

Meeting Minutes for July 6, 2020

- Diane Fenton called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- In Attendance: Kathy Meadows, Reba Smart, Charlton McCoy, Mike Saylor, Brad Epperley, Johana Hicks, Diane Fenton, John Neel, Jim Williamson
- Minutes from March were approved.
- Diane Fenton started by thanking Brad and his staff for all of their wonderful work and keeping commission up to date on what is going on.
- Directors Report: Brad has sent out reports each month to members of commission letting them know what is going on within the Recreation Department. Through the negatives of Covid the staff at the Recreation Center has found positives. We created a virtual Recreation Center when this started and will continue to use. We have started back with programs and accomplished some improvements within the Recreation Center. Some of the updates within our facilities; we moved the trophies cases to the library area with one table and two chairs. The Administrative Office has flipped and there is now a window opening facing the lobby area. Due to recommendations of the health department, we placed plexiglass around the front desk and we have made things with less touch contact. As far as registration, we have encourage more online registration. We have also placed signs on the floor with a different entrance and exit. While we were shut down, our staff re-painted and pressure washed the building and stripped and waxed the floors. Our outdoor maintenance staff has been busy during this time. The trails have had lots of use and the parks have been busy also. Each week Brad had a meeting with other directors within the New River Valley to keep everything consistent within our area. We started some group exercise classes back and they are being held outdoors. We will gradually move classes back inside since the governor's phase 3 went into place. We do have one class that likes being outdoors, therefore we will continue to offer that class as an outdoor class. The group exercise classes that we offer can have a maximum of 11 participants that includes the instructor, with a 10 feet distance between each participant. We are working on getting our instructor that does most of our classes back towards the end of the month, but she may not teach as much as before. Johana Hicks mentioned that we could have a class at Downtown Park to tie into the Farmers Market. All the Recreation Departments have talked about the new school schedule. We have a policy here that if school hours are in session you can't use the Recreation Center. We did however work with the homeschool groups. Mike Saylor asked if we have looked at using UV lights for cleaning as well, and Brad mentioned that we have been doing research on the UV lights. Meal delivery and well-being checks are going great. We have enough funding to get us through the end of July. We have stayed consistent with 41 meal deliveries each week. We started out getting the meals from English Meadows and when funding ran out with them it was recommended we go to Millstone Kitchen. We paid for a month of meals with money from the Cares Act, beyond that they secured funding prior to that and for this month. Johana Hicks asked if we have talked to some of the local restaurants for this service. We haven't, Brad mentioned that because of the economic struggle of business and Millstone Kitchen was a Non Profit food bank that provided food with minimal expense we decided to get the meals from them. For a long time a lot of the businesses were not open and time was crucial and it was recommended that we get in touch with Millstone. Johana Hicks asked if we had money left in the Cares Act. Brad mentions that she will need to talk to Randy Wingfield about that. Johana mentioned that other towns with the Cares Act money are helping their local restaurants. Brad said that was a great idea if we can get local restaurants to be a part of that if we need to purchase additional meals. Currently Millstone has provided funding for the meals and it is not costing anything. Johana asked if we had an amount of people that we are helping. There are about 100 on the cart assist list and 300 plus on our recreation members list that we contact. It takes about two weeks to get through all of the calls. John Neel asked if this meal delivery sets them up for the week. Brad mentions it is a meal they could eat on for a day or so. Brad says as more and more businesses are opening back up its great idea to use them if we need to purchase meals. Johana Hicks tells Brad that some those food services pay your salary. John Neel asks how/ who they delivered them, Brad states our staff delivers them using one of the town vans.
 - The Farmers Market is going very well this season, with this past week being the best week with 368 participants. We had 20 vendors with food trucks. Our fruits and vegetables aren't in like other areas and little later on growing. This is our first year diving into it as a department. Our goal is to improve each day, Diane Fenton mentions that Marty Gordon has done a great job with the market.

- Recreational Sports are currently up in the air but we are currently going forward with registration with a disclaimer that basically states it's based upon the Governor and VHSL. We have always done Fall Softball and Baseball, it is our hopes to be able to do that. If we aren't able to have sports, we will credit participants account. We will follow what VHSL does as far having sports in different seasons. We have started Adult Softball registration, we will run that like we do our travel tournaments.
- We are currently in phase 2b which is the governor's phase 3. We have added pickle ball times and are accepting field and shelter rentals. We are doing some indoor classes. We were not able to do our downtown festival for the 4th of July due to the regulations. We were able to do our fireworks that evening. Everything went very well with the fireworks; our staff did a great job. John Neel says that the fireworks were fantastic.
- Questions and Concerns: Kathy Meadows wanted to thank the recreation center for letting Montgomery County Public School use the stage for graduation. Johana Hicks is so grateful that we installed the sunscreen dispensers, but would love to see hand sanitizer dispensers as well. Brad spoke with Julie Ligon and Dr. Walker about Jill's Buddy Camp. They are getting us a list of what they are providing. Our staff will come up with items as well for the goodie bags. Our staff will help deliver these as well as any commission member who would like to do so. Once there is more information it will be sent out. Kathy Meadows is going to check with Michaels about donating crafts. John Neel wanted to thank the Parks and Recreation staff that went above and beyond on getting the fields ready for the softball tournament.
- Meeting adjourned, next meeting Monday, August 3, 2020.