

## **MINUTES FROM THE CHRISTIANSBURG PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING OF MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012.**

Diane Fenton called meeting to order.

Minutes to the last Recreation Commission meeting approved.

No citizen comments.

Diane Fenton turned meeting over to Brad Epperley for his report; then to Charlton McCoy.

Brad started by giving details of the monthly report for March.

Brad also had a chance this month to look at all the parks with Chuck. There were some cosmetic and safety things that he noticed and the department is developing a new check sheets for each park. Brad also talked about getting new signage for each park. Brad mentioned "Improvements do not happen overnight but we will continue each day to work on them."

Brad also went over the meeting he went to with all area Parks and Recreation Directors. They will start doing these Director meetings quarterly. He also mentioned that Blacksburg and Radford Parks and Recreation are opening up dog parks, this is something new happening in our area.

Another issue brought up in the meeting is how each department has their own rules for youth and adult sports. This can become an issue when we are playing other Recreation departments. The departments are going to begin working together and try to become more consistent. Also brought up in the meeting was the topic of concussions. All agreed that educating coaches and parents were important. The departments will look at a consistent policy with all the Departments. Educating people is key.

Brad and Charlton have been working on the age requirements for the Recreation Center. Brad thinks the current age is a little low. They checked with other area Recreation Departments...in Radford the age is 9 years old without parent supervision. If they are under the age of 16, they have to be out of the Recreation Center by 8pm. If they are not out by 8pm the staff contacts the parents, if parents are not reached the staff will contact the police. At the Wytheville Recreation Department the policy is no one under 12 years old without a parent. If a child is still there at close and they are under the driving age the staff will contact the guardian and if they are not reached then they contact the police. The Blacksburg Community Center has no policy at all in place. They said that it has not been an issue it is even less of an issue currently because of the High School not being in close proximity.

Brad and Charlton have also looked at some Recreation Centers online throughout Virginia, and some out of the state. The ages varied with the different departments but overall 10 years old seemed to be the average.

Brad and Charlton talked with Chief Sisson in detail about this issue. If the facilities close at 10pm and the child is still here the staff will ask them to sit in the lobby and the supervisor will contact parents or guardians. If the staff is unable to get in touch with them after a brief amount of time then at that point the supervisor would contact the police. Police would then contact the parents and if they are unable to reach the parents/guardians then the Police Department would then contact the Social Services. This is our findings at this point on this issue. Fortunately hasn't been an issue as of now, but we need to be prepared if it were to happen.

Brad turned the meeting over to Charlton. Charlton informed the Recreation Commission that we are currently stripping gym floors and will be moving onto the tile floors shortly.

Brad stated that he had a meeting with Becky Wilburn about the Recreation website. They are going to start making information more accessible and categorizing the website better. Mike Harris brought up using Twitter and Brad said that Becky was looking into that for the Town. They also talked about doing a Facebook page. Brad stated that we just want to market ourselves better and get more information out to our citizens quickly.

Brad also talked about a new weather system that is certified to track lightning strikes. This is a satellite system that tells you when lightning strikes with precise locations. With this system you can remove players off of the field asap. This system has little gray area and is very specific. Someone asked about cost and Brad told the commission that in Salem they had this system with 5 computers and 5 mobile systems and it was around \$360 a month. There was continued discussion on how the system worked. If for some reason the computer system would fail we would immediately go with the flash/bang method, always try to have a backup plan.

Meeting was then turned over to Chuck to discuss World Series. Chuck stated that he has learned a lot from Brad in the past month. Chuck is in the process of setting up subdivisions for the World Series. Example-Opening Ceremonies Charlton will be in charge of that. Chuck is really going to push volunteer to keep cost down. He is currently sending out bids for the World Series souvenirs, what we do not sell will not be our obligation, but we would get a percentage of sales from company. Chuck also asked the commission if they have time during the World Series to come out and volunteer and come on out. Chuck and Brad have are also working on getting sponsorships for the World Series. This will be a chance to showcase Christiansburg and what they have to offer, doing the little things can mean a lot to visitors. The Recreation staff has also been working on directions to and from all of the parks and hospitals to be able to handout for people's convenience.

Mike Saylor brought up the loss of Kasey Jones and asked that everyone keep family in prayers. Chuck said the same for Marcus Ford's family.

Mike Harris asked to talk a little more about getting the rules with different Recreation Departments the same. Stated that with Radford Recreation one rule that he had found when coaching that was different was during baseball Radford played with 9 and substitute and that Christiansburg plays all their players. Brad agreed and said that this is what they talked about in the meeting. There needs to be consistent rules because if not there can be problems. There will have to be give and take from each department but this can benefit everyone.

Mike Barber stated that Kiwanis is going to stop selling Christmas trees and has decided to donate the trailer to the Town of Christiansburg so that it can be used as a concession stand at Kiwanis Fields. All they asked is that the Kiwanis sign stay on it and it must say 'Donated by' on it.

Mary Critzer stated that she was very impressed with Brad and the meeting. She asked if Brad had gotten the chance to get out with the senior population at the Recreation Center. Brad said that he had, he played billiards with them the other day and has enjoyed going back to the senior area and visiting with them. Brad stated that there is more to Recreation than athletics. He thinks that it is very important for our community to have these programs for our seniors. He said that he had also went to the last TRIAD meeting and thought this was a very good thing for our community and hopes to get more people involved in it. Mary Critzer said that she thinks that Christiansburg Recreation has a reputation for being well rounded with all of the programs and Chuck Muncy agreed.

Mike Barber also brought up how the Town has a new program called "Take Heart Christiansburg". It is a one hour course that anyone can take. It is not a course that will certify someone in CPR, but it can teach the community to be aware proper ways to do the chest pump and recognize signs of heart attacks or strokes. It is a very enjoyable program and maybe something the Recreation Center can look at having up here.

There was no further business. Diane Fenton adjourned the meeting.

Next month's meeting will be held on Monday, May 7, 2012.

Members Present:     Diane Fenton  
                               Mary Critzer  
                               Mike Saylor  
                               Jim Williamson  
                               Mike Barber  
                               Mike Harris  
                               Tonia Winn  
                               Chuck Muncy, Supervisor of Outdoor Facilities and Parks  
                               Charlton McCoy, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Center  
                               Brad Epperley, Director of Parks and Recreation