

Minutes  
Special Called Meeting  
Aberdeen Town Board

March 30, 2010  
Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.

Robert N. Page Municipal Building  
Aberdeen, North Carolina

The Aberdeen Town Board met Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. for a Special Called Meeting for the Parks & Recreation budget presentation. Members present were Mayor Pro-tem Robbie Farrell and Commissioners Pat Ann McMurray, Alan Parker, Jim Thomas, and Walter Wright. Mayor Mofield was not in attendance for the meeting. Staff members in attendance were Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs, Planning Director Kathy Liles, Town Manager Bill Zell, and Town Clerk Regina Rosy.

Mayor Pro-tem Farrell called the meeting to order.

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs explained the positions within Parks and Recreation and who serves in those full-time positions. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated since opening the Aberdeen Recreation Station in May 2008, 387 classes have been held, 21 special events have occurred, and 54 other town uses have taken place.

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated there have been 273 total rentals with 32 of those rentals occurring January thru March 2010. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated \$10,000 in rental fees were collected during the first year of operation of the Aberdeen Recreation Station.

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs explained Phase II of the Aberdeen Recreation Station would include 5500 square feet with a large room with floor to ceiling windows, catering kitchen, restrooms, retractable stage, receptionist area. She stated this project would cost approximately \$1,000,000 to construct which would include architect fees, permit fees, grading, etc.

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated she and Sallie Reinsel handle the rental process for the Aberdeen Recreation Station. She stated she would like to review and revise the fees for the rentals. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated she really feels the front desk position needs to be covered Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. so that someone is available to help visitors in the building. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated currently, Sallie Reinsel works Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated what she is requesting Dell Crumpton work a total of fifteen hours per week with no benefits in order to provide coverage for the front desk. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated since both positions would be part-time only there would not be any expense for benefits. Parks

and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated this would allow other staff to complete their work instead of having to cover the front desk. Manager Zell stated he feels it is very important to have someone sitting at the front desk during the week – because it is disconcerting to not have someone sitting at the desk when you walk in the building and are not familiar with where to go. Manager Zell pointed out that if any employee works more than 1,000 hours in a year, then we are required to pay into the retirement system for that employee which would be an added expense.

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs explained the rental fees for the Aberdeen Recreation Station. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated some people will get a resident to rent the facility for them in order to save money by paying resident rates. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs explained chair exercise class is \$2.00 per month for residents for 8 classes which equals only \$0.25 per class and \$5 per month for non-residents. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated sports leagues cost \$12 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. She stated a cost analysis is completed at the end of each program to determine if the department makes money, loses money, or breaks even. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated some programs should be free. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated employees have been considered residents for rates, although this is not a written policy.

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated senior programs include chair exercises, art classes, bingo, senior luncheons, breakfast in the park, and senior games. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated seniors are requesting trips like were done in the past. Manager Zell stated a few years ago the Board decided to stop senior trips because seniors were spending their money outside of Aberdeen rather than in Aberdeen.

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated partnerships include Communities in Schools, First Health of the Carolinas, Association of Junior Leagues International of Moore County, Town of Southern Pines, Village of Pinehurst, etc.

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated adult programs include belly dance, yoga, walk/run for fitness group, and breakfast in the park. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated youth programs include cheerleading, monthly movie night, youth night, art classes, theater class, spring break camp, summer camp, and drama camp.

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated special events include family pizza and puzzle night, Supper with Santa, Palustris Festival, Easter Eggstravaganza, Fallween, Family Fun 4<sup>th</sup> of July on Saturday July 3, 2010, Tree Lighting Ceremony, Christmas Parade, Sardine Festival (Friday, October 8, 2010), Arbor Day, etc.

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated athletics include Punt, Pass and Kick, Track and Field, Jr. Olympics, Pitch, Hit and Run, etc.

