

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department  
Advisory Board

10/31/14 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Billy Hartness, Rev. Dr. Kelly, Tim Todd, Dene Moon, and Ken Byrd
- Members absent: Betsy Mofield, Mona Kahl, Charlie Needham
- Adam gave a brief description of the role of the board, to help guide, advise, and promote the department through growth and change.
- Terms were also discussed, Adam asked returning members to serve a 2 year term, and new members to serve a 4 year term, with subsequent 2 year terms for all new members in the future. This will allow for new members every two years, while retaining experience on the board. Those in attendance were in agreement.
- Board members introduced themselves and gave a little information about themselves. The collective experiences and expertise are diverse, while everyone had the common goal of wanting to help and grow the town and the department.
- Adam went over the current department staff, programs, parks, and facilities. The staff is relatively new, with the longest tenured employee hired 4 years ago. There are some strong, growing programs, but many more are needed. Several board members expressed a desire for more programs, and better communication from the department regarding those programs. Aberdeen has a good number of parks, but there are some larger projects that need to be done, and the Recreation Center is a relatively new, nice building, but also with a little maintenance needed.
- The current work being done at Ray's Mill Pond was discussed, and Billy asked to be apprised of all future plans and projects at the park, as this could have an effect on his job at Weymouth Woods.
- The Malcolm Blue Farm was discussed, and future projects and ideas for the property. It was suggested that the local 4H be involved, and Tim mentioned that he has family that has managed and programmed at a similar site in the western mountains of the state. These would both be great resources as we plan and decide the future of the farm.
- Adam mentioned several projects that have been completed, including inspection of the playgrounds, adding of mulch to the fall zones, inspection of the bridge over the lake, and many small in-house projects the Public Works department has assisted with. There is also a current project Public Works is assisting with, regarding a large erosion issue at Colonial Heights Park.
- Future projects that were discussed include repairs to the Recreation Center, Aberdeen Lake Park trail restoration, removal of the JC Hut, an Aberdeen Lake Park/Parks and Recreation Department sign on US-1 (which Ken states is very much needed), replacement of playground equipment at Sharpe Park, repair and new routine

maintenance to the ballfields at Colonial Heights, and replacement of the storage building at Colonial Heights.

- New programs being planned that were discussed are Zumba classes, art classes, jewelry making, youth lacrosse clinics, a youth volleyball league, and a Veterans Day weekend display.
- New programs that have been discussed include family movie nights and downtown festivals coordinated with the Aberdeen Business Guild.
- Ken made the point again that you have to, “Tell it to sell it”, and that advertising and promoting needs to be one of the departments biggest priorities.
- Ken also suggested a park map, allowing residents to see where all of the parks are in Aberdeen. It was discussed making this the center page of a program guide, so when residents get information about the programs, they also get a map as to where they are.
- It was suggested the department create a contact/email list for the board. It was agreed we would create this, and share it with the board members, along with the minutes, via email.
- Dene asked about offering an Old Time Christmas this year, on December 6, at the Malcolm Blue Farm. Adam mentioned that there is not a budget for it, but Dene felt it could be done with volunteers. It was agreed to look at this to see if we can offer it this year.
- The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 29 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.