

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department
Advisory Board

8/06/15 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Dene Moon, Ken Byrd, Betsy Mofield, Mona Kahl, Charlie Needham, Billy Hartness, and Dr. Rev. Kelly.
- Members absent: Tim Todd.
- The previous meeting's minutes were approved.
- Adam gave an update on Ray's Mill Park. The grass initially planted at the park, fescue, has died and not established. Joe Thompson, Park Superintendent, is working on re-establishing centipede grass. The department has also installed dog waste bag stations, and has a bike rack to install. Adam also updated the board on the current status of the park sign, which broke.
- Adam updated the board on the new department budget, and where the largest cuts were. The Malcolm Blue Special Event line item was cut \$12,000 from \$17,000 to \$5,000, the Printing line item was cut from \$3,500 to \$100, the Athletics Contracted Service line item was cut from \$6,500 to \$2,500, among other cuts. Adam discussed the challenges these cuts will present regarding the Malcolm Blue Festival and other programs, printing program guides, and staffing officials for youth and adult athletic leagues. Ken and Betsy discussed the budgeting process and the challenges towns face with providing services and raising taxes. The Malcolm Blue Festival/Farmskills Day was also discussed, regarding the challenges of running the festival with half of the funds needed. It was determined that just running the Farmskills Day would be difficult, as most vendors and crafters rely on the Saturday festival to make their profit. It was also determined that it was better to run no festival, rather than a pared down version that would not be received as well.
- Adam updated the new park ordinances regarding tobacco, open carry, and alcohol. A new ordinance was passed to prohibit tobacco and tobacco delivery devices in all Aberdeen parks. Another ordinance was passed to prohibit the open carry of weapons in Aberdeen Lake Park, during the 4th of July Celebration. Finally, some language was clarified in the Code of Ordinances to allow the town department heads to approve special events with alcohol use and sales.
- Adam gave an update on the Aberdeen Lake Park/Parks and Recreation sign and the tobacco free parks signs. The Lake/Department sign footer will be marked this Saturday, with production to follow. The sign should be in within 6 weeks. The tobacco free parks signs have been finished, and should be up at all parks within a week.
- Adam also gave an update on the Christmas Tree for Aberdeen Lake Park. The Beautification Committee has committed to getting the tree, and having it transplanted to the park. We should be able to utilize the tree for this year's tree lighting ceremony.
- Adam updated on new programs that have started. A Family Zumba class has been created, to piggyback off the popularity of the Adult Zumba class. 5 parents and 9

children are participating in the first session. The Mini-Masters Art Camp was first held this past July, as 6 participants learned about famous artists and their works. They then worked to recreate these famous masterpieces, all while learning more about the famous artists. The children's works were then displayed at the first Movies by the Lake, which was held July 10. Approximately 175 people came out to enjoy Kona Ice, eat popcorn and candy, and enjoy the showing of Paddington Bear. The next movie will be held Friday, August 14. Our Coach Pitch Baseball program is also ongoing. This league, for youth ages 6 – 8, has 48 participants this year, to follow up the 40 we had the previous year.

- In other discussion, Dr. Rev. Douglas Kelly brought up the possibility of Scottish Heritage USA, Inc. moving their offices from Pinehurst, to the Malcolm Blue Farm Museum. This would allow the organization a smaller, more affordable space, while allowing for more visitation opportunities for the public. Eileen Helton, of the Scottish Heritage organization, would have office hours twice a week at the farm, while also making the museum available for tours. It was also discussed to potentially make the farmhouse available as well, but by appointment only. Adam and Douglas will get together to discuss the monthly rental fee of such an endeavor, before taking the proposal before the Town Board of Commissioners.
- The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 29 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.