

Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2020

- Diane Fenton called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- In Attendance: Kathy Meadows, Mike Saylor, Charlton McCoy, Brad Epperley, Cord Hall, Reba Smart, Johana Hicks, Diane Fenton, John Neel, Jim Williamson
- Minutes from January were approved.
- No Citizens Comment
- Directors Report: Attendance for this past month was 8286, we are working with our IT Department to get a computer designed that does nothing but scans because we are missing a few scans due to the computer locking out for security reasons. As of Friday, we have taken 378 tax appointments. We work with AARP every year to provide free tax service to the community.
 - Special Events: The next special event we have planned is a Chili Cook-Off in April working with First Responders through-out the New River Valley. We are also planning a Spring Rockin' Main Street and are in contract negotiations with the Worx Band to play at this event. Casey Jenkins, our Special Events Coordinator and Farmers' Market Manager has put in his notice and we will be hiring for that position in the near future. His last day will be February 7; Charlton McCoy will be taking over responsibilities until someone is hired for that position.
 - Councilwoman Johana Hicks inquired when we plan to open the market this year. Brad mentioned that he will have to talk to Randy Wingfield (Town Manager) because he has been the one who worked with Casey on that. They have mentioned pushing the opening date back this year but are not certain on a particular date. Johana asked if there was any consideration in moving the market to a new location. Cord Hall explained the decision to move the Market is not up to the Recreation Commission, it is Town Council's decision if they want to change locations. Brad Epperley will mention this idea to Randy Wingfield and at that point, it will be a council decision. Johana suggested that the commission could make a recommendation about a location change for the Market, possibly the recreation center because it is always crowded and a central location. Cord Hall brings up that it is ok to discuss it with Randy but he still believes it is a Council decision. If Council has four or five places on their agenda they wish to discuss to move the Market and send it back to the Recreation Commission to debate and make a recommendation that is one thing. He does not think sua sponte we have the permission to say we want the market to be here because: we don't know the land use, ownership or amenities made available that could be a cost to the town. Cord Hall mentioned that he would like as a Recreation Commission for Councilwoman Hicks as the liaison to council to ask if there are any other options in regards to the market and bring back to commission for discussion. Ms. Hicks would like the Recreation Commissions' opinion, being part of the Parks and Recreation Department, on taking care of Farmer's Market and about the location of the Market because many people are upset about Hickok Street still being closed. She mentions that there are 970 posts on her Facebook post about moving the Farmers' Market, Cord says that is something that he thinks needs to be on the Council agenda. Councilwoman Hicks is interested to hear everyone's opinion because she wonders if money could be better spent on employees of the Recreation Center. We are providing so many services for the participants of the Recreation Center and there are more people taking advantage of the Recreation Center than the Farmers' Market.
 - Diane Fenton mentions she's never known for us to be videoed, is that allowed to be happening? Councilwoman Hicks mentions that it would be nice, Cord Hall mentions that he does not have any problem and Mrs. Fenton said she did not either. Then Mike Saylor mentions that this an Advisory Commission that we could solicit citizen input and that could be brought back to council. Councilwoman Hicks says she likes to hear from the Commission because the Farmers' Market is a big item. She would rather see that money being spent towards employees in this facility that is being used 8286 times, that is a lot of amount of people that we are giving services to. The Recreation Center is getting more for their money and providing more services. Cord Hall mentions that is a new item under G. for new business, right now we are in the middle of the report from the director and Cord thinks it's find to ask questions about the report, but Councilwoman

Hicks is talking about is a new business item. Councilwoman Hicks mentions that the Farmers' Market was involved. Brad said we will start back with the report and he begins with Senior Programs.

