

Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department  
Advisory Board

8/3/17 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.
- Members present: Adam Crocker, Billy Hartness, Jennifer Bowles , Dr. Rev. Kelly, and Tim Todd.
- Members absent: Betsy Mofield, Wilma Laney, Jonathan Rivenbark, and Dene Moon.
- The previous meeting's minutes were approved.
- Adam gave an update on the Aberdeen Lake Park dam project. With all of the pieces of the old sluice gate removed, the town conducted a pressure test of the spillway by blocking the spillway hole and filling the lake. With everything holding and the dam integrity intact, the dam engineers are preparing to put in the new sluice gate. The lake will need to be drained again for the engineers to prepare the work area, but then will be filled to a lower level during the work process. Once this is complete, the sluice gate will be fully operational. In approximately a year, the town will most likely complete some work on the concrete spillway itself. The degree of work will be determined by an engineer report generated by testing that will be done during the sluice gate installation. Permitting for this can take up to a year, and the town has been informed that fall is usually the best time to conduct this type of work.
- Adam updated the board on the department's 2017-18 budget. The most significant aspect, being the department was given \$239,000 in capital improvement funds. Projects that are budgeted to be completed with these funds is renovation of the Aberdeen Lake Park Trail (\$150,000), removal of the JC Hut, Boy Scout Building, and Colonial Heights Storage Building (\$28,500), playground renovations at Sharpe, Berkley, and Aberdeen Lake Parks (\$35,000), and the construction of a new department storage building at Colonial Heights Park (\$25,500). These projects constitute the next 3 years' worth of projects in the department's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This will go a long way toward eliminating much of the department's deferred maintenance.
- Adam updated the board on summer programs that have been held or are ongoing. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks were very well attended and went out with only minor glitches. Jennifer attended and confirmed that while it was extremely hot, the atmosphere good and the show went well. Youth Coach Pitch Baseball is ongoing, and Tim came from his son's game to attend the meeting. We have 48 children on 4 teams, the same as last year. Tim confirmed that the fields, officials, and coaches are all holding up well so far this season. 6 of the 8 weeks of summer camp are completed, with attendance in those weeks being 25, 37, 35, 32, 32, and 33. Staff has seen a decent spike from the first week, which has held pretty consistent after the Academy of Moore resumed school after the 3<sup>rd</sup> week. The max for camp is 40, and with the strong feedback we have received so far from parents, we expect we will be close to that next summer. The first of four in the Movies by the Lake series was held. The Jungle Book was shown at Aberdeen Lake Park, with approximately 150 coming out to enjoy the show. The next

show will be August 18 when we will be showing Sing. Our department hosted a Coach Pitch Baseball Tournament, which was organized by the Statewide Athletic Committee (SWAC). SWAC is an organization consisting of athletic directors from all Parks and Recreation Departments from across the state. This was the first time a tournament was held for this age group, and we had 7 teams. The tournament went very well and our athletic director, Kacey Blackmon, did a great job running it. We had approximately 1,425 visitors to the park during the 4 days of the tournament. Our program coordinator, Kayla Hillman, is working on two new classes for the department. An exercise class combining Pilates and yoga, called PiYo, and salsa dance classes. Billy seemed particularly interested in attending the PiYo class. Adam informed the board that his wife will most likely ensure that they attend the dance classes, and Tim offered to record the lessons, purely to be helpful and a good board member.

- In other business, Tim asked about any plans at the Malcolm Blue Farm. Adam informed the board that he has obtained contacts for 3 contractors who have experience working on historic structures. The plan is to have these contractors look at all of the structures on the grounds, externally and internally, and give the town cost estimates and prioritization for work that needs to be completed. There is some money allocated in the department's 5 Year CIP, but Adam would like to firm up that number. Tim also asked about Ray's Mill Park. Adam informed the board that the work Foster Lake and Pond is doing on the pond has mostly been successful. They are treating the aquatic weeds and the floating masses of decaying material. This led to fewer weeds and a much improved situation with the pond regarding the floating masses. In the two previous years, these masses have formed throughout the pond, even growing weeds and plants. This year, the masses have mostly not formed at the top of the water, as the enzyme Foster Lake and Pond used broke apart this material. Park Superintendent, Joe Thompson, has just now started to see some masses starting to form again, as the heat has gotten even greater into the summer. The treatment of the weeds and decaying material will be an ongoing process, but it is very encouraging to see improvement. Adam also mentioned that with the acceleration of the department's CIP, other projects have been added. These include fixing drainage issues at Aberdeen Lake Park including the playground, fixing drainage issues at the Colonial Heights ballfields, and creating ground coverage at Ray's Mill Park. Billy asked if there were any plans to allow Ray's Mill Park to stay natural, instead of creating grass coverage and installing irrigation. Adam informed him that was not the plan at this time, but that the department does want to keep that park as passive and quiet as possible. Future plans might only include extending the trail, possibly installing another picnic shelter, and a chance of installing some natural play pieces for children. These would be smaller, naturally looking pieces which would allow play, but would be in keeping with the park's aesthetics and not stick out in any way.
- The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 26, 2017 at the Recreation Center, at 6:00 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.