

February 2 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Kathy Meadows, Diane Fenton, Mike Saylor, Brad Epperley, Jordin Harris, Robin Boyd, Steve Huppert, Reba Smart, Cord Hall, Charlton McCoy, Jim Williamson, John Neel

Chairperson Fenton called meeting to order and welcomed new members Steve Hubbert and Jordin Harris to the commission.

Ms. Smart made a motion to approve the minutes from last month, Mr. Saylor seconds. Minutes were unanimously approved. Mr. Hall abstained from voting because he didn't attend the last meeting.

No citizens' comments

Director Report

Director Epperley would like to add the Electronic Meeting Policy under New Business with discussion and possible action tonight.

December Report

Recreation Center - December numbers increased, we had 3,625 participants use the facility.

Senior Programs – In the past we would go to senior living areas and give each senior their own stuffed animals, sponsored by Pet Smart. This year with the virus, we gave the stuffed animals to their staff and they distributed them to the residents. The residents really enjoy this each year.

Calls from the North Pole- 97 calls this year, almost tripled from last year

Reverse Christmas parade was a huge success- around 3,000 cars came through

Light up your Home for the Holidays- We had 21 entries! Mr. Gandee and his family won the contest. This contest added 200-300 new follows to the Town of Christiansburg's Facebook page.

Snowman Contest that ends tonight at 8 p.m., quite a few entries, people are voting for this on Facebook.

January Report

Recreation Center – January had 3,709 participants- cardio room had a big increase in usage.

We started allowing doubles for Pickleball a few weeks ago. We were approached by a professional Pickleball player; he is going to offer some clinics for us to try to get some younger people involved in the sport.

Youth Athletics- We will be playing basketball against Radford and Blacksburg. Numbers are a little lower than usual but that is to be expected. We held a JV basketball tournament here last weekend and it went great. We may do these at the end of the season in the coming years. It was very appreciated by the student athletes and parents.

Senior Programs – Senior Aerobics and Motions are full. We are still limited to nine people and an instructor per class. We worked with RSVP and assembled 190 bags of supplies for homebound clients and veterans.

Community Programs – We are starting back with youth activities. Four kids in Lego League program. Zumba, P90 still filling up. We continue to deliver meals to seniors; we have been delivering meals since March. We had 23 employees recertified in CPR.

Athletic Special Events – We hosted The Rockstar Gymnastics Meet, there were around 600 participants, but no spectators. The operation plan was run through Health District and Business of Continuity.

Outdoors Facilities – We have tournaments booked from the end of March – end of October. We added a new ASAUSA Softball tournament this year. We look forward to working with them.

We are hosting the Debbie Snell Memorial Tournament this weekend. The tournament provides scholarships to kids in Christiansburg and Blacksburg.

Farmers Market – We received a \$500 grant from Community Housing Partners for the 2021 season. We are currently working on a Food Truck Friday event with one or two food trucks each Friday.

Outdoor Facilities – The Depot and Downtown Park picnic shelters built by the Eagle Scouts is having siding added by our staff to close them in and we are also painting them. The prefabricated restrooms have been delivered to Depot and Circle Park. We hope to have these hooked up soon. Emergency Call Towers – going to start doing monthly checks to make sure everything working properly. The staff has done a great job with the snow removal.

New student representative -Jordin Harris – She is part of the Beta Club; they held a huge food drive for the community. Would love to work with the recreation center on this kind of thing.

New Business – New Electronic Meeting Policy

Director Epperley emailed each commission member a proposed copy of the Electronic Meeting Policy prior to the meeting. He discussed some of the information it contained and asked if anyone had any questions or adjustments that needed to be made before it was sent to the town attorney to look over.

Mr. Hall makes a motion to move forward with sending the Electronic Meeting Policy to the town attorney for final approval. Mr. Saylors seconds the motion. Unanimously approved to send to town attorney.

Councilman Hubbert said he is glad to be here and parks and recreation doing such a wonderful job.

Update on the park- Middle of February our outdoor staff and Public Works is going to take down the barn on the property. We plan to use some of the barn lumber for picnic shelters to preserve the history. Looking at March 1 to start with stormwater stuff on the property.

Old Business – Update on Providing Support and Crisis Hotline Information

We worked with Melissa Demmitt, Public Relations Director, on gathering this information. There is now a list of resources on our website as well as the town page. We will continue to work on resources for eating disorders, surprised at the lack of information and resources on this topic.

Mr. Hall asks about the land area by the railroad tracks. We are waiting on the deed from VDOT, Andrew Warren has reached out to them. Once we get that we can start cleaning things up. Would love to put picnic tables and benches there and eventually playground equipment.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be Monday, March 1.