

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department
Advisory Board

4/30/15 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Dene Moon, Ken Byrd, Betsy Mofield, Mona Kahl, and Dr. Rev. Kelly.
- Members absent: Charlie Needham, Billy Hartness, and Tim Todd.
- The previous meeting's minutes were approved.
- Adam discussed the status of the Town and Parks and Recreation budget. Budgets have been submitted by the departments, and been reviewed by the Town Manager and Finance Director. Requests are significantly greater than projected revenue, so cuts will almost certainly be coming. Capital projects that were requested by the P&R department are work on the Aberdeen Lake Trail, refurbishing the ballfields at Colonial Heights, and new playground equipment for Sharpe Park.
- Adam discussed the signs approved by the Town Commissioners. The first new park sign will be placed at Ray's Mill Park. Adam met with NCDOT to look at placement of the sign. It was determined that the sign would be placed across the street from the park entrance, as the sight lines will be better. The new Aberdeen Lake/Parks and Recreation sign will be placed at the corner of Maple and US-1. Adam is still working with the sign company regarding specifications and pricing.
- The board discussed the Beautification Committee's idea to plant a large "Christmas" tree at Aberdeen Lake Park, to be decorated during the holiday season, and to be used for the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Everyone felt this was a great idea, with the only possible negative being moving the ceremony away from downtown businesses. All agreed that not many businesses were open and benefitted from the ceremony, and that the move would still not be far from downtown. Betsy suggested involving the businesses, as to continue to promote the downtown merchants. It was discussed to have a coupon book, which would give Tree Lighting patrons deals at interested Aberdeen businesses. This would be a nice giveaway for the event, and can promote interest and patronage of said businesses. Betsy mentioned how beautiful the park is decorated for the holiday season.
- Adam updated the board on programs. Numbers were up across the board in Youth Basketball, Youth Cheerleading, Youth Kickball, and Spring Break Camp. New programs are also beginning to establish themselves, such as Adult Zumba, Senior Chair Exercise, Senior Fit, and the Alley Cats Bowling program. Further new programming scheduled to begin is a Mini-Masters Art Program, and Movies at the Lake. Programming for the Malcolm Blue Farm that was requested in the budget, was the Farm Skills/Malcolm Blue Festival, a Fall and Spring Bluegrass Festival, and the Old Fashioned Christmas. Betsy mentioned wanting to see more programming for adults aside from exercise classes, such as concerts in the park, and gave a contact for a potential art instructor.

- In other discussion, Betsy suggested alternative programming such as a sidewalk sweep competition, parades, and a pinecone sculpture competition (perhaps in conjunction with the Palustris Festival). Betsy also mentioned she would like to see a dance floor in the park, for shagging and other dancing. It was discussed what type of floor would withstand the elements and vandalism, and decided that a concrete pad would suffice. We would need to make sure it fit in with the park master plan, however. Mona mentioned that she had heard word of a splash pad in the park, and felt this would be a definite draw. It was discussed how these are a lower maintenance and liability alternative to pools. Mona also mentioned trips, which have been successful in the past.
- The next meeting will be held Thursday, July 30 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.