

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department  
Advisory Board

1/28/16 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Dene Moon, Billy Hartness, Wilma Laney, and Tim Todd (via FaceTime).
- Members absent: Betsy Mofield, Mona Kahl, Charlie Needham, and Dr. Rev. Kelly.
- We welcomed our new member, Wilma Laney. Wilma gave us an abbreviated version of her resume, which was still lengthy and impressive.
- The previous meeting's minutes were approved.
- Adam gave an update on several ongoing park projects. At Aberdeen Lake Park, we are discussing using the Boy Scout Hut as a controlled burn for the Fire Department. The building has been broken into repeatedly, and despite staff efforts, many items stored there have been stolen or broken. The building is also being used as shelter. After the Fire Department uses the building as a training exercise, the fence can be removed, and the area can be used as a picnic spot. Also, staff is working with Donald Thomas and his border collies, to curtail the ongoing goose problem. This has significantly decreased the number of geese in the park, and the amount of mess and goose droppings on the grounds.
- At Ray's Mill Park, staff is working with the Public Works Department to try to remove beavers from the property. The beavers are continually blocking up the spillway, causing the water in the pond to rise. The water has at times risen over the ramp to the dock, and has negatively affected one property on the pond. Billy Hartness asked about the islands that formed during the spring in the pond. Billy mentioned the idea of a silt screen at the mouth of the inlet to the pond, to help prevent sedimentation from building up in the pond. It was discussed that while this might be a significant cost, it could be more cost effective than frequent dredging of the pond, which is also very costly. Adam agreed that he would speak with Foster Lake and Pond about the idea.
- At the Malcolm Blue Farm, Adam mentioned that pine straw accumulation on the roof of the farmhouse has caused water damage to the roof. Staff has obtained one quote for fixing the roof, and is working on trying to secure at least one more quote, if not more. We would like to move quickly on this, as water can continue to cause greater damage. The snow/ice storm also brought a very large tree down at the farm, as well as several branches. The damage cause by this is minimal, and staff has already made some minor repairs to the farm fence. Public Works will assist in removing the large tree, when they have finished with other town wide storm cleanup.
- Adam also shared with the board a copy of the department's winter projects list. These projects are items which need tending to, but are difficult to get to at other times of the year, due to lack of park staff. During the winter, while the growing season has halted and visitors to the park are fewer, our one park staffer has more time to work on these jobs.

- Adam informed the board that he is working on a Recreational Trails Program Grant, which if awarded, would be used on the Aberdeen Lake Trail. The amount being requested is \$50,000. It is a 75/25% match grant, so the Town would be responsible for an additional \$12,500. The total \$62,500 would hopefully be enough for engineering, material, and labor fees to renovate the trail from the dam to the bridge. This would bring a significant improvement to the trail, and make it much more walkable. This part of the grant process is the pre-application, and staff will learn in March if we are accepted to move forward into the application phase. If so, Adam will then bring this before the Town Board at the budget retreat, to try to gain support from the Board to move forward, and a commitment for the Town's match if awarded.
- Adam spoke with the board regarding changing out the holly tree at the Train Depot, with an Eastern Red Cedar. The cost of this project is fairly minimal, but will have a nice effect on our Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Eastern Red Cedar is a traditional southern Christmas tree, and will help with the old fashioned Christmas feel and look we are striving to give during this event. The tree will also grow larger and healthier than the current holly, which will help with the overall effect we are hoping to reach. Billy also mentioned the hardiness of the Eastern Red Cedar, which is another reason this species was chosen, as it should thrive in its new spot.
- Adam updated the board on the status of ongoing and new programs and athletics. Youth basketball and cheerleading are ongoing. Basketball has 194 participants, while cheerleading has 28. Last year they were at 152 and 30 respectively. New programs being offered are Tai Chi, Women's Self-Defense, a number of new art programs, and chair exercise has been updated to use 3 new DVDs, rather than the 2 CDs they have been using. The art programs are aimed at homeschoolers, adults and lunch time to enjoy art and coffee, and 10-14 year old children to help with self-expression and self-esteem. Wilma expressed she was pleased that one of these programs was aimed at the 10-14 year old age group, which is traditionally a difficult age group to reach.
- The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 28, 2016 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.