

AMHERST COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
BOARD MEETING
November 14, 2011

The Amherst County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Development Board held its monthly meeting on November 14, 2011, at 6:45 PM in the Conference room in the County Administration Building.

The following members were present: Chairman Roni Tuggle, JoJo Allcock and John Mann, Gary Evans and Heather Follett. Also in attendance was Sara Lu Christian.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Roni Tuggle.

A motion was made by Gary and seconded by Roni to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

JoJo made a motion to accept the October minutes as presented. Roni seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Sara Lu presented the October bills. After reviewing the bills, Heather made a motion to accept the bills as presented. John seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Sara Lu reported that the total amount of revenue received this fiscal year through October is over \$19,900.00.

The Board reviewed the senior centers reports. Sara Lu reported that the 23rd Annual Senior Luncheon held at Winton Country Club on Thursday, November 3rd, went extremely well. It was a sold out crowd. There were over a dozen first time attendees. The response for door prizes from the local business community was abundant. The turkey (and roast beef) buffet was well received and gobbled up. The piano player entertained with music from the 40's and 50's. The current and former Recreation Staff members present were introduced and acknowledged and given the close proximity to Veteran's Day, tribute was paid to the veterans and their spouses.

Next, Sara Lu reported that theme park ticket sales are down 103 tickets from last year. Several churches that have purchased tickets for their youth groups in the past did not do so this year.

Sara Lu reported that the night fishing license sales are up from last year – 5 more county resident sales (at \$10/ea) and 1 less non-county resident sale (at \$15/ea) from last year. The total income for the 2011 night fishing license sales was \$1,355.00.

The Board reviewed the fall and winter activities calendar: Sara Lu and Roni reported that the Annual Candy Hunt that took place on Saturday, October 22nd was well attended. Roni, particularly, appreciated the fact that the candy hunt was more manageable this year due to the fact that there was no contending with the overflow of the haunted trail visitors. There were no charges for any of the activities that

took place at this event (candy hunt, tattoos, candy sand, refreshments, crafts and storytelling). The only change recommended by Sara Lu was to schedule the candy hunt for 7:30PM rather than 8PM.

Sara Lu and Heather reported that the Haunted Trail and Hay Rides event taking place the following Saturday, October 29th, from 6:30-8:30PM was well attended, as well. The face painter had a steady crowd, Teddy Spaghetti was extremely popular, and the trucks pulling the hay-laden trailers never sat still. There were also tables set up inside the community center selling hot chocolate, popcorn, and cotton candy. Sara Lu reported that this event brought in \$350.00 (considering the hay rides cost \$1 and everything else cost \$.50).

Sara Lu acknowledged the several Sweet Briar College students who volunteered and assisted at both events, and the 8 residents and 1 staff person from the Old Dominion Job Corps who volunteered and assisted with the hay rides.

Considering, as well, that there were no problems with parking at either event, it was generally agreed that these will remain separate events again next year.

Sara Lu reported that Kevin Irvin, 4-H Agent, requested combining efforts for next year and rather than having a 4-H sponsored haunted trail separate from the Recreation Department sponsored hay rides, we make the hay rides haunted. JoJo expressed concern for those with little children not wanting exposure to something haunted. This matter will have to be discussed and addressed.

Sara Lu and Heather reported that the Dixie Youth World Series recognition program that took place at the Madison Heights Community Center on Monday, October 24th went well.

Sara Lu informed the Board that Roni took first place in her age group at the 4th Annual Amherst County Recreation Department/Elon Elementary School Turkey Trot that took place on Saturday, November 12th! She took home a turkey! Roni added that this year's trot was the largest in attendance thus far with 166 participants. Sara Lu informed the Board that Steve Roberts, Turkey Trot Race Coordinator, told her he was considering using the proceeds (which go to Elon Elementary School) from this year's run to purchase scorekeeping equipment in order to assist with and speed up the results reporting process.

Sara Lu informed the Board that this year's Annual Ray Puckett Christmas Parade will be taking place on Friday, December 2nd, beginning at 6:30PM. This will be the last event at which the county will be promoting its sesqui-bicentennial. Claudia Tucker, chairman of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors, will be the grand marshal for this year's parade, in honor and recognition of the county's 250th anniversary. The 250th anniversary banner will also be carried, as well as displayed on several fire trucks in the parade. Furthermore, there will be a table set up on the parade route selling the remaining 250th t-shirts and ornaments.

Sara Lu presented the sports activities report. The fall soccer season was down 2 players from the previous fall season. The basketball league is currently down 70 youth.

This has been attributed to a new youth basketball league having begun this fall sponsored by Amherst Baptist Church.

The Department is seeking team sponsors, rather than league sponsors, for this year's youth basketball league. The fee is \$150 for one team or \$250 for two teams. These sponsorships will cover the cost of team jerseys.

The next order of business was another review of the park ordinance draft as presented by County Attorney, Ellen Bowyer. Sara Lu read the draft. The responses from board members were all favorable.

There being no further business, Gary made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Date

Chairman

Secretary