

August 2 Meeting Minutes

- Ms. Meadows calls meeting to order
- Members present Jim Williamson, Brad Epperley, Jordin Harris, Mike Saylor, Steve Huppert, Reba Smart, Kathy Meadows, Cord Hall, Charlton McCoy
- Mr. Saylor makes a motion to approve the minutes from last month, Ms. Smart seconds the motion. Members unanimously vote to approve minutes from last month
- Director's Report
- Our attendance is increasing each month and we have 100 new memberships this month.
- Youth Athletics- Our Cal Ripken 10u Baseball team won the district tournament at the end of June and went to the State Tournament. They came in 3rd place and were awarded the sportsmanship award. This was our first full year in Cal Ripken and there have been some challenges. The sport supervisors in our area said they would re-evaluate the baseball league once we have completed a year. The girls' softball league will definitely stay in Cal Ripken. We do have two 13-15 baseball teams this year, we haven't had that in a long time. Fall is a busy time for Youth Athletics, we have flag football, tackle football, cheerleading, fall baseball & softball, & volleyball. Our numbers are looking good for all sports. We will have four tackle football teams this year. Caleb has planned the fall softball and volleyball schedules around each other for participants who want to play both sports.
- Special Events- The Annual 4th of July event this year was well attended. We had multiple great bands & vendors downtown. It was great to be able to set fireworks off at the new park. Mr. Hall asked if that was a budget item, and what was budget? Director Epperley explains that it falls under the special events budget which he believes has 54,000 budgeted this year. The fireworks themselves are 15,000, with bands about 4,000. Our upcoming events this fall, Rockin Main Concert Series downtown. We will have bands and food trucks, the first one will be Sept. 11 post tailgate concert. We will have opening act Gate 10 and the headliner will be Lyn Avenue from Savannah, Georgia. The second Rockin Main Street will be Oct. 2. We have about eight food trucks and three bands. Flannel Jukebox, Jimothy, and Jason Adamo Band will be the entertainment. We are working on an Eight Walk Bridge Walk held on Sept. 18, which is the same day as the Wilderness Trail Festival. We are also working with the Cross-Country team on the Getting Scary on the Huckleberry 5K for this year. We are planning to do a Tailgate Party at the High School before a football game as well this fall. The Farmers Market has been doing great, averaging over 600 people each Thursday.
- Community Programs- Our Ripped class had 18 participants, Toning & Conditioning had 14 participants, Core Balance had 13 participants, and Dance & Tone had 12 participants. The maximum number of participants previously was 11; we are gradually allowing more participants. Novice Dog Obedience had nine dogs and owners. We work with a company at Claytor Lake to be able to offer paddle boarding & kayaking classes, paddle boarding had nine participants.
- Outdoor Facilities- We have had an opening for a part-time field and park maintenance position for over a year and we can't get people to work. We have done what we can do with what we have. Our guys have done a great job keeping up. The bathrooms at Circle Park & Depot Park are now open, we have a certain time frame they are open. Monday-Saturday 8 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m.- 6:30 p.m. An employee from the front desk goes and locks them up in the evening. We have also installed signs in the parks about littering.
- Senior & Special Population- Billiards has taken off since we have opened back up. Senior Motions & Aerobics has had great participation as well. One of our virtual programs that we continue to offer is Leave the Driving to Us, we had 16 participants for that. We had our first trip since the pandemic to the Wohlfahrt Haus in Wytheville. We have concluded our Summer Craft Workshop that had 11 participants. We had an intern that

joined us this summer that was a therapeutic major, she did a great job with this class. At some point in time Director Epperley would love for our department to have a therapeutic recreation employee.

- Adult Athletics- We have started our Church League Softball. Our Open League Softball has ended and is playing championship tonight. We are now taking registration for Adult Volleyball & Adult Fall Softball.
- Athletic Special Events- This past weekend we host our first Guns and Hoses Softball event. It was great event, and we used this as a fundraiser for Special Olympics. On Oct. 2 will have the Tony Huddleston Fishing Rodeo. We are working with Virginia Tech YMCA to hold a craft fair in November at the recreation center. We have been able to do few camps this past month, the archery clinic had a lot of interest. We had such a great response that we offered a second camp. The first one had 18 participants and the second one had a cut off at 12 participants. We held a basketball clinic that was taught by a local basketball coach Nicole Epperly, there were 35 children in this clinic. We worked with the Christiansburg High School Volleyball team to offer a volleyball camp; this camp had 32 participants.
- New employees- Rachel Vinson, Special Events Coordinator and Caleb Dunlea, Youth Athletic Supervisor.
- Park- There is a lot of dirt moving.
- Director Epperley mentions that he has been approached about naming something after Chuck Muncy for all his dedication to parks and recreation. One of the suggestions was the small roadway that goes to Harkrader Sports Complex. Councilman Huppert asked if the fields had been named after anyone, and they haven't. Mr. Hall likes the idea of the field instead of the roadway. Mr. Hall asked that Director Epperley bring some possibilities to the next meeting for the commission to vote on.
- Student Report- They will be having a school board meeting tomorrow.
- New Business- September meeting is schedule for Labor Day. We are closed that day; we normally cancel that meeting. Members unanimously voted to cancel the September meeting. If something was to happen, they will call an important meeting.
- Ms. Meadows brought up an issue about the number of cars that go through that loop at Harkrader. It should only be for ADA and staff parking. We can look at trying to develop some type of sign for there or maybe a gate. Our staff will get together and discuss. Mr. Hall mentions he saw on the report something about ice skating. He asked if Director Epperley could bring ideas of places it would be placed to the next meeting. This would have to be stationary; it is a concrete pad that could be chilled during the winter months and concrete patio for other events when it's warmer. The ideal spot would be at Downtown Park. Mr. Saylor asked if it would be a possibility to use it as a splash pad for the summer or roller skating. Director Epperley mentions he wants it to be multipurpose use.
- Old Business- Mr. Hall asked if there was any update on VDOT land. We did receive the deed to it, and we started mowing it a week ago.
- Meeting adjourned, next meeting Monday, Oct. 4.