

Meeting Minutes for March 2, 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, Jim Williamson, Robin Boyd, Reba Smart, Johana Hicks, Diane Fenton, John Neel
- Minutes from February were approved.
- Tracy with Sizemore Staffing gave a presentation on little food pantries. This company wants to give back to the community by providing little food pantries throughout Christiansburg. We already have little library boxes at Depot Park, Downtown Park, and Circle Park. Sizemore Staffing would handle watching for expired food items. We have discussed how people would drop food items off and try to decide whether it would be here at the Recreation Center or somewhere else. We reached out to Pulaski for a little guidance with this. This would be a great resource to help the community out. Johanna Hicks asked if this could be something we could partner with churches on. We will start the food pantry here at the Recreation Center in our library area.
- Directors Report: Attendance for this month was 7966, this is just participants coming to use the facility, it does not include participants for programs and sports.
 - Community Programs: Beginner and Advance Lego League has six children in each class. Ballet has eight participants. Our adult community classes have been really popular, we have 18 participants in Zumba, 24 participants in Core Balance, and 20 participants in Ripped. Ripped is a new program for us that has brought new participants to the Recreation Center. Stretch and Strength has 18 participants in that class. We hosted the Radford University Community Health Fair this past week, we had 246 participants in attendance for the fair. Dangers of Vaping/Juuling had 16 participants attend, Dr. Ray from the Health Department taught this class. We plan to offer this class throughout the year.
 - Senior & Special Population Programs: We have 20 participants in the Helping Hands program now. Senior Motions has become so popular that we had to split the class up into a Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday class and Tuesday/ Thursday class. We also offer a Senior Aerobics class. The two bingo programs that we offered this month did very well. Super Bingo had 43 participants and the Baked Potato Bar Bingo had 30 participants. We traveled to Claytor Lake Dam for a tour that had eight participants. We are continuing to work with IDA on their bowling and basketball events. Unfortunately, our Sweetheart Dance got cancelled due to the weather.
 - We have been working with the Math Department at Virginia Tech to offer a tutoring program for students. We have some children that come to the Recreation Center that sometimes need help with their school work. In the fall we will offer free math tutors one - two nights a week. This will be open to anyone. We plan to have the tutoring sessions in the library area at the Recreation Center. This program will be for elementary ages and go all the way up to college age students. Right now, we have tutoring setup for Thursdays and Sundays. Our tax aide program has been very busy. Our appointments are book until March 31. We also have a Firearms Safety Course on March 29, we offer these classes two or three times a year. Johanna Hicks asked as far as security, how are we prepared if something happen. Brad says this is a work in progress. We did hold an Active Shooter Training here at the Recreation Center. During this training we learned that we needed to number our facility doors for First Responders and Staff to refer to in an emergency. We have looked into isolating the administrative office area, where patrons would have to be buzzed in to enter the administrative hallway. The Recreation Center also has an Emergency Action Plan to follow with code words for certain situations. We also have a P. A System throughout the Recreation Center that allows us to communicate with everyone in the building. We have been placed under lock down twice for incidents near the building. We work closely with Fire Department and Police Department on lock downs.

We partner with Ashley Hash, a Community Health Educator from Carilion, to offer free blood pressure & glucose screenings. The second Tuesday of each month we will offer free hearing screenings that will be done by Blue Ridge Sounds. We are hosting a Veteran's Fair that will assist veterans on how to gain benefits and claims. This will be Saturday, March 28 at 8 a.m. We will be offering a Spring Break Nerf Challenge in early April. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 11 at Kiwanis Park. Our Spring Shred-A-Thon will be Tuesday, April 21. On August 1 a group of individuals are riding their bikes from Seattle to Christiansburg to raise money for camps for individuals with special needs. We are allowing them spend the night at the Recreation Center in the gym area. We are going to setup a dinner with the riders and the participants from our Jill's Buddy Camp that night. Brad met with the new Special Education Director, Dr. Walker about Jill's Buddy Camp and the details of this dinner.
- New Business: A date for the new PPEA meeting has not been set yet. They will have 80% of the park design back in March. Our goal will be to take it to Council in May. If everything goes through, we can be moving dirt by June.
- Meeting adjourned, next meeting Monday, April 6, 2020.