- Senior Programs: We have started a new program called Helping Hands where participants volunteer to make gloves, hats and scarves, these items are placed on a stand at our front desk for anyone who needs them. We had 37 participants for Senior Motions this past month, we also had a good number of participants helping volunteer for Supply for Seniors this year. We had to reschedule our Christmas Bingo due to weather, the rescheduled date had 25 participants.
 - Community Programs: Beginner and Advanced Lego has six participants involved with both of those programs. That is part of the STEM program, we started that a few years ago. Our group was awarded Creative Explorers Award and Innovated Model Award, we want to continue moving this program forward. Zumba had 18 participants, Core Balance had 24 participants, Ripped which is a new class had 19 participants, and Stretch and Strength which is another new class had 18 participants.
 - Special Interest: The dog obedience classes have been doing extremely well. Novice Dog Obedience had 17 dogs/owners, Puppy has 12 dogs/owners, and Nose Work has 9 dogs/owners. We are working with Montgomery County Public Library on a new program, a monthly Wellness Book Club. They will be reading a new book each month dealing with health and wellness. We had 11 participants join us for our first one.
 - Youth Athletics: We have over 300 participants participating in our basketball league. We are hoping our Mite and Pee Wee Leagues will be ending by the end of the week to open up gym space. We try to leave one court open at all times for free play if possible. We recently started putting the court schedule on our website; the next day schedule will be posted by 5 p.m. the day before. Registration for Spring Baseball and Softball are going on now. We will be doing Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth this season for baseball instead of Dixie. Montgomery County Parks & Recreation, Radford Parks & Recreation, Pulaski Parks and Recreation, and Floyd Parks and Recreation have also changed to Cal Ripkin and Babe Ruth league.
 - Master Schedule & Athletic Special Events: We hosted an AAU Tournament on January 4 that had 24 teams. We will be hosting another one this weekend in memory of Debbie Snell. Our first summer camp, the Teen Fire Academy is scheduled for July 23 and 24. We were awarded the top new program through VRPS last year for this program. Our Jill's Buddy Camp this summer we have confirmed two of our field trips to the NRV Superbowl and 5J Farm. We did our third nerf challenge in late December; we had 26 participants for that. We worked with RU Softball team again this year to host a Softball Clinic. We had 42 participants involved in this event.
 - Outdoor Facilities: The weather has been mild this winter for us to be able to do stuff outside, but when it was not we were able to build picnic tables for our parks and trails. Winter is a good time for us to be able to service our equipment. There have been questions about the continuation of the trail in front of the high school. Currently working on getting trail expansion from Food Lion (Huckleberry Trail South) to Independence in front of high school. Johanna inquires about having more emergency call towers along the trail; we currently have nine right now and will continue to increase in numbers with these for safety. They have recently been updated to 4G. Questions about whether electric scooters are allowed on the trail and as long as they meet specifications of ADA and are for ADA purposes they are allowed. However, they must abide by the speed limit of 15 miles an hour on the trail.
 - Adult Athletics: We have Fast Break going on, and Slow Break will begin once Fast Break is finished.
 - Recreation Commission watched video of the new park
- New Business: Cord said if the location of the Farmers' Market is put on the Council agenda by Councilwoman Hicks it would be great if she could provide us with maps previously looked at for the location of the Market, If Council asks for Recreation Commission's opinion on location. Cord Hall mentions that the RU Softball Clinic was a great camp and the kids had a great time. Cord started using the batting cages this past Sunday for 18 girls from around the New River Valley participating in softball; this will go on for the next eight Sundays. They were able to set up many different stations and it was amazing, the kids got a lot out of it and had a lot of fun. Cord suggests offering an Eating Disorder Awareness seminar; we don't

have a network to deal with this type of disorder around here. Brad said we could talk to Pam Peyton our Community Supervisor. She works with a lot of our local health officials to provide different health education seminars throughout the year. We are offering a Vaping and Juuling class in the near future for parents to learn what to look for. Our facility is a meeting area for everything, that eight thousand is a just folks using the track, weight and cardio room. John Neel mentions from what he sees from being in the facility there needs to be an expansion and he would hope council would see the need for more courts, classroom and space. As Recreation Commission that would be one of the things he would recommend first to council, that there needs to be an expansion.

- Meeting adjourned, next meeting Monday, March 2, 2020.