

## Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2019

- Brad Epperley called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- In Attendance: Brad Epperley, Charlton McCoy, Kendall Lewis, Harry Collins, Kathy Meadows, Reba Smart, Jim Williamson, Cord Hall
- Minutes from June were approved, we did not have meeting in July.
- Citizen Comments
- Directors Report: Attendance for July was 6,323, July is normally the month we see the lowest amount of attendance. Fourth of July Festival and fireworks went wonderful. We did some things different this year, all vendors including arts and crafts and farmer markets were placed on Main Street. The children's area was on Hickok Street, we showed off the new stage with three bands. This was the top sales day for the Farmers Market vendors. DCI hosted a movie downtown which had about 50 people. We had goat yoga in early July, which had 75 participants.
  - Senior & Special Population Programs: Senior Motions has had good numbers and we are looking to add another class for it on different days. We had the Senior Citizens Police Academy that had eight participants. Everyone had a great time with lots of positive feedback.
  - Community Programs: Teen Fire Academy had seven participants. Zumba was a great class for us with 16 participants, we are offering a new class called Ripped that has 16 participants.
  - ACCE Program: We have had 10 acce volunteers work with us. We hosted the volunteer fair here at our facility and there were 16 other places that offer this program. This has been great for us and they have helped in so many ways.
  - Adult Athletics: Church Softball has begun. Open Softball is almost complete and going into playoffs. Summer League Basketball is coming to an end.
  - Youth Athletics: Youth tackle/flag football and cheerleading have signups going on. Our numbers are looking good compared to the other recreation departments in the area. We have a concussion seminar before each football season and have our equipment reconditioned before the season begins every year. Signups are also going on for fall baseball and softball and those two activities continue to grow. We had our youth football camp last week that had 49 participants. The week prior we worked with the high school and Coach Wilkins on a camp that had 24 participants. We had three Virginia Tech football interns this summer that helped with those camps. These interns were wonderful and connected well with the children. We had 15 participants for the Archery Clinic.
  - Outdoor Facilities: We had a couple travel tournaments with a total of 90 teams, a couple 100 hotel rooms reserved.
- Student Report:
  - School starts in two weeks. Brad has a phone call into Tim Cromer at the high school about a student representative since Matthew has graduated.
- New Business:
  - Prior to the Fourth of July, Charlton was contacted from a local business in Christiansburg that is certified with Stage Line to run the stage inquiring about renting our stage. Charlton and Brad were tasked from administration to come up with a proposal for rental of the stage. They discussed this in a work session with Town Council and there were some in favor of the rental and some not. Some of the concern were that there would be wear and tear on the equipment. The liability we would face if something were to happen. We had it written in the proposal that it would have to be a Town of Christiansburg business certified with Stage Line before it was rented. The original cost we were going to rent the stage for with the Christiansburg banners was \$500 a day, and our staff wouldn't have to do anything. If they weren't using the banners it would be a \$1000 a day. If our staff had to setup the stage it would be \$1500 to cover the staff cost. The stage would not leave the New River Valley. They would be required to purchase a million dollar insurance policy listing the Town of Christiansburg. Councilman Showalter wanted this to come to commission to be discussed. Cord Hall asked if putting the stage up and down would cause wear and tear. Brad replied, that the stage has to be exercised at least once a month. Brad's hope if rented is to take the money and put it back into training for more employees to be certified. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission unanimously voted to rent the stage out to local certified businesses.
  - Council brought up doing more events downtown before the end of the year. The special event committee met and came up with some of those events. The first one would be a Talent Show, with the stage setup to a bench setting, and the citizens would be the participants. That event would cost us \$1040 and be held on Hickok Street. The next would be October 11, that would be a downtown Music Festival, we would shut down Main Street. Alan Johnson's band would play from 6-9 p.m. with some food trucks and beer and wine. The Town would not be responsible for the beer or wine, we have reached out to the Kiwanis Club and Downtown Christiansburg Inc. for this. This event would cost about \$9000. The next one would be a college tailgate on

November 2. This would be on Hickok Street with a bench stage setup. A band would play maybe an hour or so with four TVs spaced out on Hickok Street with beer, wine and food vendors. This event would cost about \$4900. The last event is Winter Wonderland, the evening after the Christmas Parade and Market. We would have trees along Hickok Street. We would have a group singing carols as well as food vendors. It would cost about \$4100. To add those four events it would cost about \$19520 with 5-10% contingency. We are planning some events for the spring like a BBQ and concert/festival. There has been some council members that want a 5k race downtown. Brad mentions that we don't have anyone on the staff that works specifically with road races, it a safety concern, and cost is high. We have a trail that would be safe and cost efficient. Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission recommended to take the downtown race under advisement to look over safety issues and cost in more detail. Recreation Commission has made the recommendation to move forward with the four events to council at their next meeting.

- Rod Reedy with New River Community College has spoken with Brad about getting students involved with recreational items. They talked a little about memberships, programs and events. The initial thought was not to give memberships to the facility but to work with them through adult sports. Maybe doing a fall women's volleyball, basketball or softball league just to give them an opportunity to participate as a group. We thought we would try this as a pilot program and if all went well then we would look at the membership perspective. A few years back the commission agree to let the ignite group get town memberships. Brad would like to work with this group as well and they are willing to pay. Brad did not want to give them prices without discussing it with the recreation commission. Cord Hall mentions that the college has been good to the town. Recreation Commission recommends that Brad works with the college on reduced rates.
- Old Business:
  - Cord Hall serves on the PPEA Park Committee as liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and feels the town is moving forward with the park design and it looks good. Council has decided to move forward with the design. The final design is about one million dollars. We will have three public meetings about the design, one community engagement meeting, one with recreation commission, and one with the PPEA Park Committee, and then a recommendation to council will be made.
- Meeting adjourned, next meeting October 7, 2019.