

Meeting Minutes for October 1, 2018

- Diane Fenton called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- In Attendance: Richard Polikoff, Matthew Davidson, Robin Boyd, Jim Williamson, Brad Epperley, Harry Collins, Kendall Lewis, Diane Fenton, Mike Saylor, John Neel
- Minutes from August were approved.
- No Citizen Comments
- Director Reports: We want to welcome Kendall Lewis, she is a junior at Christiansburg High School and will be serving as our student representative. Total active membership for this past month was 5,999, and attendance was 6,246. We helped set up the stage and tent for Wilderness Day Festival, this event is not run through our department but we always provided assistance with set up. Casey Jenkins the Event Coordinator and Farmers' Market Manager has moved into our department. The Eight-Mile Bridge Challenge Walk had 60 participants walking, we had 80 that pre-registered for the walk. Everything turned out well for this event, we partnered with Blacksburg Transit and they took us over to the Blacksburg Library. Gay & Neel provided shirts for the participants at no charge.
- Community Programs: Toning and Conditioning and Zumba Toning were two popular classes this month. Puppy Obedience had 12 puppies and owners, and we offered a Conformation Class that had 10 participants. That class is for owners that have dogs that want to be trained to go to dog shows.
- One of the bigger events we had this month was the AARP Health & Wellness Fair, there was well over 100 vendors. The event was held from noon-4 p.m. and it had great numbers. We had such a huge turn out that people had to park at Food Lion as well as the back lot and the grass lot. We ran shuttles for people who needed one. Mike Saylor suggest spacing the time out between the bigger events, Brad said that is something we could look at and talk to the other groups. Zumba Gold is a popular class for the seniors. We did a Patriots Day in conjunction with Montgomery County Parks & Recreation, there were 58 participants.
- Outdoor Facilities and Athletic Special Events: October 13 will be our annual Tony L Huddleston Fishing Rodeo; Nick has worked extremely hard on this event. Atmos will be cooking hotdogs again, and we will have lots of prizes. We will be offering a few free clinics this fall RU Women's Volleyball and RU Women's Basketball. Ty Kwak has been working on his Eagle Scout project with us. He has been building a picnic shelter at Downtown Park. The picnic shelter is now built and we will have a company come in and break up the concrete underneath it and pour a new slab. We purchased enough materials to do another shelter, hopefully in the winter months our guys can build another one that we will plan to put at Depot Park. Hurricane Florence did not hit us as bad as we expected in this area. We thought it might be possible the recreation center would have to open up an emergency shelter, our staff would be called in to help manage the shelter.
- Youth Sports: Youth Football has not gone as planned this year because of the new high school football field and track being poured and also the weather. It is going to take close to a month for the track to be put down and because of this Chuck has gone through and rescheduled a lot of the games. This was something that was out of our control and Chuck is doing the best that he can to rearrange all the leagues schedules. Flag Football is going well. Fall Baseball and Softball have started their games. Fall Volleyball had their first practice yesterday. There are eight teams in volleyball this fall.
- Adult Athletics: Fall League teams we have 12 Church "A" Volleyball teams, seven Church "B" Volleyball teams, 10 Open Volleyball teams and five Women's teams. We have five Men's Open Softball League, everything this fall has increased for each league compared to last year.
- The town has received a Public Private Education Act, a company has come forward and provided a cost of what they will charge for the first phase of the park. Once this is accepted by Town Council it does not obligate the town to anything but the town has 10 days to put it out for competitive submissions. The idea is to put it out and see if they get any other offers. Companies have 60 days to turn in their submissions, at that point the town will get together and look over them. The important things to look for with the park is to have recreational amenities for our residents of all

ages, and the economic impact it will bring to the area with having more people coming in from out of town. Brad is meeting with the tourism director for the county to look into starting a sports group in our area.

- Brad returned back from the NRPA Conference in Indianapolis, he spoke on behalf of Jill's Buddy Camp. He had about 60-70 people in the venue where he spoke, and he believes there will be some growth with the camp. Las Vegas is planning to start a Buddy Camp, as well as Arizona. He has received emails from a recreation department in Georgia, and Clemson. Clemson has asked Brad to come down and speak to their recreation students in more detail about the camp and then go down to Georgia to speak to them about it. Another benefit of the conference was the grant trainings, how to successfully look for them and different websites to visit with multiples suggestions on ways to do things. Another training that was interesting that relates to us is the opioid epidemic and how recreation centers can be vigilant to that epidemic and what to look for. Overall, this conference was very good and Brad came back with lots of recreational information for everyone.
- Old Business: Youth Scholarship Policy, Brad has spoken with the attorney about the policy. She suggested that we have a policy on how the money is distributed if the applications exceed the money that is available. Recreation Commission has discussed the policy and has decided to go with the lottery option. Once the updates are made to the policy Commission will receive it and look over it for formal approval. If approved, we can let people fill out the application and hold it until after the formal approval November 5th.
- We will be hosting the Truck or Treat and Getting Scary on the Huckleberry 5k race on Saturday Oct. 27.
- Student Report: They are laying the high school track and have started working on the softball field.
- The town hired an Event Coordinator 6 months ago, he had been working with the Public Relations Department. He has now moved to the recreation department, his name is Casey Jenkins. He is also the manager of the Farmers' Market.
- Meeting adjourned, next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 5.