

November 2 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Fenton called meeting to order

Roll Call -Charlton McCoy, Cord Hall, Reba Smart, Diane Fenton, Johana Hicks, Jim Williamson, Brad Epperley, Mike Saylor, Kathy Meadows, Robin Boyd, John Neel

Chairperson Fenton called meeting to order

Ms. Smart made motion to approve the minutes from last month, Mr. Hall seconds unanimously approved

No citizen comments

Director Epperley's Report

As of October 28, we had 2,848 participants reserve facilities in the recreation center.

Youth Athletics – Baseball and Softball is close to finishing up, probably sometime next week. Youth Basketball, we are currently taking registration. Registration for Christiansburg residents and those that attend Christiansburg schools will be taken first. Out of town residents will be placed on a waiting list until we see how many spots we have left. We may have a group of non-residents form a team so they are practicing with the same kids they go to school with. Guidelines for Youth Basketball were sent to New River Health District, Business Continuity Team and the Task Force and received approval from all three.

Adult Athletics- We are finishing up the Adult Softball season. Guidelines have been set up for Adult Volleyball and those were sent to be approved as well. We will have youth and adult sports entering the building from the side door off Cambria. Spectators will have to wear a mask when they come in.

Senior Programs- Senior Motions is still full with 11 participants. We have offered flu shots at the recreation center through CVS and Christiansburg Pharmacy. The next one will be Wednesday, Nov 4 from 9 – 12 p.m. We will also have another one mid-November. We are still working with Tech on Lifelong Learning Institute classes. Shred-a-thon had 421 vehicles and 16,540 lbs. of paper, almost double what we had last fall.

Community Programs – Zumba, Core Balance, Dance Tone and Toning and Conditioning are all doing well. Get HIIT Fit is a new class for us and we are excited to have more participants join this class. Novice Dog Obedience had eight dogs this session.

Athletic Special Events – We finished outdoor tournaments for the year. The Fishing Rodeo had 55 participants this year despite the raining weather, we originally had 100 participants signed up. We painted 10-foot squares and everyone had their own space to fish.

We are now meeting with tournament organizer for basketball tournaments. We must make sure we stay within our guidelines if we are going to run these tournaments.

VA Techniques is looking at having a gymnastics tournament here. Last year they brought in about 1,500 people. Will work together and come up with guidelines and send those off to be approved before the event. We may do a four day tournament this year to help with spacing out. We are considering holding the gymnastics meet on Martin Luther King weekend.

Farmers Market-The Market finished the season this past Thursday. When the Central Business Committee met, Director Epperley and Marty Gordon had a list of five temporary Farmers Market sites with pros and cons for each one. The recreation center parking lot was the top choice for a few reasons: electricity,

restroom facilities here, entrance/exit area closed off at North Franklin which provides more safety, accessible and highly visible. That is going to be the recommendation from the Central Business Committee to Town Council, Council will then make the final decision on that.

We are going to do a Christmas Market on December 10 from 4 – 8 p.m. on Main Street to space out vendors 12 -18 feet apart and limit the number of vendors. The Tree Lighting Ceremony will be at 6:45 p.m.

Outdoor Facilities- We have new kiosk going up at the parks and trails. This is compliments of another Eagle Scout. He will be making seven of them and they should be done by the end of the year.

Bikeway Walkway Sponsorship Program- We received a donation for another water fountain on Huckleberry Trail (\$3,000). It will be placed where Kohl's entrance is by the T in the trail, Corning C Vets sponsored this water fountain. We also received a donation for a bench on Huckleberry South on Independence. Holy Spirit Catholic Church sponsored the bench and wanted it placed across from their church. Also a new pet waste station was placed on the right as you come out of Oak Tree, as you are joining with the high school property.

Special Events – We will be doing a reverse Christmas parade on December 11. This will be primarily floats. The size of the float will determine the number of people allowed on the float.

Student Representatives- no student representatives present

New Business

Mr. Hall said the Halloween event was excellent and neat to see town collaboration (EMS, Fire, Police, Public Works). People are looking for things to do. Great way to kick off Halloween

Mr. Hall mentions that five or six months ago he brought up the topic of eating disorders in young ladies. National Eating Disorder Awareness week is recognized here the last week in February – 1st March. It would be nice if we could do something that week whether it be a public information opportunity or even telehealth. Director Epperley spoke with the Community Programs supervisor about this when it was first mentioned, he believes she reached out to Carillion and Lewis Gale, and will follow up with her on this information. Ms. Meadows would like to work with Mr. Hall on this topic. Councilwoman Hicks suggested she would like to see something on suicide prevention also.