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated Aberdeen Lake Park needs a walkway from the picnic shelter to the Aberdeen Recreation Station. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs suggested having a brick walkway and sell memorial bricks for \$100 each. She stated benches and a handicapped parking space at the shelter would also be needed. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated split-rail fencing and gates were needed at Aberdeen Lake Park and would cost between \$8,750 and \$10,000. She stated she is working with two architects to see if they would draw this design for free for the Town.

Mayor Pro-tem Farrell asked if there is still vandalism occurring at Colonial Heights. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated last week someone broke all the lights out between the field and the apartments at Colonial Heights.

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated the Town purchased Ray's Mill Pond in June 2009. She stated the public expressed interest in trails, picnic shelter, environmental education center, fishing pier, and nature viewing overlooks. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated repairs to the dam and spillway pipe are needed. In addition, she stated it would cost approximately \$77,606 to create an environmental education center. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated Ray's Mill Pond also needs to be drained and dredged which would cost between \$25,000 and \$40,000. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated the #1 priority is to replace the spillway pipe since this is required by the State. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated if the Town does not receive some type of grant for this property, what does the Town Board want to do?

Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated goals for her department include developing a departmental brochure, and developing and implementing a system wide master plan for Parks and Recreation in Aberdeen for all parks, greenways, open space and recreational opportunities, job sharing between Sallie Reinsel and Dell Crumpton at front desk at Aberdeen Recreation Station, fencing and gates at Aberdeen Lake Park, revise policies and fees for programs and rentals, and Ray's Mill Pond. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated all of these things just take time and money. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs then gave each Board member a \$1,000,000 chocolate candy bar.

Mayor Pro-tem Farrell asked about revising the fee schedule and what she was referring to. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated she is happy with rental fees but was considering increasing program fees in order to help fund the programs.

Commissioner McMurray stated she does not want to see fundraisers take place in the Aberdeen Recreation Station that are for profit groups. She stated she would not have a problem with leaving the policy as is which does allow for non-profits.

Commissioner McMurray suggested seeing if there could be an internship for manning the front desk at the Aberdeen Recreation Station.

Mayor Pro-tem Farrell was concerned about the split rail fence at Aberdeen Lake Park and where it would be installed. Mayor Pro-tem Farrell was also concerned about there not being an area to refrigerate food for people who have events at the Aberdeen Recreation Station. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated renters can use the refrigerator in the break room if they need it to keep their items cold. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated overall, she has not heard of much need for a refrigerator at the Aberdeen Recreation Station.

Commissioner McMurray asked if the antenna money could be used for Parks & Recreation growth. Manager Zell stated right now the antenna money is set up as a line item for revenue. Mayor Pro-tem Farrell stated he would like to see a drawing of what the Phase II Project would look like, but obviously the money is just not there right now to build it.

Commissioner Wright suggested completing a 5-year project plan for Ray's Mill Pond and designate certain items for the next five years. Parks and Recreation Director Leigh Baggs stated currently Ray's Mill Pond is closed and there are No Trespassing signs posted. She stated citizens must contact her first to get permission to fish at Ray's Mill Pond. Mayor Pro-tem Farrell stated the Town bought this piece of property, and he thought the citizens should be allowed to fish. Mayor Pro-tem Farrell wanted to know why citizens have to contact her to go fishing in a public park. Commissioner Wright suggested putting a security system on the two structures to protect them from vandalism. Commissioner Wright suggested only opening it up for fishing on the weekends. Commissioner Thomas stated he is all in favor of allowing fishing at Ray's Mill Pond, and he would like to see something worked out so the public can begin fishing at Ray's Mill Pond.

Mayor Pro-tem Farrell stated the Board really appreciates all that Leigh and her staff does for the Town. Mayor Pro-tem Farrell stated it would be nice to get a grant for Phase II, but right now Police and Fire are knocking at their doors for money.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Parker, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

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Regina M. Rosy, Town Clerk

Minutes were completed in  
Draft form on March 31, 2010

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Robert A. Farrell, Mayor Pro-tem

Minutes were adopted  
April 12, 2010