

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department
Advisory Board

4/28/16 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Dene Moon, Billy Hartness, Wilma Laney, and Jonathan Rivenbark.
- Members absent: Betsy Mofield, Tim Todd, Charlie Needham, and Dr. Rev. Kelly.
- We welcomed our new member, Jonathan Rivenbark. Jonathan shared with us his amazing story.
- The previous meeting's minutes were approved.
- Adam gave an update on several ongoing park projects. At Aberdeen Lake Park, we are continuing to work on the goose population. Donald Thomas is going to continue bringing his border collies to discourage the geese from staying at the park, while Billy Hartness is helping the department with discouraging reproduction. Billy described to the board the different species of animals and plants he found on the back side of the lake. Staff will also looking to have the fountain lights repaired, which were damaged by muskrats.
- At Ray's Mill Park, Foster Lake and Pond has treated the aquatic weeds in the pond. This should not only help the aesthetics of the park, but also hopefully prevent the "sediment islands" that formed in the middle of the pond last year.
- At the Malcolm Blue Farm, one of the HVAC units has been replaced at the museum. The old unit was very old, and was no longer operating effectively and efficiently. Also, Aberdeen Exterminating treated all of the buildings to discourage the carpenter bees from burrowing through the wood. The grounds and buildings are also being cleaned in preparation for a Tar, Pitch, and Turpentine demonstration coming up at the farm. Dene Moon gave a description of what the event is, while Billy was also able to speak to the credentials of the demonstrator.
- Adam also updated the board on the Recreational Trails Grant. Unfortunately, our department was not selected to move past the pre-application process to the application process. Adam will work with the North Carolina State Parks Department to see how we can better our position to move forward with this process.
- Adam also updated the board on the 2016-17 Town budget process. All department budgets have been submitted, and all department heads have met with the Town Manager and Finance Director regarding them. The Town Commissioners have been given a proposed balanced budget, and staff expects from feedback at the next Board Work Session. Jonathan expressed his opinion that he would like to see more business open in Aberdeen. Discussion was had regarding the balance between expanding business while preserving history, and the importance of a vibrant downtown and diverse offerings for different age demographics.
- Adam let the board know that the Town has bid out their facility cleaning contract. The new contractor will clean the Recreation Center and Colonial Heights bathrooms twice a

week, while also cleaning several buildings at the Malcolm Blue Farm once a month. We are optimistic that this new contract will improve our current cleaning situation.

- Adam updated the board on the status of ongoing and new programs and athletics. Board members were given a copy of the new Spring & Summer Program Guide. Wilma expressed that she would like a continued effort made to reach out to the young teen population, as they are a difficult one to reach. She mentioned that in her experience, numbers in youth programs tend to drop when they get to the early teen age. Jonathan was curious about the programs, and asked several good questions regarding the youth programs. Discussion was had regarding the diversity of programming offered, and the balance between planning structure and learning in youth programs, versus just fun and non-educational pursuits.
- The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 4, 2016 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m. This is a change from the regular schedule, as Adam will be out of town on the last Thursday of July.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.