

Minutes from December's Meeting

Chairperson Fenton called the meeting to order

Members present: Brad Epperley, Jim Williamson, Robin Boyd, Reba Smart, Charlton McCoy, John Neel, Johanna Hicks, Diane Fenton

Ms. Smart makes motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Neel seconded, unanimously approved

Director Epperley precedes with his report.

Recreation Center -There were 2,987 people using the facility for November. Basketball Courts had most increase usage, close to 150 people.

Athletic Special Events-Planned to do Nerf program but postponed it for now.

Youth Athletics- Fall Baseball/Softball have all been completed. Last day of registration for basketball this past Friday. Our numbers are a little lower than usual, but we will have enough to form teams. Some leagues will play against Blacksburg and Radford. We backed scheduling up a week due to Thanksgiving and virus surge. We will start practices January 11th. If curtains are down, we can have 25 spectators per court, one spectator per child.

Farmers Market- Town Council did vote to approve temporary location of the recreation center front parking lot for the Farmers Market. Because of the virus, the Christmas Market was changed into a Virtual Market designed in a catalog like the old Sears catalog where online orders could be made from vendors.

Community Programs- Zumba, Dance Tone, Core Balance and Toning and Conditioning have all had good numbers. Get HIIT Fit is a new class with five participants. Virginia Firearms Safety class had 11 participants. Novice Dog Obedience had eight participants.

Senior Programs- We delivered lunch to 38 people for the Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon. Our Helping Hands program received Best New Program in Virginia by the VPRS.

Special Populations- The new craft class has started. A few participants chose to attend the class through Zoom. We have a great relationship with IDA (Intellectual Disabilities Agency) and are glad to get programing back on track with them.

Adult Athletics – Adult Volleyball was postponed until after Christmas. Due to gym space, Adult Basketball will start later, probably when Youth Basketball is over.

Outdoor Facilities – All athletic facilities and restrooms have been winterized and waterlines at Harkrader have been winterized as well. Staff dug footers for new restrooms at Circle and Depot Park. Hopefully by December 20 the new restrooms will arrive. Public Works will take care of all the plumbing. We also took down all the batting cage nets at Harkrader and Kiwanis to prevent damage from winter weather.

The Eagle Scout, Cole Abbott, finished all seven kiosk and all the plaques were put up today. We would like to invite him and David Fox, the other Eagle Scout, to Town Council to thank them for their work.

Student representatives- Director Epperley spoke with Athletic Director Cromer about new representative. Jordin Harris came highly recommended and she will start next year. MJ Hunter, our current representative, hopes to be back soon as well.

New Business

Update on Holiday Events

Virtual Tree Lighting- December 2

Calls with the North Pole- Calls were finished up tonight, close to 100 kids called.

Virtual Christmas at the Market-Orders for this will be taken through December 10.

Santa's Coming to Town – This is handled through the Fire Department. Santa will ride on a fire truck throughout neighborhoods in Christiansburg to visit kids.

Reverse Christmas Parade- Will be held this Friday from 7 – 9 p.m. Floats parked in NRCC parking lot at Uptown Christiansburg Mall.

Light up your home for the Holidays- Participants will send in application to be on the holiday light trail that will be mapped out for people to drive through town. On December 18, pictures will be posted on social media of the top ten houses and there will be a vote on which one is most popular.

Councilwoman Hicks commented that the fire trucks coming out is going to be a very good experience for the kids and they have done an amazing job.

Discussion of January meeting- Director Epperley brought up discussion about January recreation commission meeting. John Neel made motion to skip January meeting, Councilwoman Hicks seconds motion, unanimously approved to skip January meeting.

Mr. Boyd would like to thank us for the Thanksgiving lunches delivered.

Councilwoman Hicks inquired if there was a way we could do something where seniors could place a piece of paper on their window if they needed help. Director Epperley says we can reach out to TRIAD about this. We already do a Project Yellow Dot and Senior Lock Box program with them.

Director Epperley brings up discussion last meeting about looking into doing programs with eating disorders and suicide prevention. We have reached out to people in the area. We hope to offer some programs on these topics in the next few months. We will also post this information on our Virtual Website. We have added www.psychehub.com to our Virtual Website, which includes short videos on mental health.

Councilwoman Hicks asks if there is any way we could put a help line or email address on our site where people can contact us if they need help. Director Epperley says we can investigate this, but we need to make sure these people are trained on the situations they are providing help with. We could get together with Public Relations Department and get a master list of all of resources that could be placed on our website. (Domestic Violence, Suicide, Eating Disorders, etc.). This list could go to business to give them resources to provide people if they ask. It is important that the list of resources we provide has people who are certified and trained for the help they are giving. Director Epperley will research this topic and get back to the commission with information at February's meeting.

Meeting adjourned