball League that is starting next week. We also have a Summer Basketball League going on and a Church Softball League will be starting a little later as well. Right now we have over 50 Adult Teams participating.
- Youth Athletics: We have been battling the weather. We got lucky last week and got in the majority of our games. It looks as if we will probably have two all-stars teams, it will be Girls Angels (9-10) and Boys AAA (9-10). One thing Brad wanted to mention is that we have struggled in the past years to get all-star teams, we have a pretty strict all-star policy. When we did it we had participants that were very involved and it was competitive. One thing that we should look at and re-visit is the participation requirement because some of the problem we are getting into is participants not wanting to commit to multiple weeks in their summer to be there for practices. This could be something we need to look at from a practice stand point. Robin Boyd mentions that once we offered volleyball this spring that some parents choose for their children to play volleyball since they have played that sport before. We did try to schedule volleyball and softball on different days so they did not conflict. John Neel suggested instead of doing an indoor Spring Volleyball League, do an outdoor Summer Volleyball League. Then it would not be competing with other sports in that season. Tonia Winn mentions that before canceling any of the Volleyball Leagues, to do a survey about it, when it is, and if it conflicts with any other sports. Brad mentions that he thinks that Chuck already did that, but it is something we can look into. Brad has brought it up before the issue with

we ran into with Dixie Softball. We had an interesting exchange with the President of Dixie League. He sent a letter wondering why we weren't participating in Dixie League this year. Chuck replied explaining that we tried to talk with them and send emails about a situation that happened at one of the tournaments but got no response back. The president sent a rude response back and tried to tell us that we were wrong. Brad then emailed him back going into more detail about what happened and forwarded the original emails and videos. Brad copied all of the district people as well as directors on the emails so they were aware of what was going. This made Brad realize that we did not need to be a part of the Dixie Softball Program. The Babe Ruth League has been going very well, Marty Gordon is the commissioner of our area.

- Bikeshare Program: There will be a website for the Bikeshare Program but it has not gone live yet. They are still making some changes to it. There will be a soft launch hopefully June 23, so all the racks and bikes will be in place. Participants will be able to use them, the actual unrevealing will possibly be the morning of Monday, July 2. All the public relation departments are working together on this. We are starting at the NRV Mall with the ribbon cutting we will then ride to Blacksburg and do a ribbon cutting. We will have stations throughout for people that don't want to ride the whole thing. We will be excited to get this going. We are hoping to get more sponsorship to be able to get more bike racks throughout the area. They are currently looking for a general manager for this program.
- Brad Epperley applied for a playground grant and was awarded the grant. It was in partnership with VRPS, Game Time, and Cunningham Recreation Sports. It was a \$226,000 grant, it would pay for half of the materials for the playgrounds at the future Regional Park. It is an inclusive playground, it also has the aspect of adult fitness with fitness machines. It also has challenge course with it, like the ninja warrior. This would be considered a National Demonstration site. When we did our 2022 visions the top items from town council and staff was we wanted to be a National Destination. To be a National Demonstration Site, that verifies that we are a recreational destination. Town Council has seen that we have gotten the grant and we are working with some things through our staff. This playground is large, and would probably take away from the splash pad. There are pluses and negatives, the one plus of it is from an operational stand point it would be much cheaper, because we wouldn't have to be keeping up with filters and other items. The playground would be used all year round, it is all rubberized surface and no mulch.
- We generally do not have a recreation commission meeting in July. Everyone agreed the next meeting will be Monday, August 2. Just a reminder that will be hosting our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival downtown on Main Street 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Our fireworks will be moved to the Truman Wilson Property, due to the construction at the high school football field we will not be able to have them there again. Fireworks can be viewed from the NRV Mall and Walmart parking lots.
- Student Representatives: School it out for summer. They had their State Track Meet and had some participants become State Champions.
- Meeting Adjourned, next meeting August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.