

Meeting Minutes March 1

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

Mr. Hall moved to approve minutes from last month, Ms. Smart seconded. Unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

No citizen's comments

Director's Report

Recreation Center - Numbers increased drastically from last month. We had 3,625 participants in February and this month we had 4,757 participants.

Youth Athletics – The basketball season is coming to an end. We are still taking registration for football. We have enough participants signed up to form a team in Mini and Mite Flag Football. We should have enough to form a team in each age group in the tackle leagues. Cheerleading registration numbers have not been as high. We are still taking registration for Youth Girls' Volleyball, the last day being March 5. Today is also the first day for Youth Baseball/Softball registrations.

Football practices will mostly likely be held at Falling Branch, Harkrader or Kiwanis since we are unable to use the old middle school. Most of the high school fields are being used for school sports. However, we have met with Tim Cromer, Athletic Director of CHS, and worked out a schedule to play our games on Saturdays and Sunday starting at 1 p.m. and going throughout the day. We really appreciate Mr. Cromer working with us.

Senior Programs - Senior Motions and Move and Grove are both full. The Shred-a-thon was scheduled for April 20. We heard from the company today and will have to back that date up until April 27 from 3 – 6 p.m. Something came up with the company dealing with taxes and they overbooked themselves. Unfortunately, the April 20 date also went out in the utility bill already. We are making a push to get corrected date out through Public Relations.

Community Programs- We recently started preschool programs again- Lego League Explorer had four participants, Energy Outlet had five participants. Zumba, Core Balance, P90 and Dance and Tone classes are filled up. It is challenging with group exercise classes; numbers are still limited to nine people and an instructor.

Director Epperley is going to get in touch with Ashley Griggs with the Business Continuity Team with the New River Health District. He has seen other businesses in the area are having more than nine participants in their classes and would like to get some clarification on the guidelines and executive order.

Meal Delivery is still going on and we are delivering to 41 participants a week.

Athletic Special Events- We have tournaments scheduled starting March 27 – October 23 with only three weekends opened. ASA/USA Softball is one of the new affiliations we added this year. We hosted the Debbie Snell tournament that had 60 teams overall; we hosted 25 teams here.

We also hosted a MTS Tournament that had 50 teams in the tournament. It was played here and at Radford Recreation Center. We have started renting basketball courts to the public when we have availability.

Farmers Market- Marty has been working on next year's Farmers Market. He had a few online conferences with other Farmers Markets in Virginia and participated in a National Food Safety Program through Virginia Tech. He is planning on doing a Food Truck Friday towards the middle part of April. He plans to have at least one food truck at the recreation center every Friday. We are still collecting plastic bags at the recreation center and in the last eight months we have collected over 1,100 pounds of recyclable bags. Once the Farmers Market starts, we will transition to just accepting them during Farmers Market hours. Dates for Farmers Market: May 20 – October 28.

Outdoor Facilities- The snow and ice have kept everyone busy. Seven new pet waste stations were installed throughout town; they were a bikeway/walkway sponsorship. Public Works will maintain these. We maintain ones at parks and trails. All emergency call towers were checked and working properly. A new Fallen Officer sign was installed at Downtown Park.

Adult Athletics – We started back with Church Volleyball A & B League. We hope to start with Open Volleyball in the next few weeks.

Special Events – Easter Egg Hunt-We were hoping that restrictions would be decreased, but there is still a 250-person limit. We plan to do a drive thru event like we did at Halloween. The stage will be put up with Easter Bunny to wave to the cars. Each kid will be given a bag with Easter eggs, stuffed animal, toy etc.

We are moving forward with Festival for July 4th this year and with the Winter Wonderland with a Farmers Market included in that.

This coming Friday we are going to be a host site for Covid vaccines given by Christiansburg Pharmacy from 11 – 4 pm. We will bring people in the side door like we do for basketball events and tournaments. The vaccines are scheduled through the Health District.

Mr. Boyd asked if we have had any concerns about the basketball tournaments held here. He had some people contact him concerned about all the people gathering outside one Saturday for a tournament. Director Epperley explained that the tournament that we held here in early February, we had a group who has not played here with Covid restrictions and we had to address a few things with them. Usually their tournaments are held in Roanoke and they were not following the same guidelines that we have here. We will make sure future tournaments are not handled this way. The organization MTS is the group that usually holds tournaments here. During their tournaments, they usually call teams to enter the building one team at a time. They have a strong understanding of our policy.

Mr. Hall asks about clarification on football registration for spring and the rule for registration for county residents. Director Epperley explains registration is for Christiansburg resident and children who attend Christiansburg schools. With the expense of football equipment and field availability we wanted to make sure our Christiansburg kids were taken care of first. If there is availability in a division to take kids from other areas, we will put an announcement on our website and social media. We allowed people from out of the areas for the basketball league but the difference with football being availability of field usage and cost of equipment.

Student Report – Ms. Harris reported that it is a hard and confusing situation for students going back to school in person or staying virtual. This week is Beta week and started it off by making cards for health care workers.

Crisis support sheets that were presented to the commission last meeting. Ms. Harris talked to guidance counselors about making it available where kids can access it whenever they need it. So, Director Epperley will send her an electronic copy to share.

New business- None

Old Business – Director Epperley sent email to all commission members with Electronic Meeting Policy approved by N. Reid Broughton, the Town's attorney.

Town attorney made a note about remote participation for members can only occur if there is a quorum psychically present in one location of five people. This will apply after the governor lifts the State of Emergency. Currently members can remote in due to declaration of State of Emergency.

Now that this has been vetted by legal, Mr. Hall makes a motion to approve the Electronic Meeting Policy as presented on first of March, Mr. Boyd seconded motion. Unanimously approved.

Park update- We had anticipated starting at the beginning of March but going to take a week or two to look at a few plats with adjourning property owners. Hope to start at the end of this month. Barn boards on property are going to be removed and we are going to use them for picnic shelter.

The connector road (road that goes from Rt. 114 and will eventually come out below the recreation center) was given the name Booker T. Washington Parkway voted on by Town Council. Mailing address currently for Truman Wilson property is 300 Peppers Ferry Road, but we will want to address the name of the road that goes through the park. Director Epperley would love to discuss it and make a recommendation for the name of the road. He would like to be able to recognize Truman Wilson former owner of the farm and property. The road is the main road that will go through the park that branches off Booker T Washington.

Councilman Huppert said he will bring this up to Town Council. Meeting was adjourned.