

Meeting Minutes for August 6, 2018

- Diane Fenton called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- In Attendance: Chuck Muncy, John Neel, Richard Polikoff, Robin Boyd, Matthew Davidson, Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy, Nicole Dilola, Mike Saylor, Diane Fenton, Tonia Winn
- Minutes from June were approved.
- No Citizen Comments
- Directors Report: Total active memberships in July was 6,176 and total attendance was 8,374. We held one of our bigger events, our downtown 4th of July festival and fireworks. We have received numerous compliments about the new location. Charlton McCoy did an awesome job as well as our staff members. It is a very long day for them and we try to split them up during the day time and then some come back at night. Everything went well with the Farmer's Market and kids' area as well. One of the things we are looking at for next year is a mobile stage. This is something that was approved in the budget for this year. The goal is to continue to have music downtown during the day and at 4 p.m. move the stage to the NRV Mall and have a band play there. This would allow us to play the National Anthem before the fireworks are shot off. The manager of the mall is excited about having the fireworks shot off there and wants to get involved more in the event. The great part about this location is people could also view the fireworks from Home Depot and Market Place Area. The other great thing about the mall location is there are multiple traffic exits and people were able to get out of the parking lot faster. Robin Boyd asked if it will remain at this location or if it will move to the new park. Brad said it just depends, we would like to have it at the new park so we could have bigger fireworks. With the location being private property, having the fireworks there next year will be based on whether they develop the land or decide to sell it. The reason they were not held at the new park this year was because a cattle owner did not want to move his cattle and there is nothing in the contract to make him do that. We have to give him a three month notice, moving forward we will reach out to him three months beforehand and let him know. We have not made a decision on what we will do next year.
- Senior & Special Population Programs: Senior Motions has had 26 participants in each of their sessions. We also had a Lunch & Learn Effectively Communicating with 911, we had 18 participants in that. We did our Senior Police Academy this past month and had 13 participants in that. We received a lot of compliments on that program; that program is done with the Christiansburg Police Department. The Effort Day Event was held here at the recreation center this year, they will no longer be able to use the Christiansburg High School field because of the construction being done. Between the participants and volunteers we had 160 people.
- Community Programs: Early Morning Yoga, Lunchtime Yoga, and Beginning Evening Yoga are all staying pretty consistent. Evening Tabata has 20 participants in that class.
- Youth Athletics: It looks like we will have two football teams in each division and close to 9-10 Flag Football teams. We did two divisions of Flag Football this year; this is our first year doing this. There has been such a pushed awareness of concussions in football. We decided to try a 7-8 year old flag football league and we had enough participants to sign up to make a league. We looked into it and it has not made the number of participants drop from the tackle league. This gives kids an opportunity to play in a non-contact football league. Our football leagues this year have a greater number of teams than other leagues in the area. Fall

Baseball/Softball registration are taking place right now. John Neel asked what the ages were for each division, Mini Flag is K-1st, Mite Flag is 2-3 grade, Mite Tackle is 2-3 grade, Junior Tackle is 4-5 grade, and Senior is 6-7 grade. For Cheerleading, our Mite & Junior League numbers are great, but we had no one sign-up for Senior League.

- Adult Athletics: We are finishing up our Open League, Church League, and Summer Basketball League. We do have sign-ups going on for Volleyball and Fall Softball. John Neel mentions that most of the volleyball teams are coming over from Radford to play here.
- Athletic Special Events: We had three tournaments in July with 85 teams. Nick is still in the process of planning for the Tony L. Huddleston Fishing Rodeo on October 13 at the Izaak Walton Pond. We have six sponsors for it and Nick also received a grant from National Hunting & Fishing. Atmos is going to bring their cooker to cook for the event. This summer we held a Teen Fire Academy for the first time, it was a two day event. We had 10 participants learn different firefighting techniques. We heard a lot of positive feedback about this program and it was great to work with the Christiansburg Fire Department. We also hosted a Cheer Clinic as well as a Volleyball Clinic, the Cheer Clinic had 24 participants and Volleyball Clinic had 22 participants. Our Eagle Scout Ty Kwak has started on the Downtown Park project. The goal of the project is to build a picnic shelter at Depot Park. Brad spoke with the manager of Home Depot and he is on board for us to apply for a grant to be able to build a shelter behind their facility as well. This grant would pay for the materials for the shelter. We have reached out to a local church that is willing to build that shelter. Public Works has installed the water station on the trail at the "T" at Providence Blvd.
- Student Report: School starts in a week. This year they are allowing students to paint their own parking spots. The new stadium looks good but they have to wait 20 days for the pavement to settle, then they will be able to rubberize the track.
- New Business: We did our official roll out of the Bike Share Program, there were over 40 people that participated. It has been live for two weeks and we have had 334 new sign ups, 283 active members, they have driven 1,472 miles, burned 58,590 calories, and 1,298.99 pounds of carbon has been burned. Now until September 4 is the best time to get an annual membership, you will receive 20% off the price of the membership. Brad believes that this will grow when trail is completed down through Oak Tree and the high school. As we grow we will look at possibly of getting more bikes if we continue to get more active members. The company has been very responsive. We had a bike with a flat tire and we sent a ticket in and within a few hours they were fixing it.
- Old Business: A few month ago commission asked if we could develop a youth sports scholarship program. Chuck Muncy and Brad Epperley have been talking about it and working on getting a policy in place. Chuck has gone through some different policy and spoke with Montgomery County about their policy. Tonight Brad wanted to share the policy that they put together with the commission. This way they can tell the participants that are waiting for a scholarship that in the future there will be a policy. The number of scholarships depend on the season. The Recreation Commission discussed the policy and have agreed on it. The next step will be to take it to our town attorney and then it will come back to commission for approval.
- Brad has reached out to Tim Cromer and Mr. Diebler about putting a bench at the new softball field in memory of Ashlyn Poole. The VA Medical Center and our department is going donate the bench.
- Meeting adjourned, the next meeting will be Monday, October 1, 2018.