

Meeting Minutes April 5

Members present: Jim Williamson, Jordin Harris, John Neel, Cord Hall, Mike Saylor, Kathy Meadows, Brad Epperley

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

No citizen's comments

Director's Report

Recreation Center- Numbers have increased by 200 and we are knocking on the door of 5000 participants. The Weight Room has been the hot area, it is always filling up. With the new restrictions we were able to increase room occupancy for most of the rooms.

Youth Athletics- We have football, cheerleading, flag football & volleyball going on right now. We are currently taking late registration for baseball/softball, at the current time we have over 400 participants in those programs. We did have four tackle football teams, and we had enough participants to make a Mini and Mite Flag Football teams. Girls Volleyball had a total of 75 participants with five teams.

Senior & Special Population Programs- Senior Aerobics has had a full house for all their classes with nine participants. With the new lessened restrictions, we will be able to get our Helping Hands program back in the Recreation Center. We are still able to do the Veterans Café, we are currently doing it virtual. Last week, we had an Easter Egg Wreath class with the seniors, that turned out wonderful. We are now a site for Covid-19 vaccines, it is most Fridays providing that they get the shipments in. We had close to 800 last Friday, and we are going to be pushing somewhere between 1100-1500 this Friday. We are working with Christiansburg Pharmacy and the Health District.

Community Programs- Our community programs have been doing very well, our pre-school energy outlet had five, which is our maximum for that. Zumba filled up with nine participants, had to split Ripped into two groups with eight participants in each of those. Most of all of our community programs are at full occupancy. With the new executive order, we have called the participants on the waiting lists making our maximum to 11 per class. We are delivery meals to 41 participants, and we are working with the food bank. We purchased some plants for the Hopping Down the Bunny Trail event, we are going to deliver those plants to the participants during meal delivery. Our dog obedience classes have taken off; we are holding those classes at the Mayflower Building.

Farmers Market & Special Events- The Farmers Market will start Thursday, May 20, at the current moment we have verbal confirmation from 17 vendors, five are produce vendors. This year we will be doing this in the front parking lot of the Recreation Center. We will be having food truck Fridays starting Friday, April 16, every Friday we have a food truck for lunch in the parking lot. We are also going to reach out to local restaurants that do catering in the area and give them to the option to set up on certain days as well. We did update our vendor application and regulations; we updated the political item. There was a little concern last year when both parties were at the market, council voted the town would not have events that they would be at. Marty Gordon is working with Virginia Cooperative Extension and working on getting more snap funding through federal funding. We finished the Easter Drive thru on Saturday, this was a great event. We handed out goodie bags with mask, coloring books, and eggs. We put together 2000 bags, throughout the day we probably gave out 1500-1600 bags. We are working the Christiansburg High School to setup a reverse Homecoming Parade at uptown mall April 20 with an inclement weather date of April 21. We are waiting on confirmation for this from the administration from the high school. The school also contract Director Epperley about using the stage again for graduation on May 22.

Athletic Special Events- We have had a couple of baseball tournaments and this past weekend we had a softball tournament. This past week Director Epperley and Nick Yopp met with Carter Turner, Professional Pickleball Player. He contacted us about wanting to set up some clinics for pickleball and help train participants to play pickleball. He can do individual sessions as well as group sessions, we are planning to do start this in May.

Outdoor Facilities- We have had some vandalism issues; our outdoor facilities staff have worked hard to get it all cleaned up.

Adult Athletics- Church leagues are going, once High School Football is over, we are planning to start a High School Basketball league. This year since High School Basketball is over, we are going to let Junior Varsity players to play in this league as well. They can't have more than three JV players on a team.

Chuck Muncy is retiring, he has been with the town for 29 years. Our goal is to get someone hired to train with Chuck for about month.

Director Epperley passed around the layout for the playground of the new park with the color schemes.

Director Epperley has been in contact with the company that we have our bikeshare with, we are expecting the delivery of 150 e-bikes Wednesday morning. The goal is to have these bikes out by the end of this month or beginning of next month. We are planning to add addition hubs below Food Lion, another near Independence/Oak Tree area, Aquatic Center/Depot Park, and Town Hall. Virginia Tech is planning to extend their hubs as well.

There is not a date set, but we are close to groundbreaking on the new park. There are a few things engineering is working on; they have gotten everything they need as far as access and easements. They are waiting on a DEQ permit, they have started cutting some tree at the property. We have removed some of the wooden boards to use at the shelter.

Student Report- There isn't much going on.

John Neel mentions that girls middle school volleyball team finished up undefeated with six seventh graders. Those six seventh graders are on a travel team that went to Pennsylvania this past weekend for a National Qualifier USA. They went undefeated this weekend and won the qualifier; they are going to Las Vegas in July. These six girls were a part of the Youth Volleyball League when it first started here within the Parks and Recreation Department.

New Business- Mr. Hall was requested to bring up about opening the facility up at 5:30 a.m. as well as having a 5k fun run. Mr. Hall was also asked to bring up increasing the adult class occupancy. Director Epperley said that was already talked about with staff and that we are following the newest executive order. Director Epperley mentions that 462 participants come in between 6-7 a.m. for the month of March. In 2019 from 5:30-7 a.m. there were 700 participants during that time. Director Epperley is not opposed to going back to the 5:30 a.m. start time, he has not heard anything about opening earlier. Mr. Hall is going to check with the citizen that mentioned this to him to see if it is just one person or multiple people wanting this. Members of our management team have been talking about extending the hours of the facility. Director Epperley mentioned to commission not to be surprised when they come back to the next meeting that our hours have extended because we have already talked about this for May. Director Epperley mentioned that we do Huckleberry Hustle in October usually, but he feels that we do not have anyone on our staff trained to do the 5k run. We would have to reach out to a company that handles races, because this is a bigger liability doing it on main roads.

Director Epperley mentioned that some of you may have seen some things on social media, in regards to some vandalism on the Huckleberry Trail. About 100ft of the pavement and trees had been sprayed paint, this did occur on the county's session of the trail. That same day, Kiwanis Park was hit with vandalism. The very next day were hit again with vandalism on the Reva W. Knowles Bridge. Our field maintenance staff was able to get all of that taken care, we have made reports with Christiansburg Police Department each time this has occurred. Our previous Council Liaison did bring up at council about litter at Depot Park, the park is so well used now. Our staff goes there one to two times a day. We do have some issue with the wind that bring debris. We had been told to stay out of the conservation area because it is a protected area and DEQ did not want anyone there. Since then we have worked with the environmentalist with the town and she is okay with us going and getting the debris. Our employees will only go in there if it is safe to do so. Mr. Saylor mentions unless you have 24-hour workers, that stuff is going to happen. Depot Park is the most popular park we have, we struggle with parking there. What makes Depot Park difficult, one we have the conservation area on one side, and we have Kroger's on the other side. Kroger's property comes down to the trail, and a lot of trash gets on the hill side. Mr. Neel mentions maybe talk to the new planning director because Kroger could be in violation and would need to put a fence up. We are planning to put littering and vandalism signs up at the parks and trail.

Mrs. Meadows was approached about how busy the parking lot was at the High School with recreation sports and high school sports. She has spoken with Chuck Muncy and he is working on getting information out to the parents about the parking and the possibility moving some of the practices.

Old Business- None

Meeting adjourned, next meeting will be Monday, May 3.