

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – 18 February 2020

Members Present:

- Wayne Rundell – Vice-Chair
- Greg Cochran
- Cody Owen
- Bob Hurring
- Wyn Birkenthal
- Jared Mull – Parks and Recreation Director

Call to Order: Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The commission reviewed the minutes from the January 2020 meeting and approved them unanimously.

Public Comment

- There were no public comments at this time.

Old Business

- There was no old business at this time.

New Business

- Trend Data
 - Jared showed the Parks and Recreation Commission a presentation that will be presented to the Commission to present various needs and growth of the department. The comparison data was pulled from 2016. For **Youth Sports**, in 2016 there were 252 participants and in 2019/2020 there were 370 participants. In 2016, the Breakfast with Santa event had 400 people in attendance. During the **Christmas in the Park** event in 2020 which was developed in place of Breakfast with Santa, approximately 3,000 individuals attended which large community events were identified as a community need. In 2016, there were eight teams in the **Adult Basketball League** with six of the teams being local. During the 2020 season, there are 12 teams maximum and there is a high probability the league will fill up the day it opens. The teams are from all over Western North Carolina. This fills the need for community programs and for adult fitness. For **Indoor Fun Play**, in 2016 there were 451 participants and in 2019/2020 there have been 1,003 participants with a high total of 41 kids on 1/27/20. In 2016, WCCA operated the **Senior Center at Silvermont** and had 22 programs/seminars for the year, 277 members, and 2,252 facility check-ins. In 2020, there are currently 45 programs/seminars, 527 members, and in 2019 had 10,852 facility check-ins. For **Summer Camps**, in 2016 there were 120 participants in one location at the Rec Center. For 2020, it is estimated there will be 354 participants at three locations, Rec Department, TC Henderson, and Rosman, and there was a waitlist in 2019. It

would be beneficial to have additional operating funds to have more staff at programs to ensure we are still able to offer the high quality programs the community has grown accustomed to.

- Transylvania Little League Report
 - Cody Owen, President of Transylvania Little League, was asked to provide an update. Transylvania Little League has a robust history built with significant volunteer hours, commitment from local businesses, and now the City of Brevard. In the past few years, all of the fields have been laser graded, sod has been purchased and implemented, etc. The city has approved the plans to put a skate park on the premises though it is unsure where exactly it will be located. The Middle School subleases the fields for the softball and baseball teams. The programs include ages four to fifteen. Several years ago in 2016, Little League took over t-ball as they already had the facilities. There are approximately 80 kids in the t-ball program annually. T-ball is ages four to six which is co-ed, the leagues then split into baseball and softball and include machine pitch for ages six to nine, major league division ages nine to twelve, and a Babe Ruth league for 13 and 14 year olds. The programs serve approximately 400 kids with only five fields, but only three of the fields are operation for the age groups. The league is in need of volunteers. The core group has remained the same which can be attributed to some of the league's success, but there isn't much interest in newcomers. It is difficult to get umpires despite them getting paid. Participation in softball, and youth sports in general, appears to be dwindling. There are 219 kids registered currently and it is expected to be closer to 350. Out of 219, only 37 are girls signed up. It is also difficult to receive buy in from the other end of the county in Rosman and Lake Toxaway. One of the more successful fundraiser attempts was selling Vadalina onions. The batting cage renovations will be approximately \$10,000-\$12,000. Once the amount is raised, the renovations will begin.

Recreation Update

- Current programs: Youth Basketball Programs wraps up this upcoming weekend as each age group is playing in tournaments. Start Smart basketball will wrap up in two weeks. There are currently thirteen kids and teaching three to five year olds is quite the challenge.
- Upcoming Programs: Youth Volleyball will begin in approximately three weeks. Brenda Skeffington will be taking the lead on the program along with Dale and RHS volleyball players will help with coaching the individual teams. The summer camp registration is open and filling up. At TC Henderson, the camp will be based around math and science because of their magnet school focus. The Battle for the Belt registration will open up a week from Friday and it is expected to fill up fairly quickly. Senior games and silver arts registration will be starting soon.

Director Update:

- Next month, Brad Toms, director of TYSA, will be providing an update as their Spring season will be starting soon.
- Torry Nergart, from Conserving Carolina, will be working with the county in developing a sponsorship and will be doing some work at our access sites.
- The Rec Department will be hosting a 5K for county employees on Friday, May 8th. It is just for Transylvania County employees for the Committee Wellness initiative. It will be similar to the race that was held earlier in the year for the cross country team at the high school. The Commission was encouraged to attend if able.
- The old Picklesimer property has been purchased and the next order of business will be to master plan with input sessions in the future. Ideally, this year's priority would be to increase operating budget and program expenditures while placing capital advancements on the backburner.
- For the playground, they are currently doing soil tests and the type of soil is not ideal for the equipment. Ultimately, the playground will more than likely still be at the location, but it might cost more money to ensure it is built securely.

Member Comments:

- There were no member comments at this time.

Adjournment: The motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved unanimously at 7:01 pm.