

Meeting Minutes August 3, 2020

Diane Fenton called the meeting to order

Members present: Brad Epperley, Jim Williamson, Johanna Hicks, Diane Fenton, Kathy Meadows, Reba Smart, Charlton McCoy, Cord Hall, John Neal

Minutes from July were approved- Cord Hall abstained from approval, was not at previous meeting

Director's Report

Started a community wellness commitment that schools, local agencies, university are marketing together towards a common goal. People will be given this information when they come to sign up for programs.

Community and Senior Programs: We delivered bags to Buddy Camp campers because we were unable to hold the Buddy Camp this year. Councilwoman Hicks helped deliver and did goodie bags, Kathy Meadows worked with Michaels on supplies to fill the bags. We did a contactless delivery and they were so excited and grateful to receive them. Councilwoman Hicks said it was very emotional because some of the kids were not well off financially, so they were so excited to receive these and it made a difference to them. Zumba has 10 participants, Core Balance, Ripped and P90 Rec are seeing good numbers. The Senior Aerobics and Motions classes are full. We have continued with meal delivery to the seniors delivering 41 meals each week. Our Virtual Walk Coast to Coast Challenge participants walked a total of 2,264 miles starting at Virginia Beach and making it to San Francisco and heading back made it the distance to Salt Lake City Utah.

Youth Athletics: VHSL decided on a different condensed timeline to try to allow each sport to play, moving fall sports to February, spring sports to April and Winter sports to December. We are moving forward with fall baseball and softball with obvious restrictions like we do with travel ball. Parents and spectators will be in the outfield, labeled entrances and exits, no handshakes or personal contact dugouts extended to stands. Players must furnish own equipment (helmets, bats). Providing two sets of catcher's equipment to make sure coach has extra one while sanitizing other one; balls sanitized as well. Looking at developing regional consistent plan of guidelines for sports. We need to find a way to get kids active, everyone in the region wants to do this. There will be no concessions this fall. Families will need to bring own food and drinks.

Adult Athletics: Much like youth sports, no spectators, sanitizing balls, batting gloves need to be worn if sharing equipment. Umpires stand further back and use strike zone mat where the umpire will just judge height of pitch. Dugouts extended to stands and also following governor's mandates and USSSA guidelines.

Outdoor facility: Sunscreen dispensers were placed at parks. Charlton worked with Sanico and there will be 25 hand sanitizers at the parks, sports facilities and trail. Councilwoman Hicks thanked Brad for getting those. A little library was installed at Summit Ridge Park. At Depot

Park we have a new concrete pad and retaining wall. The Eagle Scout started working on the picnic shelter that will mirror the one at Downtown Park. This will be completely handicap accessible. Goal to have it completed by the end of the year. Eagle Scouts have done so many great projects for us. Councilwoman Hicks asked about installing a real bathroom at Depot or Downtown Park. Brad said financially we can't do it now but would love to do it down the road. We set up and tore down the stage for the Juneteenth celebration and Relay for Life events. The Relay for Life event was in the recreation center parking lot. They lined the parking lot with luminaries, it was designed to be a drive-thru event.

Athletic Special Events- There have been three baseball tournaments with 200 teams in area this past month. We continue to plan for Tony Huddleston fishing rodeo, it's in its 5th year, going to have to have strict guidelines. Limit to one adult per child – less than 250 total people. May do pre-registration or first come first serve. We have gotten some sponsors for the event. Tony was a great man and employee of our department. This is our way to continue to remember Tony and what he meant to Christiansburg.

Farmers Market: The farmers market has had 98 vendors and 1600 visitors through July. This past week's market had 401 participants, biggest yet. We've had a theme for each week. We are currently doing a sustainable project where if we collect 500 pounds of plastic bags they will be recycled into a bench. We are collecting those at the Market and the Recreation Center.

New business: Cord proposes having an agenda before each meeting where everyone can give input on what is put on agenda. This will allow everyone to be prepared to discuss each topic. This will also ensure transparency with the public and give notice of what we will be discussing. Cord makes a motion to turn anything you want to be placed on the agenda to the Chairperson Diane Fenton by 10 am the proceeding Wednesday to be considered as new business. Kathy seconds. If something happens between Wednesday and the next meeting any member of the commission can make a motion to modify the agenda and add something on there. This motion must be seconded and voted upon. Diane proposes information to be given to her no later than 5 p.m. for items to be added to the agenda. This gives her time to prepare it and get the information out to the commission members and posted on the website. Kathy withdraws previous second and Cord withdraws his original motion and makes a new motion that designates 5 p.m. on the proceeding Tuesday be the cutoff to items to be added to the agenda under new business. Kathy seconds. Motion voted on, unanimously approved. Goal for everyone to have the agenda by close of business on Thursday.

Discussion of land that VDOT donated to Christiansburg. The commission has been tasked with recommending uses of this property and passing them back to Town Council. This land has to be used for public use, at any point we decided not to use for this VDOT would take back ownership. Brad suggests a possible community garden. Another item recommended through council is cleaning it up and planting flowers. Another idea was a tree farm for horticulturist in Christiansburg. This will allow them to save money by growing trees on this land and transplanting them throughout the town. Brad said it is also valuable for the connectivity being in close proximity to Recreation Center and Huckleberry Trail. Everyone agreed about how great the connectivity would be and agreed on growing perennial flowers to make it look better. After discussion on how to use to property, a few concerns were brought up about power lines, underground lines, traffic,

fencing and parking. Cord makes a motion that the discussion be tabled until September to give people time to come up with ideas and research potential obstacles. Reba seconds, unanimously voted yes to table until September.

Old Business: PPEA met 3 weeks ago. Recommendations to town council unanimously from PPEA. It is now up to town council to make the decision.

Councilwoman Hicks asks about soccer. Soccer is not through the recreation department. Brad spoke with the person in charge of Christiansburg Soccer. They are having problems with places to play because Montgomery County Schools is not allowing third parties to use their facilities. Brad told them they could use Depot Park but requested they give him a plan on how they are going to run the program. They do plan on dropping the number of participants on each team. Councilwoman Hicks comments that all of the parks look absolutely beautiful and we have done a great job. John, as a board member of soccer club, appreciates the recreation department working with them on trying figure out a way to allow sports to happen. John comments that no one sees or recognizes the absolute level of background work that goes into some of the things recreation department does. The recreation department does a fantastic job.

Councilwoman Hicks asks if we are doing anything extra with students coming back in town. We do temperature checks on employees, not participants. We stick to the guidelines on the maximum number of people in a room. We try to make decisions as a region. We also installed plexi-glass, reservations to monitor the number of people in a room, minimal touch points and sanitation of basketball after each use. We don't normally get a lot of college students here. Councilwoman Hicks says mental health is important, glad we are doing this stuff.

Meeting adjourned.