

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department  
Advisory Board

8/04/16 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Dene Moon, Jonathan Rivenbark, and Tim Todd via Facetime.
- Members absent: Billy Hartness, Betsy Mofield, Charlie Needham, Wilma Laney, and Dr. Rev. Kelly.
- The previous meeting's minutes were approved.
- Adam gave an update on the new 2016-2017 Parks and Recreation budget. Highlighted were increases for Recreation Center maintenance and rental chair replacement, Malcolm Blue Farm programming, printing of program guides, advertising, park maintenance, and athletic funds for increasing official, staff, uniform, and equipment costs. Adam asked to Dene to update the board on the Malcolm Blue Farm Day planning, and Dene let the board know that the day is planned for Saturday, September 24. Several exhibitors, vendors, bands, and more have already been booked, with more to come. So far, the estimated budget is at \$3,500 to \$4,000.
- Adam also covered capital projects that are included in this year's budget. They include repairs, pressure washing, and painting of the Recreation Center. Painting of the Aberdeen Lake Park gazebo and shelter, new playground equipment at Sharpe Park, and engineering fees to master plan the Aberdeen Lake Park trail. Tim asked about Ray's Mill Park, and Adam discussed that Foster Lake and Pond is testing a new product designed to eliminate the "islands" that are forming in the pond. Foster Lake and Pond are testing this product on one of the islands in our pond, and hopefully it will prove to be effective and a way to reduce or eliminate this issue.
- Adam updated the board on a new grant opportunity, the Connect NC Grant Program for Children and Veterans with Disabilities. This new, and most likely one time, opportunity has \$3 million available to parks and recreation departments to build or adapt recreation facilities to accommodate children or veterans with disabilities. Adam mentioned that Aberdeen would be applying for this grant, and presented the idea of adding handicap parking spaces, a paved walkway to the playground and shelter, and improving the fall zone surface at Aberdeen Lake Park playground. Adam spoke with Jonathan about the possibility of speaking with a local veterans' with disabilities group, as well as reaching out to the schools to speak with any groups which work with children with disabilities. This grant is a 20% match grant, which means the town would need to budget \$1 for every \$4 of grant money.
- Adam also updated the board on the summer programs. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks went well, despite a large storm coming through mid-afternoon. The department received several compliments on the show. Coach Pitch Baseball is ongoing. This league is for boys and girls ages 6 – 8, and has 54 registered participants. There were 48 participants last year. Games are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Colonial Heights Park. The

Summer Day Camp program is also just finishing up the 7<sup>th</sup> of 9 weeks. The camp has averaged 37 participants a week, with a max of 40. This compares to an average of 24 campers per week last year. The camp has taken weekly trips which include going to the Elks Club Pool three days a week, alternating weeks between the bowling alley and Sandhills Gymnastics Center, educational programs at the Pinebluff Library, trips to the splash pad in Pinehurst and Downtown Park in Southern Pines, free movie Wednesdays at the movie theater, and the fire department has come to the park to spray the kids from the fire truck. Jonathan asked about adding more programs to camp, to include traditional activities such as boating, archery, and knot tying. Despite some limitations, Adam mentioned that there could be ways to incorporate more of these to the camp. Movies by the Lake started last month with Norm of the North. The next movie will be The Good Dinosaur on August 12, with Zootopia and Hotel Transylvania 2 to follow on September 16 and October 14 respectively. Also, the Mini-Masters Art Camp was held again this summer, with youth learning about famous artists and their masterpieces. Youth then recreated these masterpieces in various mediums. Once again, we received extremely good feedback regarding this camp.

- The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 27, 2016 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.