Councilwoman Hicks inquired about the Veteran's Day parade this year. Ms. Meadows let her know that it is run through the high school. Director Epperley added that Angie Robbins handles that with the help of Chief Sisson. We support doing things for veterans. We actually have a virtual Veteran's Café at the recreation center. Councilwoman Hicks would like the Town Manager, Randy Wingfield, to put out a list of businesses that provide something for veterans.

Councilwoman Hicks asks if we only do the Shred-a-thon twice a year. Director Epperley responds that we hold the Shred-a-thon in April and October each year. Mr. Hall commented that it is a very valuable service that the recreation center offers. He has had to shred things personally and it can be very expensive if you must do it on your own.

Councilwoman Hicks asks if we provide any of the materials for the Eagles Scout's project for the seven new kiosks at the parks and trails. Director Epperley explains the town will pay \$1,500 he has gone out and fundraised the rest. The total of the project was \$7,000.

Councilwoman Hicks asks if the Recreation Commission can support the new Farmers Market location being at the recreation center. The Central Business Committee will be bringing this to council. Mr. Hall's only concern is he has not been involved at all in choosing the locations of the Farmers Market; he hasn't considered, nor has he researched any of the locations so he would respectfully disagree about endorsing this with a letter. He mentioned we sent a letter about the development of the park because we have been involved and played a central role in that for years, reviewing and discussing information. Director Epperley said he will be at the meeting on November 10 and can speak to the research they have done on the locations and give his reasoning on why he thinks the recreation center location is the best. Chairperson Fenton agrees that we have been very involved with the park since the beginning and for the last seven years and that's why she brought up to the Recreation Commission the suggestion of writing a letter in support of the park but knows nothing about the locations of the temporary Farmers Market. Mr. Hall clarifies that a motion and vote was taken for the letter of recommendation being sent to council about the park and we can also vote on this as well, he was just voicing his concern. Councilwoman Hicks makes a motion of whether anyone is against bringing a recommendation of the Farmers Market to the Recreation Center. There is confusion about the motion and there is no second. Mr. Neel reiterates that we have been an active participant in the park, but we have not been an active participant in the Farmers Market and that is where he is with this.

Old Business-none

Update on Cares Act Funding- This will be finalized through Town Council by a final vote.

UVC Lighting – Will be used for disinfecting each room. The chemicals we are using now to make sure everything is disinfected is causing some rust on the equipment. We wanted to get the ones that were hardwired into the ceiling but after talking with purchasing coordinator we decided to go with the mobile units.

Restrooms at Parks- Will be installing a restroom at Circle and Depot Park as discussed last meeting. Because of the accessibility at Downtown Park, we will request funds in the upcoming budget for a stick-built building there.

Digital Sign- This will be nice for safety, emergency and getting things out to people quickly; it's also a great marketing tool. Putting the digital sign there required us to run electricity to the sign which in turn can also be used if the temporary Farmers Market is held here. Mr. Saylor commented he is glad the sign is finally coming to fruition especially being such a high traffic area and will be good in emergency situations.

Thermal Imaging- This will provide temperature checks on people before they enter for basketball games, but we need to investigate this in a little more detail. Mr. Saylor commented that at this point taking temperature by hand is faster than doing thermal imaging, but he is not saying they are bad just something to look out for because there are some issues with them.

Streaming Videos- Due to the limited number of participants and spectators allowed, this will allow people to stream basketball games from home. We hope to have one on each basketball court and one on each field at Harkrader Sports Complex. Later down the road if we have a large event, we could get audio capability and broadcast the event as well.

Automatic fixtures for restrooms-sinks, toilets, urinals.

Councilwoman Hicks commented she would like these meetings to be conducted at Town Hall because they have cameras and recording devices and citizens can watch. It was brought up that we do audio record the recreation commission meetings and they have always been open for the public to come if they would like to. No motion was made on this topic.

Chairperson Fenton adjourned meeting